









University Heights Community Association

July/August 2025

UH Artistic Revitalization

Local artists transform streets with vibrant utility box makeovers

BY ANGELA JACKSON-LLAMAS

The streets of University Heights are undergoing a colorful makeover, thanks to a new Beautification Team initiative that's turning ordinary utility boxes into works of art. Local artists have been enlisted to paint the once drab

and uninspiring boxes, transforming them into vibrant and eye-catching pieces of public art.





pieces of art, the hope is that they will become a source of pride for the community and discourage any unwanted tagging

Local artists have been hard at work in June, designing and painting the boxes with a variety of themes and styles. From abstract designs to nature-inspired scenes, each box is a unique reflection of the artist's vision and creativity.



Residents have been quick to praise the initiative, with many expressing their excitement at the transformation taking place on their streets. The beautification project is just one of many initiatives that the B Team has undertaken to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. From community clean-up

events and native planting to neighborhood social events and safety initiatives, UHCA is dedicated to making University Heights the best place to live, work, and play.

As more and more utility boxes are transformed into works of art, the streets of

University Heights are sure to become a gallery of creativity and inspiration. Stay tuned to social media at @universityheights sdcommunity for a map of all of the completed boxes!



New Parking Charges on Adams

BY MARC JOHNSON

New paid parking signs were installed in early June along Adams Avenue between Park Boulevard and North Avenue ahead of a new "pay by plate" system. This change was approved by the City Council as part of overall changes to community parking. Once implemented, drivers will go to the kiosk, enter their license plate information, pay with a credit card or via an app, and display the receipt on their windshield. Paid parking will be enforced 8am-6pm Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays.

Parking meter rates have been increased from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per hour, with a 2-hour maximum. The increase, which will likely also include Balboa Park and the beach areas, will help the City address its large budget deficit. Local Community Parking Districts, which receive a small portion of the original \$1.25 per hour fees, will not benefit.



This increase by the City was done without consultation or input from the UH Parking District which represents our local businesses or residents.

Leslie Scavone, nearby owner of The Park Salon, isn't happy about the change. "I have stylists who need to park and two hours won't be nearly enough time for them,and there is next to no parking in our neighborhood to start with," she said. "We also have clients who are frequently here for more than two hours. This could have a serious impact on my business."

Residents in the area shared mixed feelings, some welcoming the change to open up more parking spaces during the day, and others, like Sharon Haven, feel it isn't fair to long-time residents: "My family works hours that don't line up with the new enforcement times - we don't feel this is a fair change especially for those of us who have lived here for years and rely on the availability of on-street parking."



Left-Right: UHCA Board members Angela Jackson-Llamas Janice Hsu, Andy Lange, Marc Johnson, Deborah Morrison

LIGHTS OFF...

BY DEBORAH MORRISON

University Heights residents who walk across the Vermont Street pedestrian bridge at night know how unnerving it can be to cross in the dark without streetlights guiding the way. Since August 2024, multiple Get It Done tickets have been submitted to the city asking to get the lights working. I have been in communication with Randy Reyes in the mayor's office and have exchanged numerous emails and calls with Christina Gaffney in Councilmember Whitburn's office who has been advocating for us as well. Our Get It Done tickets were closed without any action taken. So, with the help of local resident DJ Feuerborn, we were able to get in touch with Abbie Black at Channel 8 News.

On Monday, June 2, around 10 residents and I gathered with Abbie who aired our concerns on the news that evening. On Tuesday, June 3, Penny Roland and I walked to the bridge where—lo and behold—the lights were on!

We are grateful to Channel 8, Abbie Black, and all who advocated on our behalf. This successful outcome shows why UHCA is such a critical piece of our wonderful community. If you are not already a member, please consider supporting your community by clicking on JOIN NOW at www.uhsd.org.

UHCA and **UHCDC** What our neighborhood organizations do for UH

BY STEPHANIE GOMEZ

If you've ever danced at a summer concert in Trolley Barn Park, strolled under the historic UH sign on Park Boulevard, or flipped through the neighborhood paper with your morning coffee, then you've already felt the impact of two incredible local organizations: the University Heights Community Association (UHCA) and the University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC).

These two groups may operate independently, but together they're the heart and soul of UH—working behind the scenes to make our neighborhood one of the most vibrant and community-oriented spots in San Diego.



UHCA, founded in 1984, is a member-supported 501(c)3 nonprofit that

brings neighbors together. They're the ones organizing fun neighborhood gatherings such as Party on Park, Lights in the Heights, Caroling in the Heights, Movies in the Park, Neighborhood Mixers as well as monthly community meetings that keep everyone in the loop and create a space for conversations

NO MEETINGS IN JULY or AUGUST

Personal Financial Seminar Presented by CalCoast Credit Union Alice Birney Elementary School Auditorium Entrance on Campus past Meade



Meeting will be simulcast and recorded www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting





IF YOU INTERACT WITH ICE AGENTS AT WORK

1. Ask if you are free to leave. If so, you may calmly walk out.

2. You have the right to refuse consent to a search.

- 3. You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to discuss your immigration status with anyone, such as about where you were born, whether you are a citizen, or how you entered the country.
- 4. If you have valid immigration documents, you should show them. Never provide fake documents.
- 5. If you are arrested, say that you wish to remain silent until speaking with a lawver.
- 6. You have the right to record your interaction with immigration agents as long as you do not interfere.

IF ICE AGENTS SHOW UP AT YOUR DOOR

- 1. You do not have to open the door. If you do, stay calm-you have rights. 2. Ask what they are there for (and ask for an interpreter if you need one). 3. If they ask to enter, ask if they have a warrant signed by a judge and if so, ask to see it through a window or slipped under the door.
- 4. If they do not have a warrant signed by a judge, you may refuse to let them in. Ask them to leave any information at the door.
- 5. If they force their way in, do not resist. Tell everyone in the residence to remain silent.
- 6. If you are arrested, you have the right to remain silent. Do not sign anything until you speak with a lawyer.

Provided by ACLU Foundation - San Diego & Imperial Counties WWW.ACLU-SDIC.ORG

about issues that impact the quality of life in our neighborhood. UHCA also sponsors the UH Garden Club, activities around Bike Anywhere Day, and the UH Community Yard Sale/Recycle event.

The all-volunteer organization publishes our neighborhood paper *UH News*, has created a growing collection of UHthemed merchandise, runs the Zone Watch program to coordinate neighborhood watches and our close relationship with the San Diego Police Department, and facilitates beautification efforts like the Native Plant Initiative, community clean ups and the beautifully painted utility boxes done by local artists. They also created and maintain the UH Banner District in the southern part of UH along Washington and Park Blvd south of El Cajon Blvd.

"UHCA has a 40-year storied history of making things better in UH - starting out as a group of activist neighbors fighting an incompatible development

WHO'S WHO continued on page 9

OUR MISSION

The University Heights Community Association (UHCA), incorporated in 1984, is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit, member-supported, public benefit corporation community association dedicated to improving the quality of life and the sense of community in San Diego's University Heights.



NEW MEMBERS & RENEWAL

BUSINESS Buck Law APC - Tyler Buck, HiFi Arts Company - Michael Sherman GOLDEN OSTRICH Linda Muroi, Debra Fisher, Stephen & Marta Lewis, Jim & Lynne Lybarger, Paul Adams

PLUME Martha Carey & Elisabeth Fidler, Bruce Gardner & Penny Letson, Brian Geraghty, Shawn Carleton, Jeff Wynne, Joshua & Hillarie Holcomb, Hilary Tavolazzi

Thank You for your trust & support!

INVOLVED



JOIN, RENEW, DONATE, OR BY MAIL: OR VOLUNTEER TODAY ONLINE AT UHSD.ORG.

UHCA PO BOX 33032 SAN DIEGO. CA 92163



Show off your UH pride with iconic UHCA Merch! Available online www.uhsd.org/newstore

Volunteer & Connect with Neighbors!

UHCA is an all-volunteer association. Members can give their time & talents in a variety of ways: check out our website at www.uhsd.org/ volunteer or contact us at volunteer@uhsd.org

NEWS

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. Submission deadline is the first of the month. Submit articles and announcements to: news@ uhsd.org. See www.uhsd.org/submissions for details.

EDITORIAL TEAM Marc Johnson, Angela Jackson-Llamas, Janice Hsu, Jeffrey Taylor, Karen Koijane

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ADVERTISING: ads@uhsd.org

University Heights Community Association

BOARD MEMBERS (ELECTED OFFICERS):

PRESIDENT Marc Johnson (president@uhsd.org) VICE PRESIDENT Angela Jackson-Llamas (vp@uhsd.org) SECRETARY Deborah Morrison (secretary@uhsd.org) TREASURER Andy Lange (treasurer@uhsd.org)

UHCA OFFICERS &

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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 zonewatch@uhsd.org.

CRIME WATCH SIGNS

There are 60 signs in UH. If you know of a location that could use a sign, or one needing replacing, please email signs@uhsd.org.



SLOW DOWN SIGNS

Speeding in UH continues to be a problem. Shaving time off by speeding has small benefits and high risks. PLEASE SLOW DOWN!



FILE A POLICE REPORT ONLINE WITH SDPD

www.sandiego.gov/police

JH PHONE BOOK

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical

Non-Emergency Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc. Online: non-emergency problems: www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done

SD City Services Emergency & Non-Emergency Street lights, pot holes, etc

www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments **Alert San Diego**

Reverse 911 mobile phone evacuation emergency notifications

2-1-1 San Diego

Free Resources: CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc

Alice Birney Elementary Office Brush and Weed Abatement Code Violations

County Dept of Environmental Health Public Health / Rats / Rodents

Crime Stoppers Tip Line Downed Power Lines / SDG&E Domestic Violence Hotline 24/7

Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes

Get-It-Done

Download this City of San Diego app for reporting all non-emergency problems: abandoned vehicles, code violations, graffiti, over watering, potholes, and dangerous sidewalk issues.

Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) 5am-3pm M-F

619-531-2000

619-527-7500

readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/

211 or 858-300-1211 619-497-3500 619-533-4444 619-236-5500 858-694-2888 888-580-TIPS (8477) 800-411-7343

888-385-4657 619-515-3525

sandiego.gov/get-it-done

619-446-1010

Narcotics Suspicious drug house / anonymous

People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) path@epath.org

Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP)

Vacation home / welfare of home-bound check / Homeland Security support

National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline SDPD Community Relations Officers:

Officer Tiffany Adamek **SDPD Western Division** 5215 Gaines Street **Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service**

UHCDC University Heights Community Development Corporation University Heights Public Library 4193 Park Blvd

UH Zone Watch Coordinator zonewatch@uhsd.org **Graffiti** In Progress Emergency:

Report Online: sandiego.gov/get-it-done. Graffiti Hotline: SD Vector Control mosquitoes/ticks/rats Online: vector@sdcounty.ca.gov

For all San Diego City services, if all else fails, email Christina Gaffney with Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's office: cgaffney@sandiego.gov

For a complete list of contacts for elected representatives, please visit our website at www.uhsd.org/links



619-531-2468 619-810-8600 619-692-4945

988

TAdamek@pd.sandiego.gov

619-692-4800 800-252-4613 619-297-3166 619-692-4912 619-260-0668

619-527-7500 858-694-2888

DISASTER CONTACTS

In a major disaster, have two out-of-area contacts handy. Landlines may not work in power outages. Keep cell phones charged. Call 211 for updated info.



This month, we'd like to recognize UH resident and dedicated events volunteer, Betsy Paige. Betsy has been one of our most consistent event volunteers since 2022, assisting with day-of operations and event management for our annual bike clinics, block parties, pub crawls, neighborhood mixers, and fundraising events. Betsy moved to the neighborhood in 2022 from Seattle and got involved with UHCA to build community and meet new friends. She can be found consistently at the UHCA booth selling merch, leading day-of event operations, or lending a hand wherever needed. She is always friendly and welcoming and often is the first neighbor that folks moving to the neighborhood meet when attending their first UHCA event. Her reliability and enthusiasm in showing up for her neighborhood and her dedication to giving back is what makes her such an incredible volunteer. She is an outstanding example of what makes our neighborhood so great!

June UHCA Monthly Meeting

YOU MISSED

AI SUMMARY BY ZOOM, EDITED

CASE

Zone Watch

Officer Tiffany Adamek covered safety tips for the summer, including fire prevention, locking doors and windows, and driving safely. The community was reminded to be cautious and aware of their surroundings, as crime can increase during busy periods. Upcoming events were announced, including a "Coffee with Cops" event on June 17th and participation in the San Diego Pride parade. Officer Adamek also discussed a glitch in the crime mapping system and emphasized the importance of calling 9-1-1 in emergencies.

UHCA Regular Meeting

Kristen Harms distributed postcards for community members to send to San Diego Unified School District trustees in support of the proposed plan for redevelopment of the Brucker Education Center and discussed plans to present signed posters at an upcoming developer meeting.

UHCA President Marc Johnson reported on UHCA's increased membership and volunteer engagement, with UHCA Secretary Deborah Morrison requesting ideas for a fall membership drive. Financial improvements were noted, with the organization having turned around a previously concerning cash flow situation. Marc also noted that UH News has expanded to 16 pages and is generating more advertisers. This also creates more opportunities for community members to contribute stories. Deborah's advocacy led to the Vermont Street bridge lights being temporarily fixed after media coverage. The organization's social media presence has grown significantly, with 600 new followers in six months. Upcoming projects include utility box art installations by local artists, a website relaunch in July, and community surveys to gather input on future initiatives and investment priorities. UHCA has stepped up partnering with UHCDC to help secure sponsors for Concerts in the Park.

University Heights Planning, Zoning, and Land Use

Because surveys earlier this year indicated a strong desire for UHCA to provide more information about land use, board member (and Uptown Community Planning Group board member) Bill Ellig put together an extensive presentation on how San Diego land use and zoning regulations have evolved and how they apply to UH. The session was highly interactive with a lot of audience Q&A. Bill's full presentation video and slides—is available in the Meetings section at www.uhsd.org.

UH Garage Sale Event 2025 Success

BY LAUREN DOUCETTE

This year's community-wide garage sale event was one of the largest we have hosted to date. With 55 residential garage sales, a dozen stalls set up for apartment dwellers in the Alice Birney Elementary School parking lot, e-waste recycling provided by EnviroGreen, and a special guest stop, the hundreds of University Heights neighbors and shoppers had plenty of treasure hunting to do on Saturday, June 7th. "We had folks pulling up on bikes, on scooters, with dogs, in cars, and walking," to obtain their garage sale map



listing each of the participating locations, said volunteer Betsy Paige. This annual event is a wonderful way for neighbors to conduct some spring cleaning, providing opportunities for recycling and reusing household items, kitchen appliances, clothing, etc.

The UH Garden Club hosted a farmstand for neighbors to learn more about gardening and to purchase garden grown goodies. They were also able to pick up seeds and plants at the UH Native Plants Initiative stop. Neighbors donated art supplies to ArtForm on Adams Avenue and gently used books to the UH Library.

Thanks to all who participated and volunteered their time to make this event happen. We look forward to hosting the next garage sale event in June 2026.



EnviroGreen shredding bins



BY MARC JOHNSON

University Heights is a vibrant, growing, diverse, and welcoming community. That's one of the main reasons that my husband and I chose to plant our roots here. Well, that and having an awesome roof deck with a view of the trolley sign!

PRESIDENT'S

July is Pride Month in San Diego. and while hundreds of thousands of folks from San Diego and beyond will come here to celebrate, I know there is a growing sense of fear among many in the community. The federal government has been targeting trans people in many ways, including forcing members of the military to separate and stopping parents from allowing their children to receive life-saving medical attention. Some groups and even a few states are mounting a challenge to invalidate the Supreme Court ruling that allowed for same-sex marriages to be legally recognized.

Here in our amazing neighborhood, you're likely to see many same-sex

couples strolling Park Boulevard or dining together. By some estimates the population in UH that identifies as LGBTQ approaches 20%. Many of our local businesses are owned by members of the LGBTQ community (including Diversionary Theater and LAMBDA Archives), several of our elected officials identify as LGBTQ, as do board members and officers of UHCA.

CORNER

I treasure our neighborhood for the same reasons we all do: walk-ability, unique businesses, restaurants, our beloved park, and the tree-lined streets. But I also value it because of how comfortable, welcoming, and open it is here, and for the amazing allies who live and work here.

A huge Thank-you to our donors!

I'm beyond proud to be a UH resident, supporter, and leader of this organization. Have a great Pride month everyone!

ENVIOUSKIN

PURE HEALTH



Celebrating our UHCA Volunteers

BY JANICE HSU

In June, the UHCA hosted an event at Kairoa to celebrate the incredible contributions of our volunteers. These UH neighbors participate in community clean ups, trash pick ups, native garden planting, hosting events, writing and delivering our UH newspaper, advocating with the city, and more. Currently, we have over 130 volunteers who provide hundreds of hours of service every month.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your time, effort, creativity, and passion! University Heights is truly a better place because of you.

Our Volunteer Mixer was a ton of fun! A huge thank you to the 17 local businesses who donated gift cards and items, which

were raffled off to the volunteers who attended. We feasted on delicious food and drinks provided by Kairoa, connected with old friends, met new ones, and played some delightfully silly games.

In these uncertain times, it is a true comfort to be a part of something so simple and nourishing as getting to know your neighbors. We will continue striving to make the UHCA a welcoming and valuable place to volunteer



Volunteers won prizes courtesy of our local businesses: Chris Sera, T. O'Rourke, Tvla Sovlu. Mike & Linda Arellano, and Gary Williams & Jon Von Erb

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Danger in Empty Spaces

In the late morning of May 16, I was in my backyard when I smelled smoke. I looked up and saw a large dark cloud that was out of place on a bright, sunny day. As a photographer, I always have my camera ready, so I grabbed it and ran up to Georgia Street where I saw something startling and yet totally predictable: an abandoned house was on fire.

I documented the entire incident over the course of almost two hours. Many residents gathered to watch the San Diego Fire Department put out the fire. I spoke to a few folks and heard a rumor that a person was seen running out the back of the building when the fire started and was apprehended by SDPD, but I wasn't able to confirm that.

Now the house is gone, hastily demolished after this fire, and the dangerous palm trees finally removed.

This incident is a prime example of how private property can often pose a public hazard. As residents of a community we deserve a safe environment. Yet private property without local presence and upkeep by the owner can result in various problems.



What we think of as a neighborhood is made up of a patchwork of private properties, public parks, and the roadways and walkways that knit it all together. When land and buildings are left unmanaged, the ownership and artificial lines of property become a public issue. Every abandoned house ready to burn, dead palm tree waiting to fall, or unused lots filling up with dog dropping bags do a disservice to us all.

HOUSE FIRE continued on page 12



Great Ways to Dress up Pasta

No one told me that being an adult requires so much effort. Every day. Besides our obligations to others, we have the responsibility of taking care of ourselves. Every day. And that means eating dinner, too. Every day.

Here are some quick and easy ways to dress up the tried and true easy go-to: pasta. A true pantry staple that is inexpensive and readily available.

- Toss hot spaghetti with freshly grated cheese (pecorino or Parmesan), minced garlic and coarse ground pepper.
- Add small cubes of ricotta salata or feta cheese and roasted bell peppers to short pasta. Add lemon zest, olive oil and fresh herbs.
- Melt Gorgonzola cheese in

broth and wine then stir in ziti. Top with chopped nuts for added crunch and flavor.

- Saute butternut squash and sage in brown butter. Add egg noodles or cheese ravioli. And then top with Parmesan cheese.
- Agloi e olio is one of the simplest Italian dishes. Literally garlic and olive oil. Toss linguine or spaghetti in along with some red pepper flakes and you can't walk away mad.
- Saute cherry or grape tomatoes with olive oil and garlic until they're charred and burst open. Fold in angel hair pasta and freshly chopped basil.
- Orzo is often overlooked or added to a soup instead of rice. But if you

Native Plant Initiative Growing

The Native Plant team gave away twenty homegrown narrow-leaf milkweed seedlings during the community yard sale in June. Narrow-leaf milkweed plants support endangered monarch butterflies which depend on them to lay their eggs. Thank you to all the neighbors who stopped by to learn about these native plants.

Please join us for an upcoming volunteer morning in your community native plant garden. The next events are July 12th and August 9th from 8-11 a.m. at the corner of Park Boulevard and Meade Avenue. Email <u>nativeplants@uhsd.org</u> with questions.

Looking ahead to the fall planting season, we are fundraising for the purchase of new native plants and gardening supplies. When you donate to this dedicated campaign, your money will be matched dollar-for-dollar by



Photo by Frank Santana

UHCÅ. Scan the QR Code or visit www.uhsd.org/nativeplant and help us make University Heights more beautiful in a sustainable way!





University Heights Community Association







add a jar of sun-dried tomatoes in oil and some fresh basil you have a wonderful pasta salad worthy of any social gathering.

Mix and match and make it your own. I purposely kept these recipes vegetarian, but you could easily add roasted chicken, grilled beef or sausage to any dish.

Do you have a favorite recipe to share? Send it and a photo to news@ uhsd.org and we may feature it here!



On the 4th of July, 1776 'We the People' - for generations to come - saw our independence from oppression be realized:

it became 'Our truth' for all Americans; those of black, brown, red, yellow, all pigmentations, male and female, young and old!

When a free nation learns to accept what their nation has come to be, we say farewell to separatism,

hello to being proud of who we are all joined as one mighty nation!

Jon Von Erb, Your University Heights Poet, 7/2025

TAINAB Н

BEE BFFS

BY JUDITH ANNICCHIARICO

San Diego was recently honored with a "Bee City USA" designation by the Xerces Society, which may lead us to believe that our city is trying hard to save bees from the many perils they face. So far, though, there has been no word on concrete action tied to our new bee-friendly status. Unfortunately, it's not unusual in San Diego for "green"-sounding official pronouncements to look good on paper but amount to very little progress. It's likely up to us to act



without city leadership If we want to actually save bees.

And we should want to save them. Bees and other pollinators are our BFFs whether we know it or not. We wouldn't have much to eat if they didn't work their magic on food crops (including the crops eaten by animals who land on our dinner plates). All sorts of plants, animals, and entire ecosystems rely on insects as keystone species in the biological web of life that we're a part of.

One disheartening example: losing trillions of insects to climate change and poisoning has led to over 3 billion fewer birds in this country than we had 50 years ago. Alongside human encroachment on habitat, climate change and pesticides are to blame. Other factors are involved, but bird population collapses have mostly been the result of their insect food sources dying off, and those insects have disappeared because the climate is hotter and drier, and because we're poisoning them. Birds can't eat insects that have disappeared. Dead bees don't pollinate plants. All animals, human and otherwise, will at some point suffer the effects of lost food sources as bees and other insects die off.

What do we do? Buy organic, for one thing. More expensive? Usually. Worth cutting back in other areas to afford? Absolutely, if we value sustaining our way of life. Buy in-season produce, too. No South American-grown piece of fruit is worth the climate impacts of transporting out-of-season crops to the northern hemisphere, killing ecosystems in the process. We should also push the city hard to replace all the trees and shrubs we've lost to new giant apartment buildings in the past few years. And continuing to fight climate change is key, as we all know.

It should go without saying that people should never apply pesticides or herbicides around active pollinators, where pollinators might feed within 8 hours of spraying, or when there is any breeze at all. The least destructive time to apply such poisons is before sunrise or after sunset when the air is still. Better yet, stop using pesticides and herbicides. Seriously, they're killing us. Sustainable landscaping and gardening strategies that make those poisons unnecessary are easy to find from many sources, including the local Master Gardeners program and the County's website.

Let the politicians smile for the cameras and congratulate one another on new decorative terminology. We've got work to do. Our BFFs need us.

Master Gardeners www.mastergardenersd.org/earth-friendly-gardens/

San Diego Sustainable Landscapes www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/ watersheds/residential/San Diego Sustainable Landscape Guidelines.html



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COUNCIL NEWS CITY

Dear Neighbor,

I am pleased to share that the lights on the Vermont Street Bridge have been repaired.

For too long, this important pedestrian connection between University Heights and Hillcrest was in constant need of repair, creating safety concerns and making the bridge feel unwelcoming, especially after sunset.

That is why I made it a priority to get the lights fixed.

My office pushed hard to get this done for months, raising the issue repeatedly with city staff and emphasizing the importance of permanent, durable repairs, not just temporary solutions.

We insisted that this repair request not fall through the cracks.

It took persistence, coordination, and patience to achieve the desired result.

University Heights residents played a critical role in making this happen. Your emails and calls to my office and strong community engagement kept the pressure on.

You made it clear that the bridge isn't just a shortcut—it's a key pedestrian connection used by families, students, commuters, and seniors.

The strong, consistent advocacy from the neighborhood reminded city departments that safety must always be a top priority.



The Vermont Street Bridge should be a welcoming, accessible space at all hours. Now, with the lighting restored, it finally is again.

I will continue working to ensure the infrastructure in our communities, whether it's lighting, sidewalks or streets, is reliable and responsive to the needs of residents.

Thank you again to UHCA, especially Deborah and Marc who kept this issue on the front burner, and everyone who helped make this happen.

Your voices made a difference, and together, we've helped ensure a safer and brighter University Heights.

Yours in Service, Councilmember **Stephen Whitburn** San Diego City Council, District 3



SPOTLIGHT

YOUR BUSINESS

The Lancers Lives On — A Neighborhood Bar with History, Heart, and New Ownership

BY STEPHANIE GOMEZ

Tucked along Park Boulevard since 1963, The Lancers has been a longtime fixture in University Heights as a bar with history, heart, and a sense of familiarity that keeps people coming back. It's one of University Heights' longest-standing businesses. Before it became a bar, the building housed a pharmacy and, before that, a lumberyard. While the neighborhood has evolved over the years, The Lancers has remained a constant: the kind of place where the bartender probably knows your name, and the vibe never tries too hard.

This past May, longtime bartenders Lisa Johnson and Chelsea Roop, along with Chelsea's husband, Tom Logsdon (formerly of The Balboa), officially

took over ownership. Between them, they've spent more than 30 years behind the bar. Now, they're leading The Lancers into its next chapter, committed to keeping its old-school spirit alive.



Previously, the bar was owned by Marc "Bubba" Rosenberg, who ran the bar since 1978 and left behind decades of stories and memories. From early-morning regulars to hospital workers finishing night shifts, to pool-playing college students and off-duty bartenders, The Lancers has always been a place where everyone is welcome.

Lisa describes it best, "The best thing about working at Lancers is that it is a little chunk of history — the rich neighborhood history, ostrich farms, trolley lines and all that good stuff — but the real history we dig is the people that live in the area. We see first dates, people fall in love, they get married and have their after party here. They come home to visit after they move away, and the bar still looks the same. Transplants from other states walk in and are so happy because it looks like their hometown bar. People walk by the door all the time and lift their kid up so we can see what a good night at Lancers can do."

With a few thoughtful updates — like ADA accessibility, card payments, and more non-alcoholic options — the new owners are keeping the place true to its roots while making it more welcoming to all. Lisa states "You have to change a little with the times, but you don't have to give up your soul."

It's still The Lancers: a little worn, full of soul, and deeply loved.

COVERS BETWEEN THE

Parable of the Sower

BY JAZ LLAMAS

Thirty-two years ago, Octavia Butler's 1993 novel "Parable of the Sower" provided a harrowing and bleak glimpse into the far-flung future of 2024: At war with itself, the fictional United States was grappling with the devastating effects of climate change, wealth inequality, and corporate apathy to rising rates of homelessness, drug abuse, and violence against the disenfranchised.

Today, it feels uncomfortably close to reality.

Throughout this book, the narrative condemns the oligarchical powers which fuel the division of working communities, but it does not absolve the angry and misguided actions of middle- and lower-class people who follow their example. Their unrest has been weaponized to perpetuate abuse against their peers and further

erode civil society. Resources are hoarded, borders between states are strictly guarded, and indentured servitude makes a quiet but unsubtle resurgence. All the while,



communities turn a blind eye to the suffering of their neighbors.

Once safely contained within the speculative fiction genre, this post-apocalyptic piece now looms as an ever-nearing threat. But it's not without glimmers of hope and perseverance, as its main cast attempts to build a fortified community founded on empathy, socialist thought, and ecological harmony.

Yoga as Self-Care: Moon Circles in the Heights

BY STEPHANIE GOMEZ

BUSINESS

At the heart of Trolley Barn Park, Rachael Marchand invites women to step away from the noise of daily life and reconnect with their bodies, their breath, and their inner voice. Her Moon Circles are a unique form of yoga practice, one that blends movement, mindfulness, astrology, and journaling into a full self-care experience.



"I've practiced yoga for over a decade," Marchand shares. "It's always been a way for me to step away from the world and have a quiet hour to myself. I wanted to give that gift to others." Moon Circles are held during the new or full moon and are grounded in traditional yoga flows. But what makes them different is the way Marchand incorporates lunar cycles and zodiac energy into practice. Each circle begins with a community check-in and a discussion of the moon's current phase. The group then moves through a guided yoga flow, breathwork, meditation, and journaling with prompts tied to the moon's energy. For example, under a Pisces moon,

known for emotional depth, participants might move through heart-opening postures like humble warrior or dancer's pose to help release stored emotions and invite vulnerability.

"It's not just about the poses," Marchand explains. "It's about tuning into yourself. Sometimes during class, something emotional will come up, and journaling afterward gives you space to reflect, process, or simply let it out."

In a world that glorifies being busy, Moon Circles are a sacred pause. They remind participants that yoga is more than a workout, it's a tool for clarity, healing, and reconnection.

"I think we go through life always on the go, thinking about others," Marchand says. "These circles offer permission to pause—one hour dedicated entirely to yourself."

And while some might feel intimidated by yoga, Marchand makes it clear that you don't need to be flexible or experienced. "It's not about being perfect," she says. "It's about showing up and honoring where you are."



Moon Circles are a gentle, affirming reminder that self care doesn't have to be extravagant. Sometimes, healing starts with deep breaths, soft movement, and quiet reflection.

Upcoming Moon Circle Dates at Trolley Barn Park:

- June 25th @ 6 pm (New Moon in Cancer)
- July 6th @ 10 am (Full Moon in Capricorn)
- July 16th @ 6 pm (New Moon in Leo)
- August 10th @ 10am (Full Moon in Aquarius)
- August 24th @ 10am (New Moon in Virgo)

To learn more or sign up, follow Marchand on Instagram at @rachael marchand.

Rachel and Moon Circles are new UHCA Business Members and we are thrilled to share what they are doing in UH. If you're a business owner and want to discuss how UHCA membership can benefit your business, reach out at <u>business@uhsd.org</u>



Meet Boji, aka Stinky, aka Bubba, aka Sweet Boi, a four-year-old blue nose pitbull who's as charming as he is handsome. Boji embraces his inner otter-like appearance and soulful eyes. He has won over the entire neighborhood and owns the nautical waters of Dog Beach.

Boji is a handsome mix of adventurous and lazy: whether he's swimming, lounging at home, or devouring everything in sight, Boji lives life to the fullest. His love for water is so strong, his owner jokes he's part sea otter! But what truly sets Boji apart is his loving and kind nature. Known for his slobbery kisses, eye boogers, and affectionate demeanor, he's a neighborhood favorite who breaks stereotypes about pitbulls one smooth at a time. If you see him around, don't hesitate to say hello—just be ready for some wet, lovable greetings!

- Boii & Cristo

Want to share your pet with UH? Send photo and story to news@uhsd.org!

EVERY FRIDAY IN JULY * 6-8PM







Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra

UHCDC is able to present these concerts thanks to the generous support of our sponsors...









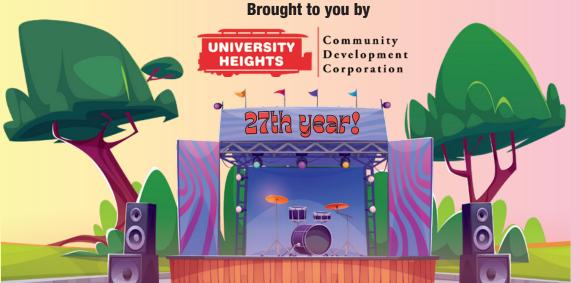








Be sure to visit participating vendors including CalCoast Credit Union, Cecilia's Fine Jewelery, UH Historical Society, CLAY x CHRIS, Olivia Stober Studios, Tiny Food Made of Clay... and more!



www.uhcdc.org • working continuously to better our neighborhood

Please, no alcoholic beverages, no glass containers, and no off-leash dogs!

Support the concerts with your contribution





🤁 PayPal

Madison - 4622 Park Blvd @madisononpark



Happy Hour - Everyday 4-6 PM Tuesdays: Live Jazz 7- 9PM

Wednesdays: Dinner with Dogs & Crooner Jazz 6-8PM

Thursdays: Live Jazz Trio 6-8PM Friday & Saturday Nights: Find Your Tonic Weekend Boozy Brunch with Craft Mimosas 9:30-2PM

Sunday Nights: Latin Jazz 6-8PM

Cookie Plug - 1945 El Cajon Blvd cookieplug.com

Monday-Thursdays in July – pick-up a BUMP SACK of 4 cookies to enjoy at the Summer Concerts on Friday (or whenever you like) - bring in this copy or mention UH News for 25% off!





EnviouSkin 4670 Park Blvd enviouskin.com

As a thank you to our community, EnviouSkin is offering our first time guests 50% off any regular priced facial during the months of July and August of 2025 - must be a new client and mention UHNEWS.

Cheers Bar - 1839 Adams Avenue @cheersbarsandiego

Sundays: BBQ from 1-5PM

Mondays: Karaoke starting at 8PM

Wednesdays: Karaoke starting at 8PM Thursdays: Trivia Night starting at 8PM

Fridays: Cheers is a proud sponsor of the



Summer Concerts in the Park - come by to pre-game and post party!

July:

7/04: Independence Day BBQ and Drink Specials

7/12: Annual Pride Kick Off

Party

7/20: Pride REHAB at 1PM



Liber8Fit Underground 1825 El Cajon Blvd @liber8fit

Sat July 19, 7:00am - Come run the Pride 5K together as a community. Join our team at sdpride.org

Sun July 27, 8:00am - Convention Center stair workout

August 4 - 8 week end of summer fitness challenge starts! 8 weeks of unlimited membership, 2

hydrostatic body composition tests, nutritional assessment for only \$299. July 1-20 - Summer 6 pack sale, get 6 classes for the price of 4 (\$108)

April/May Update from the North **Park Planning Committee**

BY HOLDEN LESLIE-BOLE & EDGAR RAMIREZ MANRIQUEZ

Hello, neighbors! We wanted to share a few highlights from recent North Park Planning Committee (NPPC) meetings, where our volunteer board advises the City of San Diego on land use, transportation, housing, and public infrastructure issues affecting our neighborhood.

At the April meeting, we welcomed new members to the committee and held officer elections. UH resident Jason Vance is the new chair, with Lynn Elliott serving as vice chair and **Community Planners Committee** (CPC) representative. Holden Leslie-Bole was appointed vice chair of the Public Facilities & Transportation Subcommittee, focusing on street safety and mobility improvements, and Edgar Ramirez Manriquez will be chair of the Communications Subcommittee, working to expand community outreach a "Stand Up for Safety" campaign and ensure more neighbors are engaged with the planning process.

One of our priorities continues to be addressing the affordable housing crisis that has impacted many University Heights residents. As such, in April the NPPC submitted a letter to the city requesting a full accounting of new housing units, specifically asking whether the affordable homes promised by developers since 2020 have actually been delivered. We want to ensure housing production is meeting real community needs, not just quotas on paper.

3 3 **INDEPENDENCE DAY Planning Group** 5 pm, Joyce Beers Community Center, **Summer Concerts in the Park** 6-8 pm Old Trolley Barn Park www.uptownplanninggroup.org 10 aa 12 Summer Concerts in the Park Hillcrest Farmers Marke Friends of the UH Library 6 pm, ZOOM friendsofuhlibrary.org 6-8 pm Old Trolley Barn Park 14 16 17 a Friends of the North Park Planning Co UH Library Book Sale 9 am-3 pm, UH Library Hillcrest Farmers Mark 6-8 pm Old Trolley Barn Park 20 21 22 23 2400 26 Hillcrest Farmers M 6-8 pm Old Trolley Barn Park 28 30 310 29 More Info: sandiego.gov/environmental-services/collection

We also remain committed to improving pedestrian safety, a topic many residents care about deeply. The committee voted to support alongside the Uptown Planning Group, writing a joint letter to the city advocating for long-overdue fixes at the dangerous intersection of Park Boulevard, El Cajon Boulevard, and Normal Street. The two planning groups, alongside Councilmember Whitburn, BikeSD, and Families for Safe Streets San Diego, held a press conference that was covered by KPBS calling attention to the issues there. In May, we discussed the longawaited crosswalk at Louisiana Street and Madison Avenue, which has

stalled due to lack of funding for a

flashing beacon. Given the continued safety issues, we are now pushing for a low-cost, interim solution of an all-way stop with painted crosswalks to calm traffic and improve safety while longer-term improvements are pursued. This could be installed within the next 3 to 4 months while we continue to support a full traffic safety evaluation.

The committee also approved a letter supporting the honorary renaming of a portion of Grim Avenue to "Lucky Lane," in recognition of the late Lucky Wong, owner of Golden Phoenix. For nearly 50 years, Lucky served breakfast—and kindness—to generations of North Park residents. The petition to support this effort generated over 4,200 signatures,

reflecting the deep legacy he left in the community. We also reviewed the city's newly adopted Mobility Master Plan, which outlines a long-term strategy for safer, more sustainable transportation options across San Diego. Finally, we approved a project for a wheelchair-accessible entrance for Freedom Station, a non-profit on Hamilton Street that houses and supports wounded veterans.

NPPC meetings are open to the public and held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 2901 North Park Way. We'll continue writing updates in this paper and welcome your input.

You can reach us anytime at info@ northparkplanning.org.



Artist Soiree @ Lotus Accounting & Tax Services-4075 Park **Blvd Suite** 101B LotusTaxSD.



com. Local artist Jeffrey Taylor (www. <u>iltaylor.art</u>) will showcase his works on Saturday July 12 from 3-6pm. Appetizers from BFD will be served.

San Diego Public Library UH Branch - 4193 Park Blvd

Friday, July 4 Independence Day – all City Libraries CLOSED

Monday, July 7 Maker Monday Adult Crafts 5:00pm

Thursday, July 10 SD Employment Solutions 1:00pm

Tuesday, July 15 Pride Storytime with Miss Friidae 5:00pm

Thursday, July 17 Kamishibai Storytime 10:00am

Thursday, July 24 Lifeguard Storytime 10:00am

Wednesday, July 9 and 23 Crisis House Outreach Services 10:00am

Wednesday, July 9, 16, 23, 30 Children's Pajama Signing Storytime with Miss Jennifer 4:30pm

Thursday, July 10, 31 Let's Play, Thursdays! 10:00am

If your business or organization has an event coming up in September and you'd like to promote it here, please send it by August 7th to happenings@uhsd.org and we'll do our best to include it!

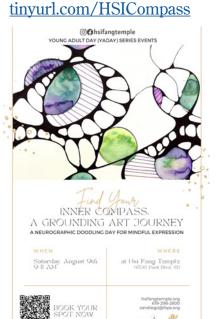
BLIA / Hsi Fang Temple – 4536 Park Avenue <u>@hsifangtemple</u>

MAGIC WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG ADULTS July 12, 9-11am

Scan QR code or sign up at tinyurl.com/HSIMagicWithin



A Neurographic Doodling Day for Mindful Expression Aug 9, 9-11am Scan QR code or Sign up at



Park & Rec - 4612 Park Blvd @parkandrecsd

Tuesday Night Trivia 7-9pm.

July- special happy hour prices before and after the Summer Concerts on Fridays.

August 7 – UHCA Mixer 5:30



FRIDAY 1 2 More Info: sandiego.gov/environmental-services/collection 8 9 Uptown Communi Planning Group 6 pm, Joyce Beers Con **Hillcrest Farmers Market** Friends of the UH Library 11 13 143 15 16 Friends of the UH Library 18 20 21 00 22 23 Friends of the UH Library Book Sale 9am-3pm, UH Library 25 27 28 26 28 🚓 28 9 am-2pm

WHO'S WHO continued from front page

that ultimately became Old Trolley Barn Park." said current UHCA President Marc Johnson. "In addition to the multitude of events and projects we do. UHCA acts as a strong voice of the UH community, coordinating responses to our elected officials on things that affect everyday life: land use, city services like lighting and roads, and more.

With an active 8-member board, over 350 dues-paying members (including over 45 businesses) and more than 130 active volunteers, UHCA is all about creating connections and making sure residents feel informed, involved, and inspired.



The other key organization in UH, the UHCDC, was established

in 1985 and is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that focuses more on the physical and historical aspects of our neighborhood. They're responsible for producing two events, the Summer in the Park concert series and in conjunction with the UH Arts Association, the Taste of UH / UH Art Walk in the fall.

They also provide community management and oversight for the UH Parking District (part of the Mid-City Parking District) and UH Maintenance Assessment District (MAD). The UH Parking District has worked to increase parking in UH by creating angled and perpendicular parking along side streets. The UH MAD is funded by assessments paid by property owners in the defined district and maintains the UH Trolley Sign, the decorative lighting along Park Blvd. and Adams Ave., additional trash receptacles along

Park Blvd., additional street and sidewalk cleaning, and landscaping and tree care above what the city normally provides.

The UHCDC also sponsors the UH Historical Society who was instrumental in securing historic designation for Trolley Barn Park, the Teachers Training Annex 1, the entrance to the former Ostrich Farm, and the remains of Mission Cliffs Garden, including the cobblestone wall, wood gates, and lily pond. The UHHS also installed the four historic markers along Adams Avenue commemorating these important landmarks. The UHHS also secured historic designation for the Canary Palms Island Palms on Park Blvd. north of Adams that were once part of Mission Cliff Gardens and worked with UHCDC to treat them for the palm-killing weevil.

The University Heights cobblestone and ostrich monuments at the entry points of

UH as well as the banners that hang from the decorative lights in the northern part of UH are also thanks to UHCDC.

The University Heights Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Group (also known as the UH Park & Rec Council) was created by UHCDC and provides community input to the City's Parks & Recreation Department for Old Trolley Barn Park, the Birney Joint Use Field, and The Point open space area. This group was also instrumental in bringing the San Diego Unified School District and City together to create the temporary off-leash dog park – and continues to advocate for an even larger one when the Brucker Education Center is redeveloped.

"We founded the UHCDC to foster investment and development in University Heights, and our successes in increasing parking, making our neighborhood brighter and cleaner, and helping identify our neighborhood through the Birney Art Gate, Information Kiosk at the park, and the cobblestone markers," said UHCDC Executive Director Chris Milnes. "Our dedicated all-volunteer board has worked tirelessly to meet our mission to 'secure a safe and aesthetic environment for residents and foster business development in our commercial areas.' This synthesis of community and business has turned UH into a magical place with all the optimism of the first morning."

The two organizations – along with the UH Historical Society – work collaboratively as the Community Coalition of University Heights to amplify the voice of UH on important issues like the Brucker Education Center redevelopment and the recent attempt of an outside firm to establish a competing (and much more expensive) MAD in the southern part of UH.

Whether you've lived here for years or just moved in, you should know that UHCA and UHCDC are working together to improve UH.

There are many social media accounts that focus on our great neighborhood, but there is only one official, verified UH account which you should follow at <u>@universityheights sdcommunity to</u> keep up to date on community activities! Learn more about these organizations by visiting their websites at uhsd.org and uhcdc.org.

University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC) Proudly Presents...



The University Heights Community Development Corp. (UHCDC) is ready to launch its 27th Annual Event in the Old Trolley Barn Park at Adams Avenue and Florida Street. The event will open on Friday evening July 4th to set the stage for the sounds of great music that will soon have us getting into the swing of the event, either sitting relaxing to the music, performing dance steps in front of the stage or enjoying socializing with family and friends. Let's celebrate in this great neighborhood park for another four Fridays of fun, ice cream, and a choice selection of bands and vendors.

The concert series is just one of the many ways the UHCDC has helped to make UH such a great place to live. For example: Design and installation of an Orchid Award-winning UH Street Sign and gateway ID signs; kiosk at Trolley Barn Park; art gate at Birney Playing Field; banners along Park Boulevard and Adams Avenue; University Heights Historical Society historic designations, historic markers, and three historic districts; Historical Resources Board awards for the San Diego Unified School District Historic Survey; UH Maintenance Assessment District, which includes the UH Street Sign, the commercial district and succulent garden; UH Recreation Council 27 years of oversight of Trolley Barn Park, Birney Playing Field and UH Point Open Space; bike racks in the park; 200+ parking spaces through its UH Community Parking District.

The concert series are the result of the hard work of the all-volunteer UHCDC board in partnership with the UH Recreation Council, and the City's Park & Recreation Department. Critical to the success of the concerts are our title sponsors and vendors who participate with a booth during the concerts.

With our concerts growing in popularity each year it is important to remember some of summertime's friendly Friday evening facts (your visiting friends will need to know all this before they come over, too). First, parking is at a premium on a regular Friday night in the Heights and tougher still during concert season. Walk, take the bus or ride a bike and remember to be courteous to the neighbors. Don't block driveways, red curbs, bus lanes or other restricted areas, and deposit your trash in park containers before you go home.

Second, make your picnic planning easy by picking up a pizza or carry-out from one of our great UH restaurants - or plan to eat before or after by taking a short walk from the park. And remember at every concert there will be ice cream treats from Famigos.

The park will have three porta-potties (handicap & standard) for your comfort. Also, there is never, ever, any glass allowed in the park. Citywide park restrictions also apply to alcoholic beverages and smoking. Please keep your dogs on a short leash so they don't snack on other people or their food. We will have plenty of trash containers so that you can help us in keeping the park tidy.

And Remember to donate to next year's Summer in the Park concerts when Josie in her orange vest comes around or when you stop by the UHCDC table!

About our 27th Season Performers

CHICKENBONE SLIM

Chickenbone Slim is an original Blues/Americana touring artist based in San Diego. Signed in 2021 to Vizztone Records, Chickenbone is garnering national and international attention with his unique roots sound. Mixing blues with west coast swing, rockabilly and roots rock and inspired by local roots artists The Paladins, Candye Cane and dedicated to blues legend Tomcat Courtney, Chickenbone's 4th all-original album, "Serve It To Me Hot" showcases Chickenbone's songwriting and the wide range of the band's talent, and is a solid artistic updating of roots music for the 21st century.

The band has delighted UH residents at a number of recent events, so we're thrilled to welcome them back. www.chickenboneslim.com



CCnE (doesn't stand for anything really) brings its dance-energy music to Old Trolley Barn Park on Friday, July 11, as part of the 27th annual University Heights Summer in the Park Concert Series.

Playing songs from Aretha to The Temptations, the Kinks to Shania Twain,

CCnE puts its own spin on every tune—creating a magnetic groove that gets people on their feet. Driven by Christy Phares' powerhouse soulful vocals and Ed Stocke's electrifying fusion rock guitar, this dynamic four-piece band builds a connection with every crowd. Performing frequently at clubs and events across San Diego County, CCnE guarantees a high-energy, feel-good vibe every time they hit the stage.

"We never play anything exactly like the record—we pour our own heart into every song," Christy said. "We'll make it an evening that's both mellow and rocking, and be sure everyone—families, friends, everybody—has a great time."

Talk to Len Rainey about the three and a half decades he's been playing music for a living in San Diego with his band the Midnight Players; he sounds

somewhat surprised that so many years have gone by so very quickly. But he also expresses gratitude for the here and now, for the fans who continue to support his accessible blend of R&B and blues.

"I think I've played everywhere in the U.S. except for five states. Been to Japan, Costa Rica, Canada, Mexico; it's amazing that a bass guitar can take you around the world. The band's been together 37 years now, and we've never had a month off. Even during COVID, we did some livestreams to keep the chops up! Thirty-seven years, going on 38, and I'm still standing!"

Sue will be closing the summer concert series in 'swingin' style on

Friday evening July 25th. Sue is the Queen of Boogie Woogie, and she reigns rightfully at our Summer in the Park event while seated in front of her keyboard. Anyone who has been to one of her shows knows that the fun starts when Sue and her irrepressible sidekick musicians turn up the power- so be ready to jump up to practice your swing and jitterbug moves www.suepalmer.com

Special Thanks to our Sponsors

Mary Anne Stevens & Anastasia Brewer Real Estate (returning sponsor). Mary Anne is a long-time University Heights resident, booster, and past officer and board member of UHCA. With her business partner Anastasia Brewer, the well known duo are established Realtors with Coldwell Banker. Contact Mary Anne and Anastasia at 619-871-0635, maryanneshomes@gmail.com or <u>www.maryanneshomes.com</u>.

Park & Rec, 4612 Park Boulevard (returning sponsor). Co-owners John Pani and Andy Zlotnik are celebrating Park & Rec's 10th anniversary of being University Height's place for live music and high-energy events. www.parkandrecsd.com

Roxanne Govari & Pemberley Realty Team (returning sponsor). Roxanne has invested heavily in University Heights and currently serves on the board of UHCA and previously on the board for Diversionary Theater. She and her team live their mission "Committed to Excellence and creating wealth while serving the community with integrity and passion." Contact Roxanne at 619-778-0577, roxanne@ pemberleyrealty.com, or www.pemberleyrealty.com.

Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air (returning sponsor). Since 1978 Mary Jean Anderson and her family have been serving San Diego with plumbing, heating & air conditioning maintenance and new installation services. The company slogan is 'Nobody WOWs clients like we do!' and the entire team at Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air is dedicated to this! Contact them at 619-449-7646 or www.andersonpha.com

Melissa Tucci (returning sponsor). Melissa is a Real Estate Broker with Coldwell Banker and the Official Real Estate Agent of the San Diego Padres and is ranked Top 1% Nationwide and #1 in California. www.melissatucci.com

Cheers at 1839 Adams has been UH's neighborhood bar open to all for 40 years. With a variety of events each month, pool tables and drink specials, everyone can find something to enjoy! www.cheerssandiego.com

Sukho Thai Extraordinaire 2789 Adams features picturesque delectable dishes in a rustic inspired atmosphere. www.sukhothaikitchen.com - Plumeria 4661 Park features the freshest, most delicious and authentic Thai vegetarian cuisine. myplumeria.com

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AT&T, a leading telecommunications company, is committed to connecting people and businesses worldwide through innovative technology and superior customer service. Our mission is to deliver seamless connectivity and personalized solutions, empowering individuals and organizations to thrive in a digital world. With a vision to transform the way we communicate and interact, AT&T is dedicated to fostering a culture of integrity, excellence, and diversity within our organization and beyond. www.att.com

The University Heights Community Association (UHCA) recently celebrated its 40th anniversary and was founded by neighbors to ultimately create Old Trolley Barn Park. UHCA organizes events that bring people together, publishes a paper to keep them informed, and hosts monthly meetings that serve as a forum for learning and discussion. UHCA works to improve the UH community by sponsoring neighborhood cleanups, crime watches, and acts as the "voice of UH" to our elected officials. www.uhsd.org and on social media @universityheights_sdcommunity.

Special thanks to UHCDC board members Ross Lopez & Mark Ballam and Gerald Thiebolt for their sponsorships, financial and logistical support. We also want to thank Josie Salerno, Kathy McMillen for their help, as well as Marc Johnson and Roxanne Govari with UHCA for their help securing sponsors and for design & graphics. And last but certainly not least, Ernie Bonn for her decades of drive and leadership at UHCDC- and for being the heart and soul of the Summer Concerts.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS LIBRARY

SUMMER at the UH Branch Library

BY RACHEL ESGUERRA



It's summertime at your library, and there is so much to do! Not only are we an official Cool Zone, we're still in the thick of our annual Summer Reading Program, and it is not just for kids. Adults who finish the program will receive a free book at participating Friends of the Library book sales

and a pass for two tickets for the San Diego Natural History Museum.

While you're getting your goodies for the SRP, be on the lookout for our

library mascot, Odi the Coyote! This July, Odi is hiding somewhere inside all 37 locations of the San Diego Public Library. How many can you find? The Library Shop's most popular program is back with all-new button designs and prizes, including custom Odi lanyards.



Wait, there's more: in July we're also releasing two commemorative library card designs for Pride and Comic-Con 2025. Visit your local branch to get



one or, if you're a badge holder for Comic-Con, be sure to visit our booth to meet staff and get swag. We'll also be representing at the Pride Parade and Pride Festival Lit-Café.

On August 2nd, we're hosting the Breaking Down Barriers organization for a presentation on Queer Self-Care and Activism Fatigue. We're also pleased to welcome back the UH Garden Club on August 16 to teach

the community about seed starting. Additionally, we're continuing our partnerships with community outreach groups Crisis House and SD Employment Solutions every month. To learn more, please visit <u>sandiego</u>. librarymarket.com. See you at the library!

Rachel Esguerra, Branch Manager University Heights Branch Library San Diego Public Library 619-692-4912





Monday – Tuesday 11:30 am – 8 pm Wednesday – Saturday 9:30 am – 6 pm Closed Sunday Select branches now open on Sundays 619-692-4912 / UHStaff@sandiego.gov.



FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

Secretary Needed for FOUHL

BY BREN BREITHAUPT

The University Heights Friends of the Library chapter is seeking someone to fill our secretary position. Hannah Ells, our current secretary, will be advancing to fill the vice president position that was vacated in June by Pam Isaacs due to health reasons. Pam has done an outstanding job as vice president, and she will be missed on the board. The secretarial position is responsible for keeping the minutes for our monthly meetings and for taking notes on any votes done by email. If you're interested in filling this volunteer position, please contact me at bnice2meplease@gmail. com to schedule a get-acquainted interview.

In other news, the Friends helped make the Bike Anywhere Day pitstop at the library in May a great success. We also held our first trivia night at the library in May and gave out \$60 in prizes.



If you would like to see more adult activities like this in addition to the children's activities that the Friends already support, please join us. You can become a member (\$5 for seniors and students, \$10 for adults, or \$20 for families) by going to <u>friendsofuhlibrary</u>. org and clicking on the black box link for "membership." We appreciate the support of all our members and donors.

Bren Breithaupt President

Friends of the UH Library

UH WOMEN'S WALK CLUB

Creating Community - UHWWC Celebrates Two Years

BY LOLA HANDZEL

What started as a small neighborhood walking group has grown into something huge-different neighborhoods coming together, supporting local businesses, and connecting over a wide range of interests.

Two years ago University Heights resident Ashlee Baker acted on the desire to create a group to connect like-minded women. That's where the idea of the University Heights Women's Walk Club (UHWWC) began. Ashlee already loved walking, especially in our beautiful neighborhood. So when she shared her idea of starting a local women's walking group, she got all the encouragement she needed from just one woman who pledged she'd join. The next weekend

Ashlee officially launched UHWWC, setting up a dedicated Instagram account and a simple walk calendar. A small WhatsApp group followed.



From left to right: Guapo, Lola, Courtney (in red), Zoe, Ashlee, Mallory, Peggy, Jill, & Cierra. Not pictured: Michelle & Megan

That WhatsApp group now has over 300 members and provides a lively hub where women plan spontaneous meetups, ask for advice, and promote neighborhood happenings. UHWWC's Instagram account has over 2,000 followers. Events, member profiles, business spotlights, and other community information is regularly posted under the handle @UniversityHeightsWomensWalk. Members join UHWWC from all across San Diego, although the majority live in University Heights or nearby Normal Heights, North Park, and City Heights.

Due to its immediate popularity, Ashlee recognized that if UHWWC was going to keep growing, she needed help. A lot of help. She recalls, "I was so touched by how many group members stepped up. Women volunteered to lead more walks, make graphics, reach out to businesses, organize events, and even help moderate the group chat. It became less about me and more about all of us working together, which honestly made it even better."

The volunteer leadership team collaborates with club members to continually improve UHWWC. Leadership recently shared, "Every day we hold a safe space for each other. That takes a lot of energy, love, and support from everyone, and we're so proud to celebrate that!" Indeed, UHWWC is a success thanks to the effort of countless people. Its impact brings a stronger community and meaningful friendships. One member reflected, "Every walk I go on is so wonderful and gives me the beautiful sense of community I was craving." That's what it's really about.

Please join UHWWC on Saturday, July 26th, at 11 a.m. in Trolley Barn Park for its two-year anniversary picnic. Activities include donation-based yoga and a potluck. Hope to see you there!

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Can We Be More Careful Out There?

BY BENNY CARTWRIGHT

I have lived on Hayes Ave. for nearly 15 years, and the only way to access our beautiful part of the neighborhood (which ultimately



dead ends at the hillside over the freeways) is via Lincoln Avenue or Maryland Street. The main route in and out of the area is Lincoln Avenue, which connects to Washington Street, Hillcrest and beyond.

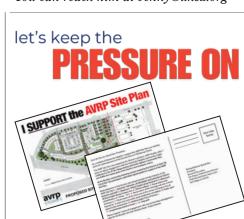
Almost every single day, when I'm driving home, I enter the neighborhood from Washington Street onto Lincoln Avenue. One short block after getting onto Lincoln is its intersection with Maryland Street. As many already know, people often speed way too fast down Maryland, to get to Lincoln, most ultimately heading to the 163 on-ramp, just around the corner. The speed issue is hazard number one.

Beyond that, cars coming down Maryland often approach the Lincoln intersection at too high a speed and stop way beyond the stop line on Maryland at Lincoln, pulling far onto Lincoln before making their turn. Traffic coming west on Lincoln, approaching this intersection, does not have a stop, but this causes many situations where oncoming traffic from Lincoln has near misses with cars that should be stopped on Maryland waiting their turn.

It also seems to me that for some reason, people who are about to make a left turn from Maryland onto Lincoln, seem to only look to the right before making their left turn, when they really should be looking left (and both ways!) but for some reason never notice the oncoming traffic. It's an accident waiting to happen. Not to mention the many pedestrians and bicyclists who cross here en route to the Vermont Street Bridge, and the Sunday Hillcrest Farmers Market crowd.

I am asking—begging—neighbors who come down Maryland Street to get to the freeway or Washington Street to please slow down! When you get to the stop sign at Lincoln, please come to a complete stop and look both ways before making your turn onto Lincoln.

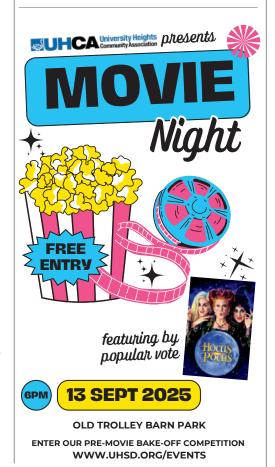
Benny Cartwright is a long-time UH resident and UH supporter, both as a City of San Diego staffer and as a volunteer with several groups, including UHCA. Benny is also a new contributing writer for UH News starting this month, offering his views and observations. You can reach him at benny@uhsd.org



Tell our elected SDUSD board members you want to see a responsible development at the Brucker Education Center site. Postcards available at **Pemberley** Realty (4645 Park Blvd.) 9am-5pm weekdays. Your voice matters!

More information at www.uhsd.org/edcenter

Community Coalition of University Heights



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FROM THE UH NEWS ARCHIVES

AS PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED IN UH NEWS

June 2005 by UHCA President **Candace Bremond:**

Traffic Light at Lincoln Street

You may have noticed the blurb in last month's newsletter that UHCA is trying to form an ad hoc committee



to address this situation over the coming summer months. IMPORTANT: It came up at the meeting that the police are issuing tickets at this intersection. This happens when a person turns right on a red light, and proceeds onto Washington Street and DOES NOT stay in the 163 lane. It is illegal to cross three lanes when making a right on red. Please be careful and stop honking at the car who is not turning. Chances are they have already received a ticket

and don't wish for another!

UH LIBRARY TASK FORCE

The Task Force is still basking in the glow of being presented with one of Save Our Heritage Organisation People in Preservations Awards on May 21st. The group is working to gain support from the San Diego School District, the city of San Diego, and others to secure the dream of turning the Teachers' Training Annex into a new library space for the community.

We hope you enjoy the trip down memory lane, and for folks newer to UH, a little bit of our history. We will continue to unearth and republish timely tidbits from our archives.

THE OSTRICH STORE 'Whether your Dad's a Mr. Fix-It or a Mr. Fumblefingers, he'll look great in a University Heights T-shirt!" Available at monthly meetings.

Real ads from the June 2005 issue



[Editor's Note: The traffic situation at Lincoln/Washington has been a recurring news item reported in UH News for over 20 years. After the article above was published, numerous updates from meetings followed in 2005 into early 2006, along with multiple neighbors writing in, demands to remove the light altogether, and comblaints to Councilmember Toni Atkin's office ultimately leading to a traffic engineering study and timing adjustments to the stop lights.

This issue was not resolved, and came up again in an update from UHCA President Bernie Horan in April 2014,

"Numerous residents have come forward to comment about traffic, parking, and other related issues as they pertain to various areas in UH. The intersection at Lincoln Ave. and Washington St. is of particular concern. We'll need the cooperation of the city as well as the state to help rectify that problem since it includes the on ramp to 163.

And again in September 2015 in an article by Bridget MacConnel:

"In late June, several UH residents met with a City of San Diego traffic engineer to study the situation at the Lincoln/Washington light.

It was an eye opening experience for the engineer. The domino effect of change presents them with some real issues, such as a potential increase in t-boning accidents when drivers run red lights to make it onto the Highway 163 ... it turns out that Lincoln and Washington is listed as one having the highest accident rates in the city. After watching the madness for about a half hour, it was decided to add eight seconds to the light changes that allow cars coming from the corner of Lincoln Ave and Washington St) to continue onto 163.

The engineer says he has been studying the light for quite a while and knows the problems and frustrations and is very willing to do what is feasible."

As you can see, some of the problems we face today have been problems for decades. With the ever-increasing density of residents - and traffic - attempting to enter 163 from Washington, the problem will only continue to increase without a comprehensive solution from cooperation between the City, SANDAG, and Caltrans.

UHCA will continue to forcefully advocate for real improvements to safety for all of us – pedestrians, cars, pets, and bikes.]

HOUSE FIRE continued from page 4

how to solve it, only the necessity to clean it up. The University Heights community is no stranger to using our collective voice to exert influence over private property, but there's no consistent method to do so.

Is it possible to imagine a system for residents of a neighborhood to absorb unused properties? Perhaps public trusts could buy the lots. They could call it "Compelled Stewardship" or "Revocation with Compensation due to Negligent Land Use." Perhaps it is time for local citizens to demand an upgrade to ownership. The old concept of letting negligent property owners leave hazards around town while waiting to profit is not working.

I'm growing weary of seeing my neighbors exposed to these dangers. We deserve to have a beautiful neighborhood, and perhaps there is a path for community to invoke stewardship. Could we become true shareholders of our community? Or will we merely sink in the rising sea of abandoned lots waiting for their sale to mega-capital?

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Foodie Paradise

BY ANGELA JACKSON-LLAMAS

University Heights is a foodie's paradise, with an array of excellent restaurants to choose from. Whether you're in the mood for a casual meal or a fine dining experience, our great neighborhood has something for everyone. There's also no shortage of new and exciting spots to try. If

you haven't yet, pop into **Sonny's** Pizza for a Negroni and a "Famous Original" pizza. Sonny's has a cool 1980s Brooklyn, NY, vibe that fits perfectly into our hip little hood. If you're looking for something new for brunch or lunch, check out **Dreamboat**, brought to you by the team that dreamt up Kindred and Mothership in South Park. I grabbed a couple of breakfast sandwiches over the weekend, and they were divine.

And they just opened Vulture, a vegetarian "steakhouse" upstairs. Another grand opening that's on the horizon later this summer is the new location of Bahn Thai in the spot that Johnston's and Small Bar once occupied. After that opens, we can't wait to see what they do with their current location — a little birdie told me that the Bahn Thai folks are working on something cold and sweet for that spot!

As if these weren't cool enough, did you know that we have our very own

EXPIRES 7/30/25 UHBT525

Michelin Star restaurant, Soichi? You'll need a reservation, but it's well worth the wait. While you're waiting, be sure to pop into **Hatsuzakura** next door or **Grains** a few doors down.

These are just a few of the amazing restaurants we have to offer. Plumeria Thai has the best vegetarian Thai food I've ever had, hands down. Red House Pizza also offers vegan and vegetarian pizzas that are phenomenal. **Madison** is one of my favorite spots to belly up to the bar for appetizers at happy hour. You can never go wrong with breakfast at Parkhouse Eatery. Don't miss out on their daily homemade muffins! And don't forget **El Zarape** for a killer shrimp burrito, **Kairoa**, which needs no introduction, Muzita, serving up delicious African

unbeatable sandwiches. Of course, there are also many great restaurants on and around El Cajon Boulevard such as **Pomegranate**, serving amazing Russian food, Gnarly Girl Pizza, my husband's favorite, Luigi's Pizza, Flavors of East Africa, and Loving Hut Vegan. Mama's Bakery is opening soon in a new building, SD **TapRoom** serves up a mean burger and brew, and last but not least, the Lafayette Hotel has an array of yummy restaurant offerings.

food, and Big Front Door with

With so many fantastic dining options to explore, UH is the perfect destination for foodies looking to indulge in a culinary adventure.

You can find a map of our fabulous restaurants online at www.uhsd.org/ restaurants!



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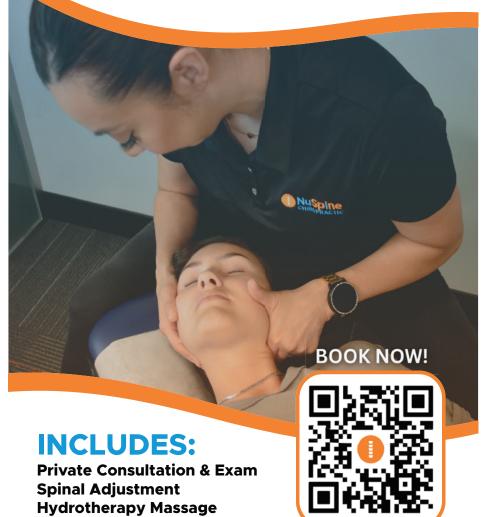
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D O G ' S LIFE

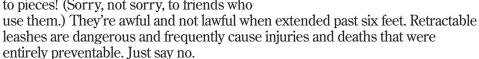
Leash the Beasts

BY LOLA HANDZEL

Dog leash etiquette—let's get into it. It's a crucial public safety issue surrounding dog guardianship.

You must have your dog on a leash. San Diego County Code §62.669 mandates that dogs in public be on a leash not exceeding six feet except within designated off-leash areas. Our little Normal Street dog park is a permitted offleash area. Trolley Barn Park is not. Neither is Birney Field, which is why it's now closed.

Get a good leash. It should be sturdy, have a solid clasp, and have a padded handle allowing a good grip. Retractable leashes are okay with one key modification: take a hammer, don some safety glasses, and smash that "leash" to pieces! (Sorry, not sorry, to friends who



Never let your dog go around a corner in front of you. I see it too often, a dog comes around a corner, potentially causing issues with another dog, child, or adult, and their person is yards behind and out of sight. For everyone's safety, dog guardians must stay aware and alert.

Know how to properly use a leash. Maintain a tight hold of your leash or, even better, use a secure hands-free device. Keep your dog close to you, especially around others. If you're holding the end of the leash and something happens, you



can be left with too much slack and no leverage to give input or redirect. That's why, especially for bigger dogs, I like leashes with a second handle close to the dog's neck. This allows you to quickly take better control with a taut leash.

Dogs don't automatically understand how to walk on a leash. They must be properly trained. Good handling technique makes for good leash skills. Working with a qualified trainer to help you master the fundamentals and troubleshoot issues can save you and your dog a lifetime of frustration.

Never let your dog stare at another dog. It's extremely rude in canine language and will almost certainly cause a commotion of reactive barking or worse. Also of critical importance, never approach or let your dog approach another dog without the expressed permission

of their human. It doesn't matter if your dog is friendly—the other dog might not be. I'll discuss this more in a future column on reactive dogs.

Beware—Foxtail Invasion!

It's that time of year, and we need everyone's help.

Foxtails are grass-like weeds that thrive across San Diego. Our neighborhood is covered in them, and they're dangerous, especially for animals. These plants sprout in the spring, looking innocent enough. But as they mature and dry, they develop sharp, barbed seeds resembling a foxtail. Their barbs can burrow into



an animal's skin easily and quickly, causing severe pain, infection, critical health

issues, and even death. Foxtails are most dangerous if ingested or if they get into an animal's nose, ears, eyes, or between their toes.



animals for foxtails and immediately remove them. Seek veterinarian attention if your animal is showing signs of discomfort, illness, head shaking, or breathing issues. Read more here: https://www.longmonthumane.org/foxtails/.



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UH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New Trolley Banners

BY KRISTIN HARMS

With the installation of the new trolley banners on Park Boulevard and Adams Avenue by the University Heights Community Development Corporation, this is a good time to reflect on the importance of the trolley lines in the early development of University Heights.

As John D. Spreckels, founder of the San Diego Electric Railway in 1891 once said, "Before you can hope to get people to live anywhere ... you must first of all show them that they can get there quickly, comfortably, and above all, cheaply. Transportation determines the flow of population."



Transportation was key to the early development of

University Heights. After the final link between San Diego and the transcontinental railroad was completed in 1885, several speculative real estate developments were begun in San Diego including University Heights, On August 6, 1888, Subdivision map #558 was filed with the San Diego County Recorder, delineating the new University Heights subdivision.

As streets were graded, water and sewer lines established, and lots offered for sale in University Heights, the Electric Rapid Transit (ERT) extended its electrified cable car in 1888 from downtown San Diego up Fourth Street to University Avenue (then Normal Street) and then up Park Boulevard to University Heights.

However, the ERT experienced difficulties right from the start including frequent shutdowns, various alterations and repairs, an oil shortage, and legal battles. Consequently, by 1889 the line closed.

That year, the San Diego Cable Railway Company organized using leftover assets from the ERT and developed a five-acre park in 1890 called The Bluffs at the end of the rail line at Park Boulevard and Adams Avenue to increase ridership. However,

due to a series of financial setbacks, the Cable Railway Company was also forced to shut down in 1891 after just 13 months of operation.

The Cable Railway Company was bought by George Kerper in 1895, who reorganized it into the Citizens Traction Company. Kerper electrified the rail line and renamed The Bluffs park as Mission Cliff Park. Unfortunately, the Citizens Traction Company also went into receivership in 1898 during the height of a nationwide depression.

In the late 1880s, John D. Spreckels, son of wealthy "Sugar King" Claus Spreckels, began investing in San Diego's infrastructure. In 1891, he formed the San Diego Electric Railway (SDERY) and began buying and consolidating several of San Diego's failed or failing transportation lines.

By 1910, the SDERY was the only remaining trolley operator in San Diego, covering more than 165 miles of track from La Jolla to Chula Vista. The new railway routes extended into barren scrubland and paved the way for new neighborhoods including University Heights, North Park, Hillcrest, and Mission Hills.

After purchasing the Citizens Traction Company in 1898, the SDERY renamed Mission Cliff Park as Mission Cliff Gardens. The park encompassed some 40 acres at its height in 1914.

In 1910, the City of San Diego announced that the Panama-California Exposition would be held in Balboa Park in 1915. This caused a large-scale increase in home, hotel, and apartment construction throughout the city—including University Heights—and the streetcar line along Park Boulevard was extended to Balboa Park.

In 1913, the San Diego Electric Railway built a massive trolley car barn on Adams Avenue at Florida Street. The cavernous reinforced-concrete building was used to store and service several hundred trolleys that entered and exited the car barn through a series of switches off Florida Street.

By the 1930s, streetcars were losing business to city buses and private automobiles. In 1948, Jesse L. Haugh purchased the San Diego Electric Railway Company from the Spreckels interests and changed the name to San Diego Transit System. San Diego became the first major California city to convert to an all-bus transit system.

And so on April 24, 1949, at 5:35 a.m., the most senior operator at San Diego Transit, N.A. Holmquist, drove car #446 into the Adams Avenue trolley car barn, ending rail transit in San Diego.



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Fur Babies, Blessings & Neighborhood Love

A Heartfelt Day in University Heights San Diego, CA – June 7th, 2025

We kicked things off with a fun stroll through the neighborhood, visiting local favorites like Good Omen Coffee, a cool tattoo shop, and of course—our own Pemberley Realty.

The highlight of the day was the Blessing of the Fur Babies at the beautiful Hsi Fang Buddhist Temple. I had the honor of serving as MC and sponsoring refreshments for this heartwarming event celebrating love, kindness, and our beloved pets.

We're proud to be part of a community that values connection, compassion, and local love.

Thank you to everyone who joined us!









