



save the dates

SAT NOV 20
Cleanup

More info on page 5

HOLIDAY MIXER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30
5-7pm
2311 El Cajon Blvd.
COMPLIMENTARY BITES
HAPPY HOUR DRINKS • RAFFLE PRIZES

More info on page 9

SAT DEC 3
YARD SALE

More info on page 2

NEW APARTMENTS NEXT TO SPROUTS TO OPEN IN 2024



The new 190-unit apartment project at 4135 Park Blvd., next door to Sprouts Market between Polk and Howard, is starting to take shape. Kit Barmeyer, from Chicago-based developer CedarSt properties, presented the project to UHCA at our October meeting.

This “multifamily” project has taken several years to get off the ground, as previously reported in UH News. After purchasing the properties on that block, the previous developer sold them to CedarSt who then cleared the existing buildings and broke ground this summer. Completion is planned for April 2024.

4135 Park will be a seven-story (5-over-2) project featuring 82 studio, 96 one-bedroom, and 12 2-bedroom units, with 11 earmarked as “affordable” and 145 as “workforce” (meaning they are affordable by residents at 120% of the average median income). In addition, 150 parking stalls will be available for separate rental by residents, and a 1,268 square foot retail concept, such as a café, is planned. Amenities will include a fitness center,

outdoor entertaining space, communal kitchen, and a pool.

The project is being built to a “2-globe” standard for energy efficiency. “We and our investor are very conscious about energy efficiency,” Barmeyer commented. “We are pursuing a 2-globe certification, equivalent to LEED Silver, and are including high efficiency HVAC and water utilization, reducing gas usage. We will be including efficient gas stovetops due to their overall longer lifecycle.”

We should point out that, as UH News has previously reported, installing new gas appliances does not fit in with San Diego’s or our state’s efforts to reduce CO2 and methane emissions.

Parking was not initially included in the early plans that were filed with the city, but Barmeyer noted that “we included parking in this project because we know that many of our residents will require it. [However,] our other projects and our own market research tells us that not everyone will require parking. We also

expect to have 20% of the spaces to be initially equipped with EV chargers for electric cars, but will have infrastructure to expand that as demand increases.”

One October UHCA meeting attendee commented that “150 parking spaces is a welcome addition. I’m glad to see that added. it seems like a fair ratio.”

CedarSt has over 3,000 units nationwide, with 1,500 in the West, including a new 197 unit project in North Park scheduled to begin construction in 2023. The developer recently opened a West-coast office, and Barmeyer noted that “CedarSt takes pride in not just developing great communities, but then actively managing them once they are built. We put a lot of focus on creating vibrant communities with great amenities that fit in with existing community culture.”

Questions were raised about what defines “affordability,” and Barmeyer commented, “On the whole, we expect the blended rate to be \$2,650 across all units. We will be market-competitive, and by leaning towards more studios vs. 1- and 2-bedrooms, we have reduced the overall costs to be more attractive to more residents. This is going to be a new building, and we know that this price point won’t address the lower end of the spectrum, but our goal is to bring more affordable units to the market.”

In response to a question about the sidewalk during construction, Barmeyer responded, “While we are in compliance with the city permit requirements, and we have a focus on safety, we know this is an inconvenience and are working as quickly as possible to minimize our impact on the right-of-way.”

—Marc Johnson

NEXT UHCA MEETING

NOV. 3
6:45 PM
VIA ZOOM

UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ASSESSOR'S FORUM
BARBARA BRY & JORDAN MARKS

*CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES

LOOKING AHEAD

DEC. 1
6:45 PM
FUTURE OF THE LIBRARY
SD LIBRARY FOUNDATION
BIRNEY GIVING TREE

*CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES



DISTRICT 3 BUDGET PRIORITIES

Councilmember Whitburn’s FY24 Budget Priorities Memo has been submitted and is now available for the public to review. The full text of the memo is available at bit.ly/FY24BudgetMemo.

Over 600 community members weighed in on the Councilmember’s Budget Survey in August & September, providing additional feedback through budget request letters or other communications. The survey noted the following as the top 3 overall priorities of the respondents:

1. Homelessness Solutions and Affordable Housing
2. Clean and Safe Neighborhoods
3. Streets, Sidewalks, and Other Infrastructure

In addition to numerous requests around the top three priority groups, specific University Heights-oriented priorities included the following:

Budget priorities continued on page 9

Application Process for Short-Term Rental Licenses Opened in October

APPLICATION PERIOD ENDS NOVEMBER 30

Hosts can now apply for a short-term residential occupancy (STRO) license to operate a dwelling unit in the City of San Diego for short-term rentals. The STRO license will be required starting on May 1, 2023.

The STRO Ordinance, approved by the San Diego City Council and California Coastal Commission, provides guidelines for short-term rentals of less than one month. These guidelines include a requirement for hosts to obtain a license and establish a cap on the number of licenses granted for whole-home rentals operating more than 20 days per year.

“After leading this effort for the past two years, I look forward to the STRO license application process opening for all tiers on Oct. 3, 2022,” said Councilmember Jennifer Campbell. “A host will be able to apply for one of the following four STRO license tiers: Part-Time, Home Sharing, Whole-Home, and Mission Beach Whole Home. These new regulations will return more housing into the market and give neighborhoods more quality of life.”

Before beginning the application process, hosts must possess an active [Transient Occupancy Tax \(TOT\) certificate](#) and ensure all [Rental Unit Business Taxes](#) are in active paid status. In addition, applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the [City’s STRO webpage](#) and complete the STRO Application checklist before applying.

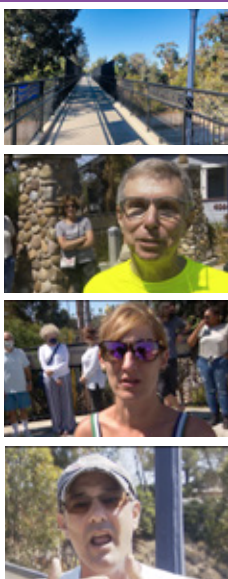
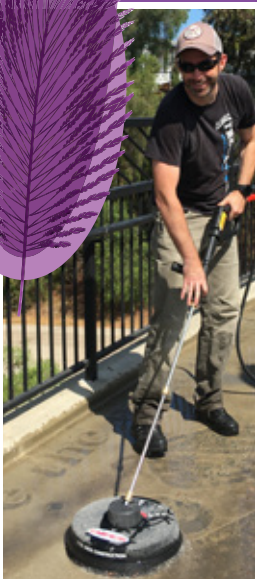
“We are focused on ensuring this process is clear and easy to understand, and we are here to support applicants,” said City Treasurer Elizabeth Correia. “Our team put together a comprehensive STRO application checklist and an STRO license application video that will assist hosts in a successful application submittal. We strongly encourage hosts to review the materials available on the STRO webpage.”

For whole-home rentals operating more than 20 days per year, the application period for STRO licenses will be open ... through Nov. 30 at 5 p.m. Whole-home license recipients will be announced by Dec. 16, 2022.

The application period for the remaining license types will remain open indefinitely. Hosts are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Details and a description of the four license types are available at sandiego.gov/stro.

—City of San Diego

Plume Vermont Street Bridge Neighbors



This month our Plume goes out with great thanks to the many neighbors and volunteers who have been taking action to help safeguard and maintain our beloved Vermont Street Bridge. Whether cleaning up trash daily, reporting vandalism, calling the police when things don’t look right, or power-washing, dozens of neighbors and volunteers help take care of our local landmark. There are too many to name individually, so we are awarding the Plume to each and every one of you. Thank you!!!

—UHCA News Team

UHCA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



Marc Johnson, President



Lisa Getz, Vice President



Angela Jackson-Llamas, Secretary



Brent Orlesky, Treasurer

The Association elected four Executive Officers for a two-year term at the October "1st Thursday" UHCA Community Meeting, held by Zoom on October 6th. The Association thanks the departing Vice President, Stu McGraw, for his past service and continuing help, as he will remain a Board Member. We also welcome the new Officers, Lisa Getz and Angela Jackson-Llamas and thank Marc Johnson and Brent Orlesky for continuing in their roles for a second term each. -UHCA Board

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MARC JOHNSON

About a year ago I was tapped to fill the role of UHCA President. We have just finished our biennial elections, and I am honored and thankful for the trust placed in me to continue on as President for a full two-year term.

A lot has happened in the last year. We've come through the worst of a global pandemic and figured out how to keep this organization vital through it. We have started to have in-person events again. We've been actively reporting on what's going on in our neighborhood and amplifying the voice of our members and community to make sure elected officials hear us. As I meet with other town council and association leaders, I'm humbled by their words of praise about UH being such an actively engaged community and UHCA being an effective organization - and are taking ideas and cues from us. That's high praise for what we all have built and do here.

What I'm most thankful and excited about is that an energetic group of new volunteers, leaders, and board members have stepped up to help UHCA not only to meet our mission of "improving the quality of life and sense of community," but also adding new energy, passion, and ideas to the organization, helping to expand our capacity to do more.

That's the best part of being in a volunteer organization like UHCA. While we cherish

our history and honor the stewardship role we have, new people bring fresh perspectives and ideas that help us think of and do new and amazing things for the community.

The UHCA Garden Club is a perfect example of people finding their passion, sharing it, and helping make UH better. While lots of people love the idea of gardening, many (me included!) are not exactly horticulturists and can easily get bogged down with so much to learn. Lauren has pulled together some amazing information (see article in this issue) to help folks start, and in future meetings, gardeners at all levels will be able to share ideas, best practices, tips and tricks, and, of course, seeds.

Events, newspaper, beautification... these are all areas where leaders and volunteers are finding ways to connect, share passions, and contribute together to help make UH better. I'm truly thankful that we have a vibrant, active, and energetic organization through which UH people can band together in common cause.

As we start our new fiscal year in November, I'm optimistic that as our community faces never-ending change (and inevitable challenges along the way), this organization, through our leaders and volunteers, will help ensure that we stay a strong, vibrant, clean, informed, and vocal neighborhood. Thank you for being part of this neighborhood and our organization!

Plan Ahead & Save the Date

UH Community Yard Sale

Saturday, December 3

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 to register & be included on the map

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP
 Diversionary Theatre, Upgrade Chiropractic

GIFT
 Douglas S. McPherson & Ron Comparato

GOLDEN OSTRICH
 Brent Orlesky & Ron Oliver, Nan & Stuart McGraw

Thank You!

HOUSEHOLD

Peter & Sally Flournoy, Michael Perkins, Debra Chaddock & Tiffany Monticino, Russell Elrod, Paul Sandbo, Adrienne Fusek and Rocio Gurriarán, Curtis Brauer & Rahim Panjwani, Angela Jackson-Llamas & Danielle Llamas, Ron Widmer & Pat Kelly, Derek & Mallory Morgan, Hans & Heidi Baumgartner, Andy Cameron

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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TREASURER Brent Orlesky, treasurer@uhsd.org



WEBSITE uhsd.org

FACEBOOK [@universityheightscommunityassociation](https://www.facebook.com/universityheightscommunityassociation)

INSTAGRAM [@universityheights_sdcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/universityheights_sdcommunity)

UHCA MEETING NOTES

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

October 6 UHCA Community Meeting Summary

The October 6th UHCA Community Meeting was held at 6:45pm via zoom with 36 attendees. The full meeting is available for replay at www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting.

Crime Watch

Pamela Isaacs filled in for Nan McGraw. Our SDPD representatives were unable to attend. The residents in Zone 2 on Proctor are reporting an increase of homeless people taking refuge in the canyons. Also in Zone 2, a resident on Meade Ave. passed away during a heat wave and was discovered after several days. Development Services Division and Adult Protective Services are good contacts when there are concerns with our neighbors that need assistance. Pam reminds us again NOT to leave valuables in your car. Smash and grab auto thefts continue throughout our community. Heather Wilcox from Zone 4 reports that a person was living in a camper parked on their streets. Neighbors reported it on the Get It Done app. After discovering that it would take up to a month for anyone to respond through the app, neighbors confronted the person who refused to leave. Police were not contacted, and the violator did eventually move elsewhere.

Announcements

Marc Johnson opened the General Meeting. He summarized a well-attended Cookies with the Cops at Trolley Barn Park. Neighbors voiced their opinions, and even staged a small protest regarding the proposed restrooms. Our first ever Mixer was an amazing success, and more are being planned. A BIG thank you was extended to all our Business Members, and a reminder that UHCA is looking for volunteers. Web helpers with SquareSpace experience are needed, as are helpers and content writers needed for the UHCA Newspaper. Please reach us at volunteers@uhsd.org.

Elections

The four Officer positions up for election were not contested. The voting took place, and all positions were filled: Marc Johnson as President, Lisa Getz as Vice President, Angela Jackson-Llamas as Secretary and Brent Orlesky as Treasurer. Thank you to our past Officers and welcome to our new ones.

Beautification

Sol Schumer reports that there will be a Fall Clean-up at Trolley Barn Park on October 22nd. The Vermont Street Bridge will be cleaned November 20 from 8:30am to 11am, and we will be decorating the Bridge on December 4th from 8:30am to 11am. All are welcomed to help.

Events

Lisa Getz reports that there is a Holiday Mixer planned for November 30th. Location TBD. Another UH Community Yard Sale is happening on December 3rd, register for free at uhyardsale@gmail.com and you will be included on the map. Caroling in the Heights will take place on December 17th beginning at the Vermont St. Bridge at 5pm, then on to Mystic Mocha at 5:45pm and The Point (Rhode Island St. at Golden Gate Dr.) at 6:30pm. Marc added that the UH CDC's UH Arts Open and Taste of UH is happening on November 13th, visit uharts.org for more information. New merchandise will be available at these events.

Library Updates

Rachel Esguerra shared that the library will once again be a mail ballot drop off location from

October 10th to November 8th. The In-n-Out, Cover to Cover reading program is on and after reading 5 books, kids aged 4 to 12 can receive a voucher good for a free hamburger or cheeseburger at In-n-Out. Each child can do this up to 3 times. Rachel also informed us that our library's maximum capacity is 38 people, and we need more space. Other communities are getting funding to expand their libraries and it's UH's turn. The December 1st UHCA General Meeting will cover this issue, please attend, and support our library.

Updates from Elected Officials

Kohta Zaiser from Mayor Todd Gloria's Office sent in information about the San Diego Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department. The city has increased its outreach programs. For more information, reference the article in this newspaper edition.

Abbey Reuter from Supervisor Nathan Fletcher's Office shared that the County and the City had a joint meeting about affordable housing and committed to build 10,000 affordable units by 2030. The County is starting a Rental Subsidy Pilot Program for seniors to provide a monthly subsidy of \$500 for up to 18 months to seniors threatened with homelessness. Applications will be made available starting in the new year. Also, Supervisor Fletcher is committed to increasing the number of veterans in the San Diego County's workforce.

Christopher Gris from Assemblymember Chris Ward's Office shared that several of the Assemblymember's Legislative Bills have been signed into law. Including the ability to re-use rental screening reports, expanding solar access to lower- and middle-income households and funding for local projects. A middle-class tax refund is due to begin in October. Homeowners affected by Covid-19 have funds available for assistance. More information is available at a78.asmdc.org.

Councilmember Stephen Whitburn attended the meeting in person and shared his thoughts on restrooms in Trolley Barn Park and homelessness. Though he supports the idea of public restrooms in the park, he doesn't want to have restrooms installed and be faced with the problems other City parks are having with vandalism, people sleeping in them and poor maintenance, and upkeep. The city is dealing with an increase in homelessness, shelters and outreach programs have also been increased, and he's working on safe camping sites to relocate people from sidewalks, parks, and canyons. He believes that we need to update our city ordinances so we can enforce laws prohibiting camping on public land and offer alternatives. He's hoping to have City funds allocated to these efforts. Councilmember shared that he's supported the creation of thousands of affordable housing units. He then fielded and answered several questions from our members and attendees.

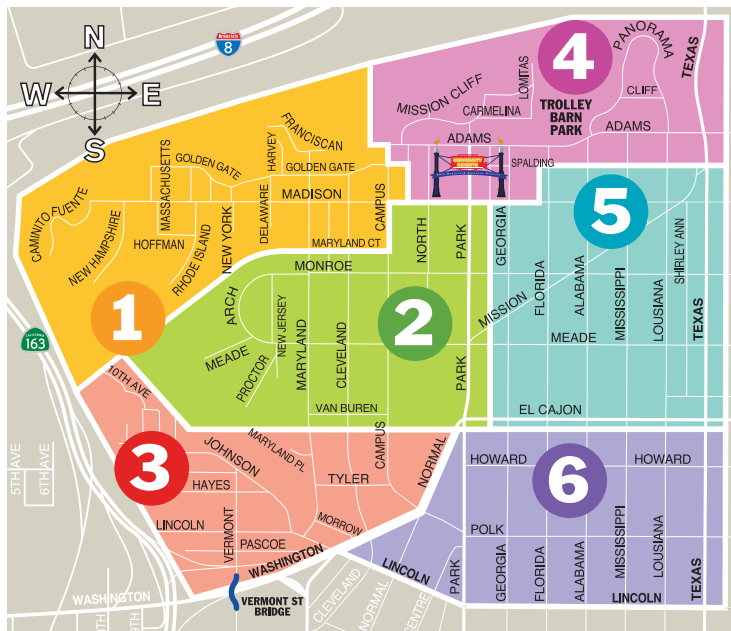
Featured Speaker

Kit Barmeyer from CEDARst Companies joined us to discuss the project at 4135 Park Boulevard – just south of Sprouts on Park Blvd. They're planning a 7-story building with 190 housing units, and an estimated completion date of April 2024. Please check the article in this newspaper edition for more information about this development.

Finally, we were joined by Lauren Doucette, founder of the University Heights Garden Club. Her Seed Swap event was a great success, and she's hoping to have meetings every other month and an annual Garden Walk. She's looking for gardens to host seminars and presenters of topics such as soil health, pest management, fall/winter gardens, and more. Lauren shared a number of gardening tips and resources. All gardening enthusiasts or wanna-be gardeners are encouraged to join - gardenclub@uhsd.org.

— Brent Orlesky, UHCA Treasurer & Interim Secretary

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 Zyhylij 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	9 1 1	PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) path@epath.org	619-810-8600
Non-Emergency Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc.	619-531-2000	Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP)	619-692-4945
SD City Services: Emergency & Non-Emergency Street lights, potholes, etc. Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments	619-527-7500	Vacation home security check, welfare of home-bound, patrolling business districts, homeland security support	
Alert San Diego Reverse 911 notification to mobile phones for emergencies requiring evacuations	www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/	National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline	9 8 8
2-1-1 San Diego Free Resources: CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc.	2 1 1 or 858-300-1211	SDPD Community Relations Officers: David Surwilo dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov	619-692-4858
Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856	SDPD Western Division 5215 Gaines Street	619-692-4800
Alice Birney Elementary Office	619-497-3500	Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service	800-252-4613
Animals / Non-Emergency	619-767-2675	Stonewall Citizens Patrol	info@stonewallcitizens.org
Brush and Weed Abatement	619-533-4444	UHCDC University Heights Community Development Corporation	619-297-3166
Code Violations	619-236-5500	University Heights Public Library 4193 Park Blvd	619-692-4912
COVID-19 City of San Diego Daily Updates	www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus	UH Zone Watch Coordinator Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com	619-260-0668
Crime Stoppers Tip Line	888-580-TIPS (8477)	Graffiti: In Progress Emergency: Report Online: https://getitdone.force.com	9 1 1
Department of Environmental Health Public Health/Rats/Rodents	858-694-2888	Graffiti Hotline: 619-527-7500	
Downed Power Lines / SDG&E	800-411-7343	SD Vector Control mosquitoes / ticks / rats Online: vector@sdcountry.ca.gov	858-694-2888
Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes	619-515-3525	If all else fails, email BCartwright@sandiego.gov Council member Stephen Whitburn's office.	
Narcotics Suspicious drug house / anonymous	619-531-2468		

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



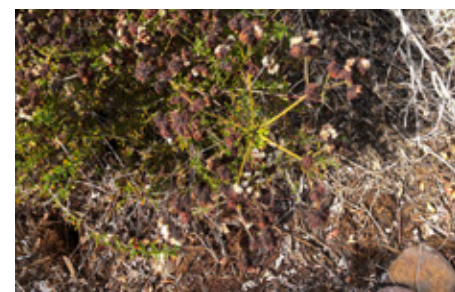
DISASTER CONTACTS
In case of a major disaster, have two out-of-area contacts handy. When the power is out, landline phones may not work. Make sure your cell phone is charged. Call 211 for updated information.

Nature in the Neighborhood

The Buckwheat Byway

As the long dry season wears on and the native scrub vegetation dries out, it's the hungry season for our local birds. Flat-top Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) is a key native plant that allows our feathered friends to hang on until winter rains bring new life. Most seeds of native sages and daisies have dropped off or been eaten by now, but buckwheat seeds hang on, giving smaller birds such as goldfinches and sparrows needed sustenance. Native Americans also ate the seeds, baked or raw, although this is not the species we use for pancakes. Take the Buckwheat Byway and get to know this wonderful plant and its cousins.

You can get right next to Flat-top Buckwheat at the opening overlooking Buchanan Canyon on Lincoln Street, where a strip along the sidewalk has been planted with native species. Like this strip, Flat-top Buckwheat is a main component of the coastal sage scrub community (along with California Sagebrush, California Sunflower, and Black Sage). You'll find lots of buckwheat plants "pruned" into a hedge (personal complaint: if the City workers who maintain this pocket park used shears instead of buzz saws, these plants would look better and be healthier).

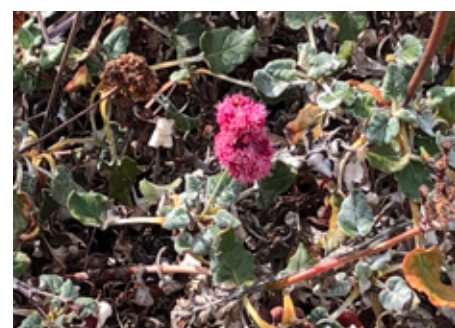


Flat-top Buckwheat

It's easy to identify buckwheat by its mahogany-colored seed heads, held by a triangle of little stems, each at the tip of another splay of stems. This "umbel of umbels" pattern is characteristic of the buckwheat family, so look for it on all the stops on this tour. Also note its short, needle-like leaves – this helps the plant resist our dry conditions.

Turn the corner and head up to 4120 Maryland Ave. to find a couple of buckweats native to the Channel Islands. Look for low-growing plants with small, thick leaves that look like spatulas. The undersides of these leaves are covered with fine white hairs, another trick to keep the plant from losing too much water as it takes in CO2. This the delightful Red Buckwheat (*E. grande rubescens*), named for its red flowers, now long gone. A little farther up in the patio area, you'll see a lone Island Buckwheat (*E. arborescens*), which looks a bit

like Flat-top Buckwheat on steroids, with larger leaves and seed clusters. Farther up Maryland (about 4334), the parking strip contains Cliff Buckwheat (*E. parvifolium*). Its leaves are similar to Red Buckwheat, with the same white underside, but are wrinkled and shaped like an arrowhead. The cliffs where it likes to grow overlook the ocean – I've seen this along the Beach Trail at Torrey Pines SP just before it drops down to the ocean by Flat Rock.



Red Buckwheat



Island Buckwheat

Turn left on Meade St. to test your ID skills. It's worth the detour to 4440 Arch because the plants here are in better shape, likely due to just a bit more care in the garden. At the corner of Arch and Monroe you'll find St. Catherine's Lace (*E. gigantea*) poking out from behind a picket fence. The scientific name is appropriate here, as this is our largest buckwheat. Its size reflects an interesting phenomenon of plant evolution, where island species tend to be larger than their mainland progenitors, unlike new animal species that become smaller. Look in the parking strip for two other buckwheat species.



Cliff Buckwheat

If you want to see Flat-Top Buckwheat growing in its natural coastal sage scrub habitat, continue up to The Point in the UH Open Space. About fifty feet down the trail, look to the west and you should see how these buckweats are pretty much the only seed source still available. Although we've seen pretty dried-up plants along this walk, I urge you to come back over the course of the spring to see, first, sprays of pink buds, then the white (or red) flowers that will remain for months. These flowers make Flat-Top Buckwheat an important nectar source for lots of butterflies, including the endangered Quino Checkerspot (*Euphydryas editha quino*) and the threatened Hermes Copper (*Lycaena hermes*). If you want to attract bees, butterflies, and birds, buckweats are a great addition to a water-saving garden.



St. Catherine's Buckwheat

— Dave Flietner is proprietor of Design With Natives

Going Solo

On Friday, September 9, a technician from SDG&E came and turned off my gas. I've been waiting for this for a long time. Gas is a fossil fuel. It can cause fires during an earthquake. Breathing natural gas is carcinogenic. I once caught my shirt on fire while working at the stove. From the day I moved into this old house, I smelled gas in certain spots. Yet, neither SDG&E guys nor plumbing and heating technicians could find it.

I've always wanted to "do it myself." The results are not always perfect, but they're mine. For many years during adulthood, I wondered why more people and groups didn't make use of sun, wind, hydro, tidal, or geo-thermal power.

In fall of 2017, I decided to get a new roof and solar panels at the same time. The house, built in 1906, had as many as seven layers of roofing in some spots. The roofing company I hired was one of the very few that did roof AND solar installation.

Then, in early 2022, I began to plan getting rid of appliances running on natural gas. I would let the central gas furnace just sit in place in the attic and use portable or baseboard heaters. Now, here the story gets a little more complicated: I would have to have new, upgraded electric outlets installed. Fortunately, my electric panel and some conduits had been recently upgraded. An electrician recommended by the water heater guy did a fine job of installing the first new outlet for an electric water heater tank. Tankless would be too expensive in my old house. Besides, all the hot water was needed within only 8 feet of the tank.

Next came the stove. The old gas range and oven had been expensive 18 years earlier. A series of technicians / repair people cleaned out the gas lines to burners but didn't solve the problem of non- or partial ignition of the burners. In fact, I had ceased using all but two burners on the range. What a surprise to learn that a modern induction electric range/oven is not only easier to use than the old gas one and heats water faster than any gas range, but is less expensive than a new GE gas stove was 18 years ago and is also much safer. (Due to my age, I have made a habit of ALWAYS setting the timer on the stove so I don't forget the burner is on. Another safety rule in my kitchen: since I caught my cotton shirt on



fire years ago, there is always a 100% wool blanket on a shelf next to the stove.) And, the induction burners will not stay on if there is no pot or skillet in place.

On the day of installation of my Home Depot Frigidaire Induction oven/range, what a shock to be told by the installers that my brand new 3-pronged outlet was not the correct one for the new stove! After some additional work by the electrician, all is okay now.

Last of the appliances to switch over was the dryer. I knew the outlet installed by the induction range electrician was not correct, so I had the original electrician come out to install the correct outlet. Now there is no smelly gas, no gas bill, and my Kwh usage has shot up! From 2017 I still have 8 LG solar panels on a west-facing part of my roof. By the way, in the current drought, my panels have accumulated much more than the normal dust. I am lucky to have a college-educated next door neighbor, half my age, who is willing to go on my roof with a hose and a long-handled squeegee. With my same roof-and-solar company from 2017, we are now planning to either add to or replace my old panels, since the newer ones are so efficient.

The goal is to eventually get a battery to store electricity for night-time. Right now, the company has said that batteries are too expensive and should come down in price in about 12 months. That is the goal, and my intention. Stay tuned for next chapter: more solar panels.

You may now be thinking, "Well, great for you, but I can't afford to do that." Maybe. Partly it is my long-term yearning to do-it-myself. I live alone and can make these decisions myself. Also, I'm travelled out. Been there. Done that. Have been prescribed Flagyl at least 5 times. Have lost a total of 70 pounds or more from travel. So, there goes that expense. I don't eat out (my diet does not accommodate). Don't drink. (Well, upon the beginning of a cold I may take half a shot of Remy Martin to nap.) I have enough clothes to last another lifetime.

— Pam Isaacs

With a Whiff of Thanks

the scent of stewing
tickles my nose awake
cranberries freshly picked in the mist
of yesterday's morning
mingle with Aunt Sally's
southern orange rinds
now bubbling up red fantasies
that spice my morning with clove

dreams of turkeys
those long-necked rainbows on the run
peck their way into my appetite
incites an imaginary chase for their fan tails
through clouds
their soft feathers
smooth caress
once pursuit is won

a swift spring to the floor
makes patty-cake-feet drumroll to the kitchen
a peek through the door
delivers the meaning of thankfulness
overhearing quibbles from mom and auntie
while they chop and stir
their way to sharing love



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UH BEAUTIFICATION

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VERMONT STREET BRIDGE HOLIDAY SPRUCE UP!



The holidays are right around the corner, and that means it's almost time to decorate the Vermont Street Bridge. Before hanging the lights and decorations, the Bridge will need to be spruced up by power washing the walkway, cleaning the rails, and picking up trash. The Beautification Team will provide the tools and equipment, all you must give is your time, and a little elbow grease! Please join us at the Bridge on Sunday, November 20 from 8:30-11:00AM, and bring a friend! To sign up, please email beautification@uhsd.org.

—Jennifer Bishop is the lead for the Beautification Team

GARDEN CLUB CORNER

Fall is officially here in University Heights, with cooler temperatures and shorter days. Now is a great time to get into gardening if you have ever wanted to grow your own food! Loads of local and online resources can help you get started, including our newly formed University Heights Garden Club. Below are a few considerations to keep in mind while establishing a new garden from scratch:

Selecting The Best Location

Whether you are planning to grow herbs out of small pots near a kitchen or living room window, or planning to make use of some underutilized ground space outside, location is one of the most important factors dictating how successful your garden will be. Whenever possible, select a location or window space that is south facing. This orientation ensures that your plants will receive as much sunlight as possible.

In-Ground Beds vs. Raised Beds, Hardware Cloth



How my in-ground bed started.

Either way you go, be sure to first lay down hardware cloth on the bottom of your beds. Hardware cloth is different than chicken wire. This important distinction could save you from serious heartache, as chicken wire is thinner and can be chewed through by gophers and other underground rodents, whereas hardware cloth is incredibly sturdy and should protect your beds from creatures that live below. Even if you don't think you have gophers in your area, you should not skip this step. It can be a devastating lesson to put in all of the hard work of setting up your soil, compost mulch, irrigation, and your beautiful plants, all to have it ruined in one evening by an underground digging creature.

Compost + Mulch Resources

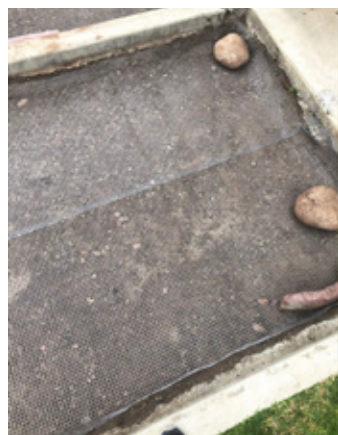
Developing microbial-rich and healthy soil can take work and quite a bit of time. Jumpstart this process with the incredible free resources available at the San Diego Miramar Greenery. The Greenery provides up to two cubic yards of nutrient-rich compost and mulch to San Diego City residents who come prepared with shovels and pails to haul off the materials themselves. Mixing the nutrient-rich compost into your existing soil can not only assist with building healthy soil for your plants, but also helps close the waste loop from the City's greenwaste collection process. Mulch is extremely important as well, both in retaining moisture during the hot months of summer, and for keeping the ground warm during the cooler months of winter.

Selecting the Proper Plants for Our Area

The plants that we University Heights gardeners select to grow should be compatible with USDA Hardiness Zone 10a. What this means is the US Department of Agriculture has assessed the climate, rainfall, and high and low temperatures throughout the US and has divided up the country into hardiness zones. This information assists gardeners



Lauren Doucette



Hardware cloth

People with Cars Need Homes Too

Many years ago, before moving to San Diego, I lived in New York City. We lived in Flushing, Queens which has neighborhoods of apartment buildings that surround smaller neighborhoods of beautiful single-family homes with garages and driveways. New York City is made up of five boroughs, each functioning as its own small city. Some small neighborhoods are close enough to the subway station that they are in short walking distance. You can take the subway and be in Manhattan within 20-30 minutes. Manhattan, as you may know, is an island lined with skyscrapers and buildings and is referred to as the "City". Everyone admires these skyscrapers and some love to live in them and enjoy having their own piece of the City! Many others prefer to commute into the City and return to their home in Queens, Brooklyn or the Bronx to be closer to their families. One major factor that made single family homes desirable was their ability to accommodate residents' cars. For those living in apartments, finding parking was a challenge. I had a nice apartment near a subway station and enjoyed hopping on the train to go to the City to work, but I also had a car of my own.

As convenient as the subway system is, owning a car is still a necessity in New York City. If you'd like to take a weekend trip, must carry groceries, or have a large family, it's nice to have the option of using a car. Also, coming home after dark on the Subway is not always as safe as driving. If you find yourself in need of a car, you'd expect to spend many hundreds of dollars per month for a single parking spot.

Now, almost 30 years later, I live in Sunny San Diego, a beautiful, sleepy town that continues to grow and is starting to look more and more like a New York City borough. I remember when we first thought of moving to San Diego, one of the most attractive elements was the ability to find parking easily. Coming from New York City, this was a luxury that had tremendous value for us.



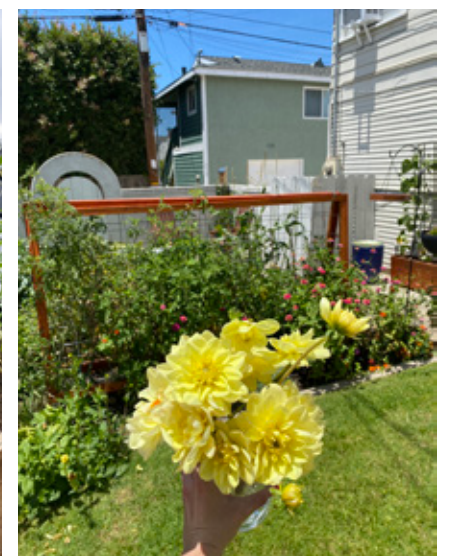
These days, everywhere we look, there are new developments popping up all over our amazing city. We're told that development is necessary, inevitable, and that development is progress. I'm a Realtor and cannot argue with that notion. However, developers need to understand that parking is invaluable in an urban environment. From a real estate standpoint, when we sell a unit that includes a parking spot in a housing development, the unit has certain value. If this same unit comes with more than one parking spot, the value, desirability and salability is considerably more, and same is true for rental units. A rental unit that does not come with a parking spot, fetches much less in rental income than a unit with parking spots. These factors should be considered when building or approving development projects. San Diego is working on improving public transportation in the region, but there is still a very long way to go, and there are many areas that are not covered by bus or trolley route.

My hope in writing this article is to shed some light onto the importance of parking, not only as a necessity in an urban living environment, but also as a quality-of-life component of urban living. I hope we can emphasize the importance of parking to our elected officials, as well as our development community and encourage them to pay attention to these important issues. I encourage all of us to take interest in the beautification and functionality of our amazing city that we all cherish dearly!

—Roxanne Govari, Pemberley Realty



Raised planting bed



Direct in-ground planting

in knowing which plants work best in their area based on the seed manufacturer's notes, or the nursery's recommendations. Knowing our UH gardening zone is 10a also assists with planning the timing of when various crops should be sown, when we should start seeds inside versus outside/direct, and how long our growing season will be. Free online resources, such as San Diego Seed Company or Homestead and Chill are great sources of information regarding USDA Hardiness Zones, gardening calendars, and seasonal planners. Check online for these calendars or email the UH Garden Club to receive a PDF of these great planners.

If you'd like to learn more about the resources described above or have other questions regarding starting your own garden space, please reach out to the newly formed University Heights Garden Club by emailing gardenclub@uhsd.org. The Garden Club plans to meet every other month (outside of the holidays) to connect UH gardeners, swap tips and tricks, learn something new from a local gardening expert, and enjoy botanical cocktails while touring various UH gardeners' spaces. We hope to connect with you!

—Lauren Doucette

November 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>NATIONAL COPD AWARENESS MONTH NOVEMBER</p>	 <p>WORLD Vegan DAY November 1</p>	<p>1 SDUSD Board Meeting 5pm sandiegounified.org Uptown Planners Meeting 6pm uptownplannersd.org Dec/Jan News Articles Due</p>	<p>2 UHDCDC 6pm uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Meeting 6pm National Stress Awareness Day</p>	<p>3 UH Park & Rec Meeting 5:30pm uhcdc.org UHCA Meeting 6:45pm www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection</p>	<p>4 Common Sense Day</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Daylight Saving Time Ends</p> 	<p>7</p>	<p>8 SDUSD Board Meeting 5pm sandiegounified.org Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm Election Day Total Lunar Eclipse</p>	<p>9 </p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11  VETERANS DAY ***** HONORING ALL WHO SERVED</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm UH Arts Open/Taste of University Heights 11 am - 4 pm</p>	<p>14 World Diabetes Day</p>	<p>15 SDUSD State of the District Address 4:15 pm, sandiegounified.org North Park Planning Committee Meeting 6:30 pm northparkplanning.com UH Library: Kamishibai Storytime 6 pm</p>	<p>16 International Day for Tolerance</p>	<p>17 National Take A Hike Day Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection</p>	<p>18 Mickey Mouse Birthday</p>	<p>19 UH Library Book Sale 9 am-3 pm UH Library: ToshWerks Terracotta Flower Pot Craft 3 pm National Adoption Day</p>
<p>20 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Vermont St Bridge Cleanup 8:30 am - 2 pm UH Library Book Sale 12-3 pm</p>	<p>21 </p>	<p>22 Dec/Jan UHCA News Out</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Thanksgiving International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26 Small Business Saturday </p>
<p>27 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm</p> 	<p>28 National French Toast Day</p>	<p>29 Giving Tuesday</p>	<p>30 UHCA Community Mixer Serpentine Cider 5-7pm</p>			



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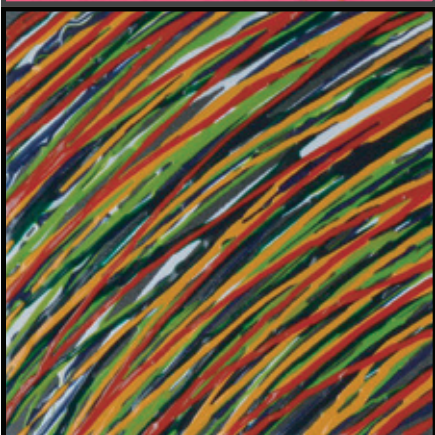
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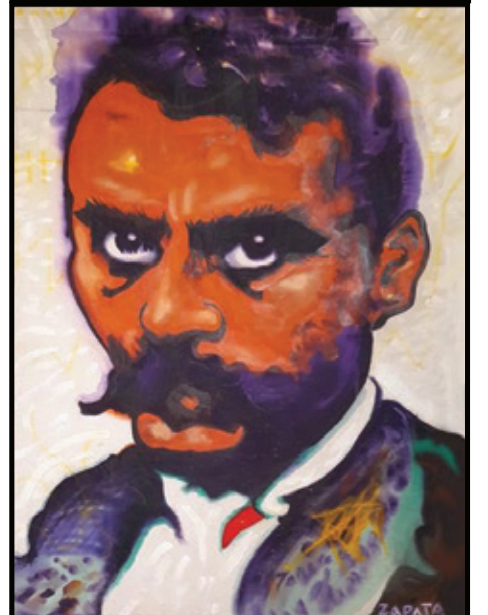
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For more information or to purchase tickets: UHCDC.org

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Budget priorities continued from front page

University Heights and North Park Library Upgrades

Mr. Whitburn wrote, "I am requesting the funds needed to design upgraded facilities at both the University Heights and North Park library facilities in the FY 2024 budget. The City should begin exploring how affordable housing can be added to public facilities like our libraries, including the University Heights and North Park branches."

Additional requests for the library included increased materials and maintenance budget.

Texas Street: University Heights / North Park Bike Facilities

"Texas Street is an essential connection between Mission Valley and Morley Field Sports Complex and runs through the heart of the Uptown Community, which currently has no safe bike facilities. From 2012 to 2021, 32 cyclists and 22 pedestrians have been injured on this street. The city must implement street calming measures, such as sidewalk bulb-outs and right-sizing travel lane widths and evaluate a class IV bike facility along the length of the uphill portion of Texas Street. In the upcoming slurry project on Texas from University to Polk, consider removing the center turn lane for Class II as a first step towards creating a safer connection between North Park and Mission Valley," the Councilmember requested.

Adams Avenue: UH/North Park/Normal Heights Cycletrack

Mr. Whitburn noted, "The City of San Diego will be resurfacing Adams Avenue in 2026, which presents an unparalleled opportunity to implement a continuous bicycle facility. Adams Avenue has an extremely high density of bicycle and pedestrian traffic and provides access to a huge variety of businesses, parks, schools, and homes. To make this road truly safe and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities, a Class IV cycle track should be considered during resurfacing."

Mr. Whitburn also requested that the unimproved Pascoe Street Alley between 9th and 10th Avenues at Johnson Avenue be paved and maintained, and that the University Heights Reservoir Rehabilitation and University Heights Water Tower Seismic Retrofit projects be addressed.

The budget process is ongoing throughout the year, with the next step being the Mayor's review of the requests, budget proposal, and adoption in June of 2023 for the 2024 fiscal year.

—Marc Johnson

Birney GIVING TREE



UHCA is continuing our tradition of sponsoring the Birney Giving Tree to help support families in need this upcoming holiday season.

Starting November 3, collection boxes will be placed around University Heights where you can drop off gift cards by December 1.

The list of locations will be posted at www.uhsd.org/givingtree after our November 3 community meeting. Birney staff will distribute the gift cards based on need.

Get your cards ready, and enjoy the special warm feeling of helping our neighbors in need!

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Pets of the Month Chiquita & Bananas

Chiquita downstairs, Banana upstairs



Chiquita

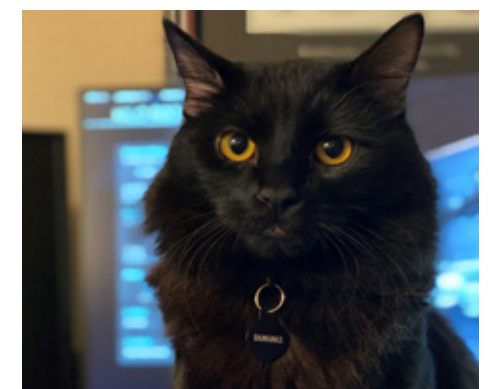
We were very sad when our border terrier passed away, and we sent out hundreds of emails asking if anyone had any puppies or knew of a dog that needed a home. My cousin in Tijuana, Mexico replied that she had a very sweet German miniature schnauzer that she was unable to keep. Her name is Chiquita, she was 10 years old at the time, and was purchased in Monterrey, Mexico. We immediately said yes and went to pick her up. She has filled a hole in our heart, and we think God knew we needed her and sent her to us. After all, God spelled backwards is dog.

She was very affectionate from the very first day we brought her to our home on Louisiana Street in University Heights. She loves to take naps, and we try to carry treats with us so people can give her a snack when they meet

her. Brittney at Pet Paradise gives her haircuts and baths often, and we are sure that Chiquita is her favorite. When we walk with her to the store, people make a line to check out their groceries and there's always another line to say hi to Chiquita. She once caught a rat outside of a grocery store in Hillcrest, we won't tell you which one, but there is one less rat in the neighborhood. She also once caught a bird and brought it proudly into the house. This breed was originally bred to catch mice and rodents on farms, so we couldn't be too upset with her.

Finally, our upstairs neighbors, Patrick and Lindsey, have a very cute black cat named Bananas. Chiquita – Bananas.

— David Almada



Bananas

Do you know a pet we should feature? We'd love to highlight all of our furry (and not so furry) UH neighbors! Send info & photo to uhcanews@uhsd.org!

UHCA GARDEN CLUB
Presents

Winter Gardening

Sunday, December 4th
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Eden San Diego

Learn how to start seeds, the best types of winter vegetables for Zone 10, and leveraging companion planting.

www.uhsd.org/WinterGardening
register early, space is limited!




BIRNEY BUZZ

Birney's Busy October

The Fall Fundraiser wrapped up on October 14, and it was a success! The Friends of Alice Birney Elementary (FOABE) ran the 5-week fundraiser, in which students sold items from Boon Supply and collected donations to support Birney's Specials: art, garden, Spanish, and dance. Students earned prizes for registering, sending emails, and selling items. This year, students could visit the new FOABE stand at Birney on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school to collect their prizes. Large prizes included a BMX bike, which was given away via a raffle among students who had registered and sent at least 10 emails, and a chance to get on the Game Truck. "It is a good way to get together with your friends and a very exciting experience. The truck is full of a variety of fun games, and it's a very fun way to support the school," stated 4th grader Noah H, who earned a place on the Game Truck last year.

October was also a busy time for Birney's Spanish classes as they learned about Día de Muertos, which is celebrated on November 1-2. Señora Goudy, who has taught Spanish at Birney since 2011, taught students about the different traditions in Mexico and other countries in Latin America that observe Día de Muertos. Students also had the opportunity to create art and add items to honor lost loved ones to a display in the classroom.

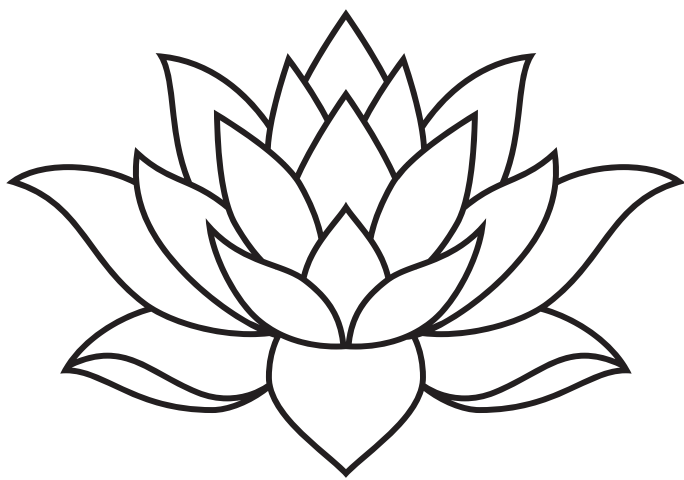
This interactive approach to teaching is what students love about Señora Goudy, who is able to reach students of all ages through her dynamic approach. Kindergartener Sebastian V said that he "like[s] the puppet pet frog, Señor Rana," who Señora Goudy brings to class to sing songs and connect with the lower grade students. Sadie M, 4th grader, says that her favorite part of Spanish class is "[w]hen we read the exciting Spanish chapter books during read aloud. I always feel excited for the next chapter of the book."



Spanish is an integral part of Birney's International Baccalaureate (IB) program, which uses an 'inquiry-based approach to learning and focuses on students as global citizens." Señora Goudy, who attended IB middle and high schools herself, recognizes how important exposure to languages other than English is for students: "Forming those vital pathways early on provides an essential foundation not only for their long term success in Spanish but in any language they choose to explore, not to mention achievement in countless other subject areas. Excitement for and celebration of world languages and their cultures is, for me, one of the things at the heart of what it means to be an IB learner, and it is a joy to watch that excitement and celebration lead students of Birney to become responsible members of local, national, and global communities."

A few more fun events will close out October at Birney. The PTA will host their October Costume Swap, in which students can donate their costumes from years past and take home a new-to-them costume; the event will be held at Birney before Halloween. The third "Saturday School" of the year is on October 29th from 9am-1pm, and attending students can participate in a Halloween Parade to show off their costumes or Birney gear. Lastly, PTA is very much looking for volunteers to help run the events planned for this year that help bring the Birney Community together, including Morning Buzz, Playground Play Dates, Star Party, and more. Email info@birneypta.com if you'd like to get involved.

— Sarah Layne, Proud Birney Parent and UH Community Member



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BETWEEN THE COVERS

Autumn at the Library

As another year quickly comes to an end and we head into the holiday season, here at the University Heights Branch Library things are just as effervescent and high-spirited as they've been all year. Now hold on a second, Martin, you're probably thinking, I have a suspicion that you're all just resting on your laurels. There's just no way the University Heights Branch Library is going to have any programs in November. Well friends, you couldn't be more wrong. Autumn is a wonderful time to bring the whole family into the library. So, gather 'round, stay awhile, and let me tell you all about November at the library:

Tuesday, November 8 is **Election Day**, and the library will have a mail ballot kiosk from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. The ballot box will also be available during regular library hours starting October 10.

From October 1 through November 12, the library will be participating in the **In-N-Out Cover to Cover Club**. Children who participate in this reading program will receive an award of a free hamburger or cheeseburger for every five books they read. They can win up to three awards! The program is for children ages 4 – 12.

Join us at the University Heights Branch Library on Tuesday, November 15 for **Autumn Adventures Storytime** with Kamishibai Folk Tales. Kamishibai is a type of Japanese street theater that gained popularity during the early and mid-20th Century. Write Out Loud's Walter Ritter will use a series of illustrations to tell folktale stories to *astound* children of all ages. ALL AGES!! The program will go from 6:00 to 6:45 pm.

Then, on Saturday, November 19, we will have the **Thanksgiving Terra-Cotta Flower Pot Craft** presented by ToshWerks, at which you will be able to decorate your very own terra-cotta flower



Kamishibai storytelling

pots with markers, stickers, and leaves. LEAVES!! It will run from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. Also on Saturday, the Friends of the San Diego Public Library (FSDPL) will have their monthly book sale. The sale will run on Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and on Sunday, November 20, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. Don't forget to wear your mask!

Are you a local writer in San Diego County? If so, you can register for the **2022 Local Author Showcase**, which highlights writers in the San Diego area. The Showcase will run throughout the month of February 2023, and the deadline to register is Monday, November 28.

The library will be closed for Veterans Day on Friday, November 11 and for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 24.

Lastly, as always, we appreciate our Friends of the UH Library. If you'd like to learn more about them, please visit www.friendsofuhlibrary.org.

www.facebook.com/universityheightslibrary

sandiego.librarymarket.com

— Martin Kessler, Library Assistant II
University Heights Branch Library
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619-692-4912v

Year-End Business Tips from Lotus Tax & Accounting

Over the last few years, we lived through times that were unexpected. In today's world, a single crisis can destroy infrastructure, degrade public health and workforce resources, and disrupt supply chains. These events, in turn, may lead to inflation and broad economic downturns. While some businesses may prosper during a crisis, many others may fail if they're unable to react quickly to the changing environment.

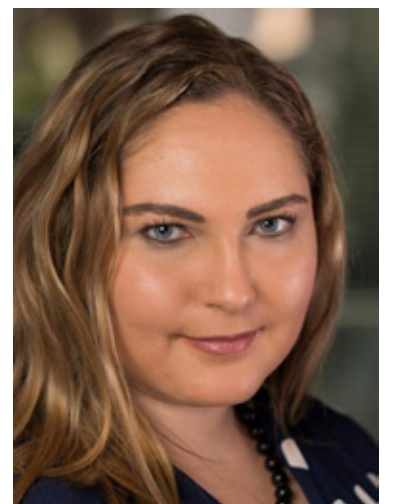
Moving forward and starting anew with the year ending, here are a few concepts to think about:

- Small businesses need to address the resilience of their capabilities and operational strategies. One important lesson learned from the COVID-19 pandemic is the need for flexibility in the workforce (home vs. office).
- Many organizations should reconsider their financing strategy going forward. Low interest rates over many years have encouraged businesses to take on greater amounts of debt. But with rates on the rise, business owners will need to rethink their companies' financing strategies.
- New technology and equipment will be needed to meet demand; in other words, financing these investments must be carefully planned for.
- Investors will need to strategize better for cash reserves; while extra cash may reduce current profits and return on investments, insuring against risk during economic downturns is important.
- Business resilience involves both taking advantage of unexpected opportunities and mitigating the damage from new threats. Organizations may need to modify their business models by engaging differently with customers and vendors.

In addition, tax planning becomes more essential for businesses. Using simple strategies will maximize your potential for savings, not only in taxes, but with profits.

- Keep organized. Have a separate bank account for your business operations. Keep better track of your expenses by using accounting / bookkeeping software; if it's too much for you, hire a professional.
- Do not file your own taxes, especially if it is complex. Hire an Enrolled Agent or a Certified Public Accountant.
- Consider having payroll, even if you own the business.
- Make estimated quarterly tax payments.

— Jessica Demirdjian, EA, MTax, MAcc, (CPA Candidate)
Owner, Lotus Tax & Accounting Service in University Heights, www.LotusTaxSD.com.



Pub Quiz Fun at Kairoa

If you're looking for a solution to your hump-day doldrums, you'll find your answer at the "Geeks Who Drink" Pub Quiz at Kairoa. Plenty of pub quizzes occur in and around central San Diego, but what's great about the Geeks Who Drink quiz is that it's consistent in style, it covers a broad variety of topics, and everything is fact checked.

Plus, at Kairoa, April Taie, who has been a quizmaster since 2016, is an experienced host with a lot of energy and a quick wit. "April creates a really fun environment and gives our group of friends something to look forward to at the midweek," says Taryn Swopes, who has been coming to the pub quiz for about 6 months. Reese Griffith, a manager at Kairoa, confirms: "April's enthusiasm and the way she proctors the whole thing makes it really fun for everyone. She keeps it entertaining, but also educational."



April Taie, Kairoa Pub Quizmaster

If you're hesitant about spending your Wednesday nights having your knowledge put to the test, April advises, "If you want to come out, come out! The worst you could do is lose, and that's fine! You'll still have fun." It might even be a great way to make friends. If you come alone, sometimes teams will take individuals on, since "the quiz is optimized for 6 brains," as April explains.

Kairoa is a superb venue to host a trivia night. With its spacious, open layout, delicious food, and phenomenal staff, it's a great place to hang out with friends and coworkers, or even your pet companion! If you are planning to get your quiz on, be sure to come early. The quiz starts at 6:30 pm, and the bar consistently fills up every week thanks to April's enthusiastic quizmastering, the quiz regulars, and Kairoa's good vibes, food, and beer.

—Ariel Annon



If you have ideas for stories, a knack for editing, and want to get more involved with keeping our community better informed, we have a great way for you to exercise those creative muscles! UH News is looking for writers and editors and needs a few extra hands! This is a great way to volunteer and work with an awesome, fun, creative team.

email uhcanews@uhsd.org!

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SCOOTER RULES

Dockless electric scooters are a popular choice for short trips in San Diego's urban neighborhoods, including University Heights. The City of San Diego has implemented new rules for parking scooters, and to help San Diegans ride safely, the San Diego Police Department and California Office of Traffic Safety worked with nonprofit Circulate San Diego to create an official guide.

Here are seven key rules to follow when renting and riding a scooter:

- Take your driver's license. A valid license is needed to unlock and ride a scooter.
- Wear a helmet. It isn't required, but can save your life.
- Only one person on a scooter at a time. Scooters aren't designed to be ridden by more than one person.
- Ride in the same direction as traffic. Under California law, scooters are considered motor vehicles and must obey traffic laws.



- Don't ride on the sidewalk. It's against the law. Use bike lanes when available. Some other areas are off limits, including many beach boardwalks.
- Only ride when sober. Many accidents involving scooters also involve alcohol or marijuana.
- Follow all street signs, traffic signals and markings. It's the law.

More info is at tinyurl.com/SDscooter.

—City of San Diego

UH is for Artists (and Art Lovers)

Two years ago, UH News published a photo of a squirrel I painted on a palm frond that I found on a sidewalk in our neighborhood. It was part of a segment on how residents were coping with the pandemic. If you had told me then that my little hobby (which started as a craft project for my kids) would lead to me featuring in National art exhibits and crafting award-winning artwork, I would never have believed you.

"University Heights, the energy here is incredibly welcoming for creative people," Ashley Gill, owner of Fibre the Venue and Salon on 4521 Park Blvd., told me over drinks at Meraki Cafe. We were celebrating the wrap-up of my first solo-exhibit, which Fibre hosted. "The moment I entered my building, I envisioned not just a salon, but a place where artists of all kinds could work, learn, and connect," she said. As a serial entrepreneur and a successful business leader, Ashley has an eye for potential. When she offered to display my art for a month, I was excited but unsure; after all, I wasn't a "real artist." Well, the show nearly sold-out in just 3 weeks, and roughly \$800 in proceeds went to support art programs at Birney Elementary. I started to think that maybe I was a "real artist" after all. Seeing my art displayed on the walls, and the response of perfect strangers to my work was incredible – it gave me the confidence to pursue art and to share my work more widely.



Jane and Ashley

Being that I'm a small-business owner, it has always been important for me to be part of the community and promoting local artists is one way to do that," Ashley said. She also acknowledges what so many of us feel about UH: "Our neighborhood is special. It's eclectic and vibrant in a way that attracts and uplifts people. Art does that too." As a longtime supporter of the arts and local programs such as the upcoming UH Arts Open (Nov 13th, 2022), Ashley recently became the Business Liaison for UHCA. When I asked her what her plans were for her new role, she answered, "Right now, I am reaching out to the business community along Park Blvd. and getting to know so many fantastic people. When businesses and residents come together to support and promote local events and initiatives, powerful things happen, not just for the neighborhood economy, but for our sense of connection and belonging." I can certainly attest to that!

Stop by Fibre to say hello to Ashley and see art by the currently featured local artist, Jeffrey Taylor. The salon is open to the public 10:00 – 6:00 PM Wed-Sun.

—Jane Muschenetz is a Ukrainian-born artist and writer living in University Heights. Connect with her work on www.PalmFronDZoo.com and in various publications.

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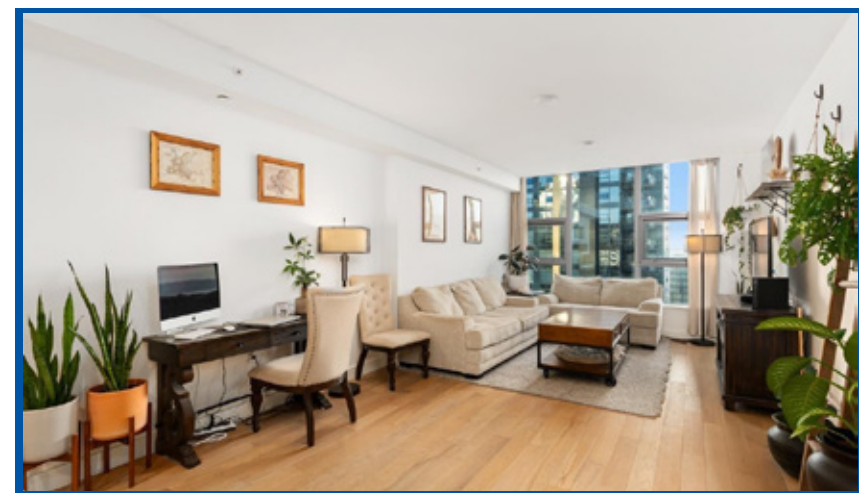


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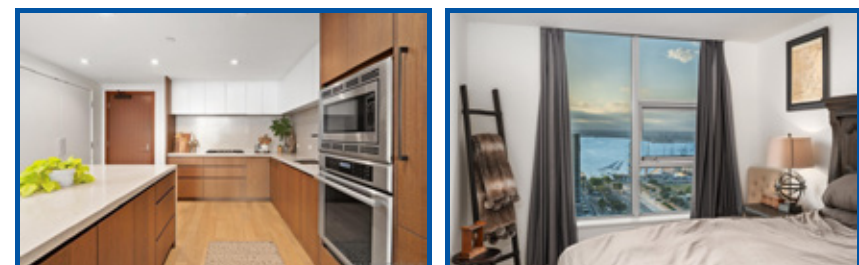
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