



# MEETING SEPT 3

Crime watch 6:45 pm  
Program: Greywater, See below  
Light Refreshments

Alice Birney Elementary School  
Auditorium  
4345 Campus Ave.

University Heights Community Association September 2015

# NEWS

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## Norbert's Photo Contest

By Andy Cameron



...And so, with as much humility as he can muster, Norbert wishes to announce his "Norbert the Dragon Photograph Contest."

People posing with Norbert or Norbert on his own, Halloween or otherwise, makes no difference as long as Norbert the Dragon is there. Winners will be picked by Norbert and will be announced in the November issue of University Heights Community Association (UHCA) News, online at Norbert's blog or Facebook pages and Nextdoor.com. Norbert will personally (or dragonally) hand out the prizes on Halloween evening.

If you are interested in participating, send your favorite photos of Norbert as an attachment to [tricktreat@cox.net](mailto:tricktreat@cox.net), or mail to Norbert the Dragon, 4378 Maryland Street, San Diego, CA 92103. All entries must be received by October 10, 2015. All entries must include name, address, phone number, and a brief description of the photo, including the date the photo was taken.

For nearly 15 years, Norbert the Dragon has been visiting Maryland Street on Halloween. Throughout these years, many people have taken photographs of Norbert with Trick-or-Treaters. This tradition has brought people back year after year, introducing friends and relatives to the big white dragon. Occasionally a new photo pops up somewhere on the internet and Norbert gets to wondering just how many more great pictures of him are out there. (Dragons can be notoriously vain at times.)

## Sept 3 uhca meeting:

### GREYWATER AND WATER CONSERVATION

Candace Vanderhoff from "Rain Thanks & Greywater" will present design, installation and conservation systems and strategies at our September meeting. This will include greywater reuse and rain catchment for edible and ornamental landscapes. Candace will also cover energy saving devices and low-tech solutions. Greywater (also spelled "graywater") or "sullage" is defined as "all wastewater streams generated from households or office buildings except for wastewater from toilets." That means water from sinks, showers, baths, washing machines and dishwashers are all considered greywater and could be reused.

Our second speaker will be JoEllen (Joey) Jacoby, the city's Landscape Design Architect. She's known to be a great speaker and very knowledgeable.

Handouts and giveaways will be available. Join us for this critically important meeting that will help all of us continue to meet mandatory water reduction levels.

Literature about conservation options will be available plus a beautiful succulent will be raffled off!

### Looking ahead:

The October 1 UHCA meeting will be dedicated to discussing the future growth of UH: analysis of the Uptown and Greater North Park Community Plans since UH is divided between the two planning groups. Find out how density bonuses and other potential planning decisions may affect you and your neighbors.

## LINCOLN LIGHT UPDATE

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. Although this is not a current issue with this intersection, it turns out that Lincoln and Washington is listed as one having the highest accident rates in the city. After discussing and watching the madness for about a half hour, it was decided to add eight seconds to the light changes that allow cars coming from Great Maple (corner of Lincoln Ave and Washington St) to continue onto 163.

We watched that cycle several times and deemed that it an improvement, as it allows an additional 5-8 cars through the intersection during each light and for south-facing cars to turn and actually move!

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.

We will continue to address the problem as best we can, given all the components.

It was a good meeting. Stay tuned.



## Mystic Mocha Has New Owners

By JD Abercrombie

Longtime University Heights coffee house Mystic Mocha has recently sold to a couple, Francis Weidinger and Natalie Buczkowski. Francis and Natalie have years of experience, having worked in such restaurants as Rainwater's and Top of the Cove.

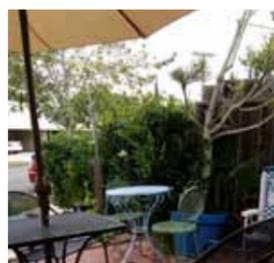
You may have noticed the adorable paint job and other decorative upgrades they have already made to the property on Mission Ave. Their business includes the cottage next door and additional seating has been created on the front patio, a charming place to sit with food and drink. The cottage, they hope, will become an "art center" and their office. All of those attached properties were one house long ago.

Francis intends to start making many food items in the house, including salsa, chorizo, chilaquiles, muffins, scones and so on. They will be made with organic ingredients, as much as possible. The main change will be ingredients used to include "fresh produce

and fruits ... and a new meat source." The coffee comes from Cafe Motto in Barrio Logan and is organic and fair trade. Francis can make 25 different mochas, the original idea behind Mystic Mocha. Being a tea drinker, I can vouch for the good loose leaf tea served and the tea lattes.

Stop by and be sure to order one of their delicious drinks and food items!

Mystic Mocha  
2105 Mission Ave  
San Diego, CA 92116  
(619) 688-0858



president's corner by Bernie Horan

Unless you've been living under a rock, you know that San Diego along with the rest of the west coast is in an extreme drought. But not to worry . . . a "Godzilla" El Nino is forming to wash all the canyon homes in our neighborhood down into Mission Valley where they'll be carried out to sea. I'm secretly hoping this will happen. Living a block from the canyon's edge, maybe I'll finally get that coveted canyon rim spot if the block to the north of our home gets washed away! Sorry Candace, Jo, Diane and all my other neighbors across the street who you'll soon lose their home to Godzilla.

But my property value will skyrocket and that's really what's most important. As UHCA's president, I'll work tirelessly to erect a Historical Marker in your memory.

Seriously, it drives me crazy to walk around our neighborhood and see irrigation systems watering sidewalks. Still, many neighbors have taken steps to replace their water thirsty lawns with drought tolerant xeriscapes. I applaud the condo owners at 1418-1432 Madison Avenue for recently replacing their overgrown bushes and sidewalk wetting irrigation system with

an attractive xeriscape that actually looks much nicer than their old landscaping. I imagine in a condo setting like that, it might not have been easy to get everyone to agree on the change. It looks great.

My partner, Dan, and I replaced our old lawn several years ago with succulents and drought tolerant plants like rosemary. I would like to claim we did this because we were ahead-of-our-time visionaries. But the truth is we did it out of laziness and shame. Our rarely watered lawn looked horrible and we weren't very good about

mowing it even weeks after it needed it. So over a few weekends about four years ago, we dug up the grass, put down a weed barrier cloth over the whole front yard, covered this with five truckloads of mulch and two truckloads of stones and planted various succulents, blue fescue and rosemary. We also put in a little walkway that essentially never gets used, but looks nice. We watered a few times right after planting everything, and we really haven't watered anything in our front yard for about

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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 8th of the month. Email submissions to uhcanews@yahoo.com. We retain the right to edit submissions for style and content.

uhca officers

President: Bernie Horan president@uhsd.org or (619) 301-0835  
 Vice President: Christopher Hutchinson  
 Secretary: Monica Lancot and Mary Anne Stevens  
 Treasurer: Peter Rose  
 UHCA Website: www.uhsd.org

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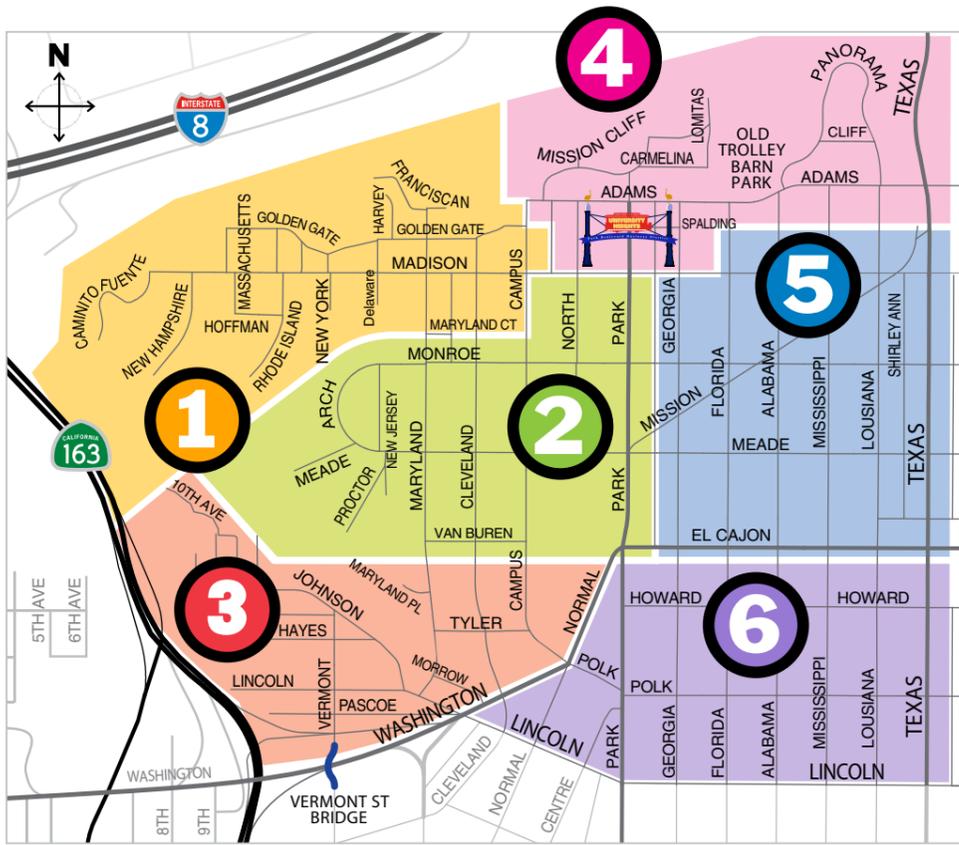
New/Renewing Members:

New: Scott & Melanie Levy, John Copeland  
 Renewal: Marjorie and Kathleen Ohl, Cate & Barry Bell, Michael Ann Meyer & Cait Casey, Mary & Lewis Bisconti, Daniel Huntley & Jennifer Malloch, Mary Jo Barr & Jane Gilbert, Cassie Morton & Refugio Rochin

Donation:

Terry Weiner

University Heights Map, Boundaries and Zone Watch



The bold street names on this map define the boundaries of the community of University Heights. Every block and apartment/condo should have an established Neighborhood Watch.

A zone is a neighborhood within University Heights as defined by the 6 zones on this map.

The blocks within each zone are linked together via a Zone Watch Coordinator, who manages an email list of participants wishing to receive crime watch information. For questions or for more info contact either your zone's coordinator or Christopher Hutchinson,

ZONE	COORDINATOR	E-MAIL CONTACT
1	Nan McGraw	nmcsan@aol.com
2	Pam Isaacs	pamisaacs1@gmail.com
3	Mary Lange	mlangeuhcazone3coordinator@gmail.com
4	Christopher Hutchinson	christopherhutchinson@hotmail.com
5	Tamara Zyhylij	tamara@tamarazhomes.com
6	Mark Koopman	mkzw6@yahoo.com

Membership Form

CLIP & RETURN TO: UHCA P.O. BOX 33032, SAN DIEGO, CA 92163

Join UHCA today and be part of the team! The success of the University Heights Community Association is largely dependent upon the volunteer efforts of area residents.

Yearly Membership

- \*25 Household
- \*45 Membership & mailed UHCA News
- \*75 Business Membership
- \*150 Golden Ostrich

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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University Heights Community Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. A portion of your membership is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more info, email membership@uhsd.org

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 newsletters to UH residences and businesses.
- Marketing & Merchandising · Promote UHCA via marketing/advertising, visual arts, photography, and product merchandising.
- Membership · Help meet record goals for 2015 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 our paper.
- Program & Events · Plan and oversee the various events and general meetings.



University Heights Community Association

# BEATING EXPECTATIONS

By Philip J. Gill

President, Friends of the University Heights Library

Our annual August book sale, the biggest fundraiser of the year for the University Heights branch of the Friends of the San Diego Public Library (FSDPL), was a huge, huge success, meeting and exceeding expectations.

Although the final numbers are still coming in, we made almost \$2,500 from sales of your used donated books, magazines, CDs, DVDs and sheet music. This is a remarkable achievement, for last year we raised about \$1,800, and that was up from about \$1,000 the year before.

Add to that a record high membership now at 113 and it's not bragging to say that our chapter is on fire!

I'd like to thank all the volunteers who made this year's sale such a success. First and foremost, I want to thank Nan McGraw, our chapter's first vice president, for stepping up and taking charge. Nan helped refer donations, collect books, sort and stock shelves, recruit volunteers to staff the sale, and even learned Square to enable our first-ever credit card sales! It goes without saying that this year's sale would not have been as big a success as it was without Nan. So a big shout out to Nan!

Other volunteers I want to thank include Charlie Brown, Isabel and Scott Schechter, Carol Neidenberg, Maureen Markey and Peter Rose, Susie and Dave Holts, Dottie Stamper, Ann Schwartz, E.T. Perry, Sarah Archer, Paul Farris, and Jonathan Mitchell and many others. I want to thank Vickie Church of the "corporate" Friends for her assistance and sage advice.

I also want to thank all of the UH community members who donated used books to the cause. Without out, none of this would have happened.



# DROUGHT TOLERANT & WATER-WISE

By Maurice Taitano

Now that we are paying attention to our water usage and considering water-wise practices, let me offer a few tips to eliminate misconceptions about drought tolerant plantings, their care and a little background on their natural habitat.

First, water-wise is a better term for this new shift of thinking about to design our landscapes and how to implement a more conscientious use of appropriate plant material in our garden and living spaces.

Sun exposure is an important factor with plant selection. North and east exposure will generally allow for more shade loving plants. Though not considered drought tolerant, these plants are appropriate for these exposures because many are tropical plants accustomed to living under the canopy of taller plants. Many grow well in this environment as watering is based on the porosity of the soil and the distance from the coast.

South and west sun exposure is in fact the warmest and sunniest spot in the garden. If one wanted to plant a vegetable garden, this is the right sun exposure to do so. Arid loving shrubs, perennials and succulents are also ideal in this environment. In nature, these are plants are found in open areas exposed to heat, wind and high temperatures.

If we intend to succeed in new plantings, we must amend the native soil. Newly developing roots need porosity in the soil, only achieved by the addition of humus into the soil. Humus or hummus is dark organic material formed from plant decay. Typically,

one would take 50% of the native soil and add an organic material to aid in soil porosity.

Plant selection is as big as the sea is large. I believe that not only are we trying to conserve water, we are also trying to conserve energy, i.e., climate control. We often overlook trees as saving us from heat and the elimination of air conditioning. Planting a tree on a south/west exposure is the single greatest thing one can do to cool our interior spaces.

Which plants to choose? There are several excellent resources that can help get you started: the County of San Diego's website [www.watersmartsdlandscaping.org](http://www.watersmartsdlandscaping.org) and The Water Conservation Garden (<http://thegarden.org>). If you not a DIY type, hire an experienced plant person who will guide you through the process and help create whatever space you have into a place of beauty and still be water-wise!

*Maurice Taitano has been a garden designer for the past 30 years, and the owner of Urban Seed Retail, a home and garden boutique, that was started with her late husband, Michael Bliss. She can be reached at [mauricetaitano@yahoo.com](mailto:mauricetaitano@yahoo.com).*



# EATING OUT IN UH

Adams Avenue Grill	2201 Adams Ave.	298-8440
Bahia Mexican & Seafood	1985 El Cajon Blvd.	542-0540
Bahn Thai	4646 Park Blvd.	299-6363
bfd (big front door)	4135 Park Blvd.	255-4100
Circa	2121 Adams Ave.	269-9152
Cueva Bar	2123 Adams Ave.	269-6612
DeMi Café Café	1735 Adams Ave.	788-4216
El Zarape	4642 Park Blvd.	692-1652
Flavors of East Africa	2322 El Cajon Blvd.	955-8778
Great Maple	1451 Washington St.	255-2282
Hope at Lafayette	2223 El Cajon Blvd	780-0358
Lancer's Bar	4671 Park Blvd.	298-5382
Lestat's on Park	4496 Park Blvd.	282-0437
Loving Hut	1905 El Cajon Blvd.	683-9490
Mama's Bakery & Lebanese Deli	4237 Alabama St.	688-0717
Muzita Abyssinian Bistro	4651 Park Blvd.	546-7900
Mystic Mocha	2105 Mission Ave.	688-0858
Park Boulevard Deli	4504 Park Blvd.	295-1362
Park & Rec	4612 Park Blvd.	795-9700
Park House Eatery	4574 Park Blvd.	295-7275
Pizzeria Bruno Napoletano	4207 Park Blvd.	260-1311
Pizzeria Luigi	2121 El Cajon Blvd.	294-9417
Plumeria Vegetarian Cuisine	4661 Park Blvd.	269-9989
Pomegranate Restaurant	2312 El Cajon Blvd.	297-4007
Red Fox Steak House	2223 El Cajon Blvd.	297-1313
Red House Pizza	4615 Park Blvd.	546-7430
Small Bar	4628 Park Blvd.	795-7998
Soltan Banoo	4645 Park Blvd.	298-2801
Summer's Market	4602 Park Blvd.	296-0504
Twiggs	4590 Park Blvd.	296-0616
Well Spring Tea Room	4538 Park Blvd.	298-2800
Wing Stop	1901 El Cajon Blvd.	297-9464

## Urban Village or Urban Canyon Community Plan Update Could Transform Park Blvd. Business District

By Philip J. Gill

A year ago this issue I wrote an article titled "The Future of University Heights?" in which the history and architecture of the San Diego Normal School, its former campus on Park and El Cajon Boulevards, and the importance of that site to the future development of University Heights (UH) was discussed.

That site—now home to the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), the Birney School and a joint-use recreational field—is only part of the story of the future of our community. Another part—the Uptown Community Plan—is drafted in its final stages now, with final comments due to city planners by Monday, Oct. 5.

The new Community Plan is important to UH because it will set the standards for development, redevelopment and infill in the five Uptown neighborhoods for the next 20 or so years. While growth and increasing density are inevitable for UH, just how it happens and where it happens will be determined in large part by this plan. I personally became aware and concerned about the new community plan after seeing and participating in a discussion thread on the Next Door University Heights West online website.

Under the current guidelines being contemplated for Uptown, developers could receive density bonuses that would allow them to increase the number of dwelling units per acre, and, with that added density, alter the height, scale, and character of UH, as well as bring added traffic and the need for additional parking. Of particular concern in the Next Door thread is the

Park Blvd. business district. According to one post, the New Vision church and parking lot at the corner of Meade and Park could be replaced with four-to-six story mixed use development, along the lines of the The Egyptian building at Park and University Ave.

While it's unlikely the church will move anytime soon, it pointed out that the entire Park corridor from Meade to Adams could conceivably be redeveloped in such a manner, creating a mid-rise "urban canyon" that would replace today's low-rise urban village." In urban planning and design, an urban village is a development typically characterized by medium-density housing, mixed-use zoning, good public transit and an emphasis on pedestrianization and public space.

These characteristics are designed to reduce reliance on cars, encourage walking, cycling and transit use, provide combined live/work spaces, and foster neighborhood interactions and public spaces. Sounds a lot like UH today, doesn't it?

Many consider our business district the "heart" of UH, and is labeled on local and real estate maps as "The Village at University Heights." Today, these three blocks are an example of the "urban village," albeit one that has grown organically rather than from a master plan and that retains a humble, small-town look-and-feel that draws long-term residents and newcomers alike.

For a more details on what at the current proposal could mean for UH, go to <http://>

Continued on page 8

# Happening in the Heights

## COMEDY TWIGGS

4590 Park Blvd (@ Madison)  
(619) 296-0616 / www.twiggs.org

- **Comedy Heights:**  
Every Sat, 8 pm
- **Roar Theater Comedy:**  
Fridays, Sept 18, 8 pm
- **Shy Poets Workshop:**  
Monday July 13, 6:30-8:30 pm
- **Celtic Ensemble:**  
Every Sun In Sept 4-6 pm



## LESTAT'S ON ADAMS

3343 Adams Ave.  
(619) 282-0437 / www.lestats.com

- **Comedy Night:**  
Hosted by Rajan Dharni  
Every Tuesday between 9-11 pm

**ACROSS THE STREET AT MUELLER COLLEGE**  
4607 Park Blvd. (619) 507-7223  
www.sidestageimprov.com

- Contact John Ciccolella for details

## MUSIC

### LESTAT'S ON ADAMS:



### 3RD SPACE

4610 Park Blvd. (619) 255-1151  
www.3rdspace.com

### ACROSS THE STREET AT MUELLER COLLEGE

4607 Park Blvd. (619) 507-7223  
facebook.com/?sk=lf#!/acrossthestreet  
Contact John Ciccolella for details

### SWEDENBORG HALL

1531 TYLER AVE.  
www.swedenborgianchurchsandiego.org

### TWIGGS GREEN ROOM

4590 Park Blvd. (619) 296-0616  
www.twiggs.org



## LAFAYETTE HOTEL

2223 El Cajon Blvd. (619) 296-2101  
www.lafayettehotelsd.com

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## THEATER

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www.diversionary.org

- **Amazons & Their Men:** An adaptation of a mythic Amazon Queen's love-and-war affair with Achilles.

Every Thurs at 7 pm  
Every Fri & Sat at 8 pm  
Every Sun at 2 pm

## Kids Clean-Up Crew 'Unlitter' University Heights

by MaryBeth Chruden

### Hanna Patterson

is making a difference, one piece of litter at a time. Hanna is a third-grader at Alice Birney Elementary in University Heights. Hanna first began picking up litter while taking walks with her mom in their North Park neighborhood. The response from the people on the street and business owners was so positive that Hanna was motivated to expand her efforts to other neighborhoods and get other kids involved. So she created the "Kids Clean-Up Crew," also known as KCC.

KCC's mission is to "unlitter" (a term coined by KCC Kid Oliver) San Diego's neighborhoods while inspiring others to do the same, and, better yet, to not litter in the first place! KCC made its official launch in July 2014 when Hanna worked with her teacher to organize the Birney second graders attending a Saturday school to pick up litter on the school grounds and around University Heights. The crew received a standing ovation that day outside Lestat's Coffee House for their efforts.

Continued on page 8

## Plume

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### Cheryl Ann Cooke

Is active member of UHCA Beautification & Planning Committee, and instrumental in writing the grant and coordinating the "Busing for the Environment" project. This was done in conjunction with Mindy Swanson, gardening program teacher at Alice Birney Elementary School. The project transformed the sides of the bus stop at Park Boulevard in front of the Birney playing field in University Heights into vertical succulent gardens known as a living wall. The plants were grown at Birney and tended and monitored by Mindy's Dig Down Deep garden class students. The funds for this project were donated by SDG&E. The unveiling ceremony was held on Saturday, July 11, at the bus stop on Park Boulevard near Meade Avenue.

Stop by when you can to see how beautiful the plants look and watch how they grow! Thank you, Cheryl, for spearheading this worthy project and thank you, Birney kids, too.

# PET OF THE MONTH



Blu is our rescue greyhound from the Tucson tracks, where he raced for four years (longer than normal) and won many races until it was time to be rescued. He came to live with us in November 2007 and immediately settled himself in, as though he had lived with us all his life. Greyhounds are a loving breed and very gentle. Blu gets excited when company stops by. His passion is family—he thinks he should go with us no matter where the journey takes us and is so happy to see his harness, which

is hooked to our car seatbelt. Blu is a quiet dog, except at night when he snores, and we wake up laughing at his noises. He loves to greet other dogs but because he's older (11½) one hello is quite enough.

A misconception about greyhound is that the dogs need lots of running space; however, they are happy with a walk down the street and they literally are "couch potatoes!" If anyone is interested in a very intelligent, sweet and gentle dog, look up the rescue organization at www.houndsavers.org.

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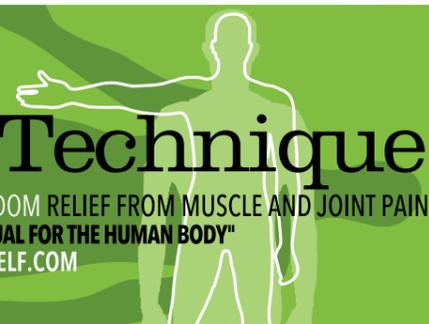
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# UHCA Beautification & Planning Committee Report

by MaryBeth Chruden



## Interested in a Community Garden in UH?

We have long wanted to start a community garden and now have a motivated resident to organize this project. If you are interested in helping, contact Jill Roughan at jer775@hotmail.com to become involved. We need a space, so let her know if you have, or know of one.

## Washington Street Improvements

Are you yearning for a more beautiful Washington Street? Median plantings, attractive lighting and hardscape, trees along the boulevard? So are we! A new committee member is starting to research funding for this huge dream. We need your help! Email mb552@aol.com to get involved.

## "Rock 'n' Roll Clean UH Up" Update

We asked for a little help and got a lot! Our highest number of volunteers ever, 58, came to Washington and 163 on May 31 to tidy up. They diligently removed weeds and swept around two medians on Washington St. and cleaned up the landscape at the 163 on-ramp. Boosting the attendance and the results were 22 children and parents from the Kids Clean-Up Crew (KCC). Also in attendance were Councilmember Todd Gloria and Chris Ward, a UH resident, aide to Senator Marty Block and candidate for the District 3 Council seat, and their volunteers. We are thrilled to have those new volunteers. We are also grateful to those who have come three or more times, especially Randall, who brings his truck, generator and weed eater to whack a massive quantity of weeds. Volunteers frequently express how much satisfaction they get from helping, but they are also excited to win a raffle gift card. Thanks to local businesses who donated this time: Twiggs, Cueva Bar, Lestat's and Red House Pizza. To help, email mb552@aol.com and you'll be put on the list for future cleanups.



University Heights Resident



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- Refinances
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# SEPT 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Uptown Planners Joyce Beers Center Uptown Center 6:30 pm	<b>2</b> UHCDC Meeting 4452 Park Blvd. 6:30 pm  Toni Atkins "Public Office Hours" UH Library 5-6 pm	<b>3</b> UH Rec Council 5:30 pm UHCA mtg 6:45 pm  	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> THE POINT CLEAN UP 1:30 - 3:30 pm LAUGHTER SOCIAL Trolley Barn Park 10:30 am
<b>6</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET Lincoln & Cleveland 9 am - 2 pm	<b>7</b> LABOR DAY	<b>8</b> Friends of the Library UH Chapter uhca news Deadline for Oct Issue Articles & Advertising Hillcrest Town Council Joyce Beers Center Uptown Complex 6:30 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> PATRIOTS' DAY	<b>12</b> LAUGHTER SOCIAL Trolley Barn Park 10:30 - 12:30
<b>13</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET Lincoln & Cleveland 9 am - 2 pm GRANDPARENTS' DAY	<b>14</b> ROSH HASHANAH	<b>15</b> NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE North Park Christian Fellowship 2901 North Park Way 6:30 pm	<b>16</b> LIBRARY TASK FORCE UH Library 6:30 pm	<b>17</b>  	<b>18</b> PREVIEW BOOK SALE (Members Only) Friends of the Library UH Library 3-6 pm	<b>19</b> LAUGHTER SOCIAL Trolley Barn Park 2-4 pm BOOK SALE 8 am - 4 pm, UH Library BUCHANAN CANYON CLEANUP 9 am, Johnson between Lincoln & Hayes
<b>20</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET Lincoln & Cleveland 9 am - 2 pm BOOK SALE 8 am - 4 pm, UH Library	<b>21</b> INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 	<b>22</b> uhca news September Issue Out	<b>23</b> YOM KIPPUR FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> LAUGHTER SOCIAL Trolley Barn Park 10:30 am ADAMS AVEVUE STREET FAIR
<b>27</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET Lincoln & Cleveland 9 am - 2 pm ADAMS AVEVUE STREET FAIR	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> UH Book Club & Salon 6:30 pm UH Library			

# In Case You Missed It...



IN HONOR OF  
HENRIETTA COLOSIMO  
AND  
ALICE BIRNEY  
VOLUNTEERS

### Birney Bench Dedication Ceremony

The Henrietta Colosimo Bench. One of three benches placed in the gardens at Birney Elementary. This special dedication from a former teacher to all volunteers but specifically for Henrietta Colosimo who worked tirelessly for many years as a Birney volunteer.

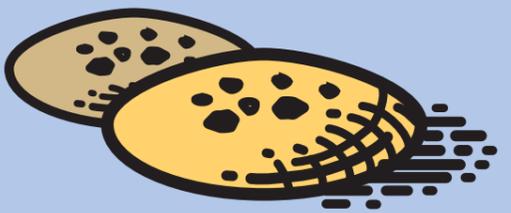
**Living Wall  
Dedication**  
"Busing for  
the Environment"  
Living Wall  
Bus Shelter.



Rock 'n Roll Clean UH Up Volunteer Day



**TUESDAY, JULY 28**  
Meet your local SDPD BRASS & your neighbors! Voice your concerns and have a cookie compliments of UHCA!



**6:00 PM**  
UH Library Carport  
4193 Park Blvd (@ Howard)

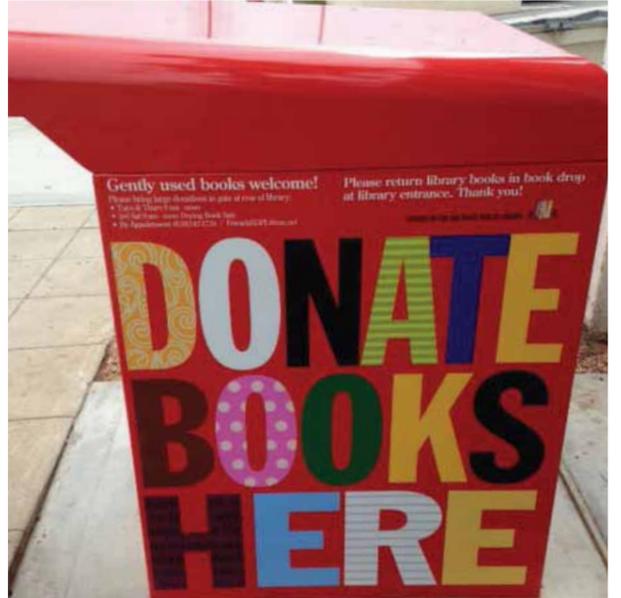
**JULY 28** |   
University Heights  
Community Association  
www.uhsd.org



Cookies With The Cops



# Summer in the Heights



New UH Library Book Donation Box



**SOCKS FOR STAND DOWN**  
SOCK DRIVE FOR HOMELESS VETS  
**NOW-JULY 6**

One weekend every summer, Veteran's Village provides shelter and services for San Diego's homeless veterans and their families at STAND DOWN. And every year there aren't enough socks for everyone. This year, Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins is hosting a sock drive so there's an ample supply of socks on hand. July 17-19. Donate at: 1 University Heights Branch Library, 4193 Park Blvd, 92103. 2 at the Speaker's Mobile Office Hours at the UH Library July 1, 5-6 pm. 3 Speaker Atkins' Office, 1350 Front St. For more info: 619-645-3090 email: speaker.atkins@assembly.ca.gov.

**PLEASE DONATE**  
NEW PAIRS OF SOCKS FOR MEN & WOMEN

**VOLUNTEER FOR STAND DOWN. JULY 17-19.**  
For info, dates & times call the Volunteer Line: (619) 393-2011 online: vwsd.net



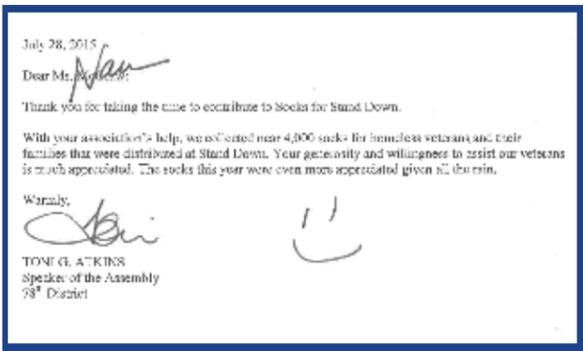

UHCA Volunteer Appreciation Party



Comic Con



Concerts in the Park



Assembly Speaker, Toni Atkins, says "UH Rocks" because of the near 4000 socks collected this year for homeless vets at Stand Down 2015!



# Birney Buzz

By Kim Schultz,  
Birney Elementary parent of two

## Back to School

Birney students are back to school on September 8 and excited about another great year, with a September stuffed full of great events. The Friends of Alice Birney Elementary (FOABE) are looking forward to the 3rd Annual University Heights Urban Harvest Festival on November 7. If you're looking to sponsor this great family event, contact Jennifer Ayala at alicibirneyfriends@gmail.com. The banners on Park Boulevard will be switched out this fall to highlight our Harvest Festival sponsors.

Right next to our banners, you may have enjoyed the bus stop succulent garden walls at Park and Meade. This garden, planted in collaboration between Birney students and University Heights Community Association (UHCA), is thriving.

## Here's the schedule of events for September

- Sept. 4: The Kinder and New Family Orientation brings together incoming kindergarteners and their families, as well as any families new to Birney this year, to meet in the Birney auditorium at 3 pm and be introduced to our principal Ms. Amanda Hammond-Williams, the kinder teaching team, and representatives from the FOABE and the Birney Parent/Teachers' Association (PTA). Class lists for the entire school will be posted at 4 pm in the Main Office.
- Sept 8: First Day of School.
- Sept 18: First Playground Play Date of the year. Students are monitored by Birney staff on the playground while parents chat. Get to know the families of your students' new friends.
- Sept 21: International Peace Day. Each year, we celebrate this event at Birney with our traditional whole-school peace sign photo.
- Sept 26: Birney Goes to the Padres. For \$15 a ticket, community members are welcome to enjoy a Padres' game with the Birney community. Tickets are discounted; a portion of each ticket sale goes to support Birney. It's the Padres vs. the Diamondbacks, game starts at 5:40 pm Order forms can be found on the PTA website, www.birneypta.com.

## Memorial Benches

Students this year will enjoy two new benches honoring dedicated community volunteers. One was donated by the Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent program, which has made a noticeable impact on Birney's campus with five volunteer grandparents working on Birney's campus. The other is the Henrietta Colosimo Bench, donated by a former teacher to honor Henrietta Colosimo, who worked tirelessly for many years as a Birney volunteer, and all the hard-working Birney volunteers.

Finally, a third bench has been added to the campus by Birney's Associated Student Body (ASB) at the suggestion of one of Birney's students, Aidric Hoover. He suggested to Ms. Amanda principal, that Birney add a "Friendship Bench" to its campus. A student who finds him- or herself alone with nobody to play with or talk to can sit on the Friendship Bench, and then other students can recognize that the student is lonely and invite him or her to talk or join in their activities. Birney's ASB thought it was a great idea, and the Friendship Bench can now be found on Birney's grounds.

# Busing for the Environment

## Birney Students' Living Wall By Cheryl Cooke

On July 11, a small unveiling ceremony was held for the Busing for the Environment Project. The event was attended by University Heights Community Association (UHCA) board members, University Heights residents, students from Alice Birney Elementary School, and staff from the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and SDG&E. This project started last summer as a grant submitted to the Politfest competition, sponsored by The Voice of San Diego, and was ultimately funded through the SDG&E Environmental Champions Award. This project aimed to help San Diegans live better, enjoy waiting for the bus as they go to work, and learn the benefits of drought tolerant plants. This was accomplished by: (1) building neighborhood pride and encouraging the use of public transportation by creating an attractive and safe waiting area; (2) providing educational and leadership opportunities for students and community members; and (3) creating business development opportunities with Alice Birney Elementary School and UHCA.

This project was a joint effort between the UHCA Beautification Team and the students

of the 5th Grade Gardening Classes at Alice Birney Elementary School, under the direction of Mindy Swanson. Over the last eight months, UHCA Beautification Team members taught the students about succulents and how there are differences in care and maintenance from the vegetable plants they are used to caring for, in addition to teaching them the different plant factors that are important to the design of the living bus stop, such as texture, color, flowering and growth pattern. The students worked diligently to maintain and cultivate the plants, in addition to using excellent teamwork skills to build each pocket that composed the living bus stop. Several people have commented on how this living bus stop reduces stress and enhances the well-being of weary travelers, while purifying the air and dampening noise pollution.

Please come on by and check out the living bus stop, located on Park Boulevard at Meade Avenue at San Diego MTS Stop #12065 (part of the 11 Line). If you are interested in learning more about succulents and living walls, please contact me at corallover2009@gmail.com.

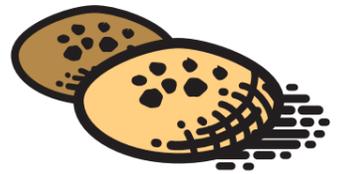
# Buzzing for the Bus

By Kenny Elam Lunde and Nora McDougall, Birney Students

Birney Elementary and the University Heights Community Association (UHCA) have come together to grow a living wall. This wall is made of succulents like Dragon's Blood, Donkey's Tail and Pork 'n' Beans. The fifth-grade students have come together with members of UHCA to tend and care for this living breathing wall. This

wall provides a home for new plant life and makes our city more beautiful at the same time. Something the students did to help was grow the plants from the time they were pups and replant them on the bus stop. These plants are not only drought tolerant, beautiful and resourceful but they are a great way for community to bond.

# Cookies WITH THE COPS



By Christopher Hutchinson

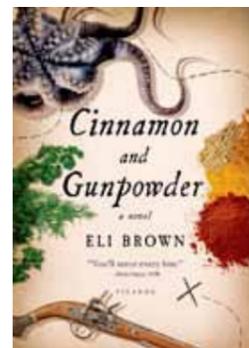
On Tues, July 28, the University Heights Community Association (UHCA) hosted its annual "Cookies with the Cops" at the University Heights Library. Over 50 people showed up from all parts of our neighborhood to enjoy cookies and speak one-on-one with over 10 San Diego Police Officers who showed up to the event.

There were a variety of concerns that were brought up at the event including homeless issues at the Friend To Friend on El Cajon Blvd, many questions about how to address dumpster divers, neighborhood prowlers, suspicious people parking on streets in the

middle of the night. Also much conversation took place about the recent fire at the point in UH and how to remediate/solve these ongoing problems.

UHCA has an active Neighborhood Watch Program, in which Neighborhood Watch Zone Coordinators from six zones in our neighborhood, email regular updates to inform everyone about any crimes in our neighborhood. If you would like to receive confidential, regular weekly email updates about crimes in your area from a representative in your Zone, please email Christopherhutchinson@hotmail.com.

# UH Sept Book Club & Salon: Cinnamon and Gunpowder By Eli Brown



If you are longing for a swashbuckling adventure set in 1819 involving a notorious lady pirate and a kidnapped chef, Cinnamon and Gunpowder is right up your galley! Owen Wedgwood, chef of a prominent English trader, has been kidnapped and is being held captive aboard the Flying Rose by the infamous pirate captain MAD Hannah Mabbot. Maggot captures Wedgwood after she and her crew raid and pillage the trader's home, killing him in the process. Mabbot informs Wedgwood that he will cook a sumptuous meal for her each Sunday or he will walk the plank. This is a daunting challenge, considering the pirate ship's meager, weevil-infested supplies.

Dreaming up ways to escape, Wedgwood works wonders in the kitchen while the ship sails through storms and sea battles to destroy the British opium trade. He comes to rely on the crew he

once feared and begins to see a vulnerability behind the notorious pirate queen's swagger and threats. The reader will come to appreciate Wedgwood, a likable and talented fellow whose expertise and lifetime of experience hasn't quite prepared him for all that he is about to face.

The Book Club is meeting Wednesday, Sept 30, at 6:30 pm. The book will be available at the UH Library's front desk at the end of August. New members are always welcome!

UH Book Club & Salon  
Wednesday, September 30, at 6:30 pm  
UH Branch Library  
4193 Park Boulevard (at Howard Avenue)  
(619) 692-4912

## OP-ED, from page 3

www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/uptown/pdf/uptowncpu.pdf for a copy of the current proposal. You may also want to visit https://uh2050.wordpress.com, a blog maintained by a longtime UH resident that details what could in theory happen in our community if the current plan is adopted as is. No matter which side you are on, your opinion needs to be heard by Oct. 5.

## Kids Clean-Up Crew, from page 3

The kids who take part in the clean-ups are usually shocked by the amount of litter to pick up and also enjoy identifying items that can be recycled. Most importantly, the kids and parents who participate in the clean-ups have a lot of fun and feel great about the tangible impact of their efforts as well as the gratitude from observers.

Hanna's desire to make an impact on the world exemplifies the curriculum being taught as part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Birney. IB Students are encouraged to show they care by having a personal commitment to service and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and the environment.

Hanna made it a goal to have one KCC clean-up per month during 2015. She is excited to continue to join with other kids to "unlitter" San Diego! So far this year the KCC has organized clean-ups in North Park, UH and Ocean Beach! For more information or to join KCC go to www.facebook.com/kidscleanupcrew or email KCCunlitter@yahoo.com. Donations (not tax deductible) for KCC supplies are greatly appreciated and can be made via the following GoFundMe link: http://www.gofundme.com/KidsCleanUpCrew.

## President's Corner, from page 2

three years. The rosemary is absolutely thriving – almost too much. I read that rosemary is happy if it can feel the ocean breeze – and it will feel that anywhere in our neighborhood. And our little succulents have grown tremendously and rewarded us with graceful arches of colorful blooms in the spring.

So I encourage everyone in our little neck of the woods to recognize that we actually don't live in the woods. We live in a desert. If you're still watering your lawn or just leaving it to die and look terrible, get out there (or hire someone) and convert your lawn to a drought tolerant xeriscape. It's not just rewarding, it's becoming your civic duty. And start stockpiling recipes that use rosemary! You're going to have more than you know what to do with.

# Between the Covers: What's Happening at the University Heights Library

By Kim Schmidt, Librarian



## Focus on Seniors Series

Starting in late August, the University Heights Library began offering free programs that focus on the interests and needs of community seniors. Our first program featured a presentation from the UPAC Positive Solutions Program, whose goal is to help homebound seniors increase social support and improve their overall quality of life.

Next up, the library will host three Senior Mobile Technology Lab classes presented by the Consumer Center for Health Education & Advocacy. If you are a senior that is interested in learning to better understand everyday technology, these classes are for you! Learn to effectively use your smart phone, laptop, and/or tablet computer. Get help learning to use email, Facebook, YouTube, Skype and more. Classes are free and open to all seniors. Limited laptop computers will be available or feel free to bring your own devices. The fall classes will be held on October 6, November 3 and December 1, from 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Join us!

## Meet Toni Atkins, California State Assembly Speaker and Her Staff

The University Heights Library is honored to be chosen as one of the local venues for Public Office Hours for Speaker Toni Atkins and her staff. Please feel free to drop in, say hello, ask questions, and discuss your concerns. The "Office" is open to the public at 5 pm on the first Wednesday of every month. The next session will be on September 2.

## Become a Friend of the University Heights Library

If you enjoy the services and programs provided by the University Heights Branch Library, you need to know that our programming depends on the generosity of donations from the community. One of the best ways you can help support the library is to join the Friends of the University Heights Library. For a minimum donation of \$10 (\$5 for students and seniors) you can sign up for an annual Friends membership. Just stop into the branch and ask a staff member for a membership envelope. Help our library to be fabulous, make new friends, join the Friends of the University Heights Library.

Friends of the Library Book Sale – Saturday, September 19 (8 am – 3 pm) and Sunday, September 20 (noon – 4 pm)

Find great bargains on books, DVDs, Music CDs and vintage vinyl at the Friends of the San Diego Public Library Book Sale. All proceeds for the book sale go to support the Friends of the San Diego Public Library. Please join us.

## Book Club and Salon

The University Heights Book Club and Salon monthly meeting will be held at the library on Wednesday, September 30, at 6:30 pm. This month's book selection is *Cinnamon and Gunpowder* by Eli Brown.

## Regular Monthly Programs for Kids

Also on tap are the library's regular weekly/monthly programs for children, including:

- Arts and Crafts for Children with Ms. Kira – every Saturday at 10:30 am
- Story Time for Children of All Ages – second and fourth Thursday of each month at 10:30 am
- Story Time for Babies, Toddlers and Younger Children

All programs are free to the public. Please drop in!

The University Heights Branch Library  
4193 Park Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92103  
(619) 692-4912

# PEACE & LOVE



We are so grateful for all the love we  
have received from this beautiful  
community.  
Thank you all.  
Peace & Love,  
Mystic Mocha

## Mystic Mocha

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San Diego, CA 92116  
Mysticmocha.net

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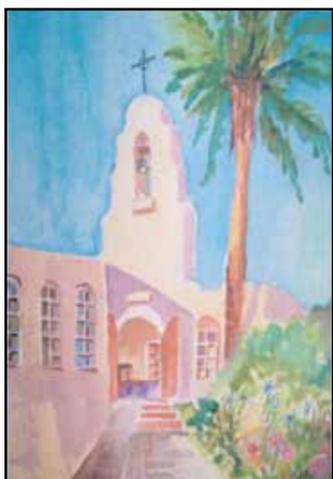


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## Come Home Sunday, Sept 27

11:00 am Service

### Homecoming Celebration

Everybody Welcome

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from your supervisor



**Ron Roberts**  
*Planning For Peak Fire Season Anniversary of Normal Heights blaze reminds us what can happen...*

Standing a few weeks ago on the edge of Normal Heights before a press conference on a possible new stadium, my thoughts went back 30 years. In June of 1985, while horrified freeway drivers and fans at Jack Murphy Stadium for a Padres-Reds game watched, fire torched 300 acres, destroyed 76 homes and damaged 57 others.

The empty lot where I stood had yet to be rebuilt with a new home.

Peak fire season in San Diego is here, and it is not just a backcountry concern.

With the current drought conditions, residents in San Diego's canyon-rich urban communities must be vigilant. Those on a canyon's edge need to protect their property, and firefighters, by creating 100

feet of defensible space. All homeowners should remove debris, trim tree branches and take other steps to remove flammable materials.

Each of these tips, and many more, are clearly outlined at ReadySanDiego.org, a county-run website dedicated to emergency preparedness. I encourage everyone to sign on, sign up, create a plan and get informed.

The county also developed a free smartphone app called SD Emergency. Available from both the Apple Store and Google Play, some of its features include allowing users to create and share a personal disaster plan and, during an incident, closely monitor fire lines and receive news updates.

Thanks to the sixth year of a partnership with San Diego Gas & Electric, we also have brought Goliath to the region for peak fire season. Goliath is a super-sized leased helicopter that can drop more than 2,600 gallons of water on a fire. That is more than six times the volume that our current helicopters can drop.

Public safety is government's No. 1 priority. It works best with willing partners. Please be our partner this fire season.

County Supervisor Ron Roberts represents University Heights as part of his Fourth Supervisorial District. You can follow him on Facebook at Supervisor Ron Roberts, on Twitter at @RonRobertsSD and at www.RonRoberts.com.



**Speaker Toni Atkins**  
*Drought Update & Ways to Save*

California is in its fourth year of drought. It's now more important than ever for everyone to do their part to conserve water. In April, Governor Jerry Brown issued an executive order mandating that urban water use decrease by 25%.

The state pulled together in June and conserved a whopping 27%! This great news means that our communities are banding together to use less and save more.

San Diego pitched in--we saved 25%, roughly six times what we saved in April.

While state leaders continue to work on solutions to deal with the lack of water, residential rules have taken affect all over California to strengthen our conservation efforts.

Here are San Diego's mandatory watering rules:

- Water lawns and plants only twice a week
- Odd-numbered addresses should water only on Sundays and Thursdays.
- Even-numbered addresses should water only on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

- Apartments, condos and businesses should water only on Mondays and Fridays.
- Each station should only water for five minutes.
- Water only before 10 am or after 6 pm.
- Use a hand-held hose that has a shut-off nozzle. This saves up to 18 gallons per minute!

Our schools are also doing their part. Last month, the Water Resources Control Board awarded San Diego Unified \$1.8 million in grants to initiate storm-water retention/reuse and water-conservation management at schools along Chollas Creek. The schools will teach students about the drought and conservation, so that students can learn early how precious each drop of water is.

While residential landscaping is the largest urban use of water, there are also many ways you can help conserve at home:

1. Turn off the faucet when you brush your teeth, shave or scrub your dishes. This saves 2 gallons per minute!
2. Every minute you cut down on your shower saves 2.5 gallons.
3. Collect water for plants when your shower water is warming up.
4. Scrape food waste into the garbage instead of rinsing it – this saves up to 20 gallons!
5. Wash only full loads of laundry to save up to 16 gallons per load.

Water isn't a resource that's unlimited just because you can turn on your faucet. It's important for every person to do their part to protect what's left of the state's water supply.

from your councilmember



**Graywater Can Be Key to Saving Water**  
 By Councilmember Todd Gloria

I offer my sincere thanks to neighbors in University Heights and throughout San Diego for helping the city cut its water usage by 24% in June.

Since we're successfully conserving beyond what the state is requiring, it may seem illogical that the City Council is being asked to consider changes to our water rates based on increased costs from our suppliers and new infrastructure necessary to increase our local water supplies. I am demanding a better a deal for ratepayers. By looking more closely at the assumptions included in the proposal, I believe staff could seek a smaller increase. It's worth exploring the possibilities of eliminating certain programs and delaying purchases to decrease costs; helping San Diegans to make ends meet is worth this extra analysis.

When so many of us have been conserving for years, I know additional conservation can

be challenging. I am happy the University Heights Community Association (UHCA) is focusing on gray water at its meeting this month, and encourage all San Diegans to learn more about it and other conservation methods.

Other than for drinking and cooking, graywater can be considered. Graywater is water from the drains of your bathroom sinks, showers, tubs, and washing machines, collected and used for outdoor irrigation.

According to the City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department, a typical home generates about 160 gallons of graywater per day, or nearly 60,000 gallons per year. A family of four could reuse 22,000 gallons a year by tapping the rinse water from its washing machine.

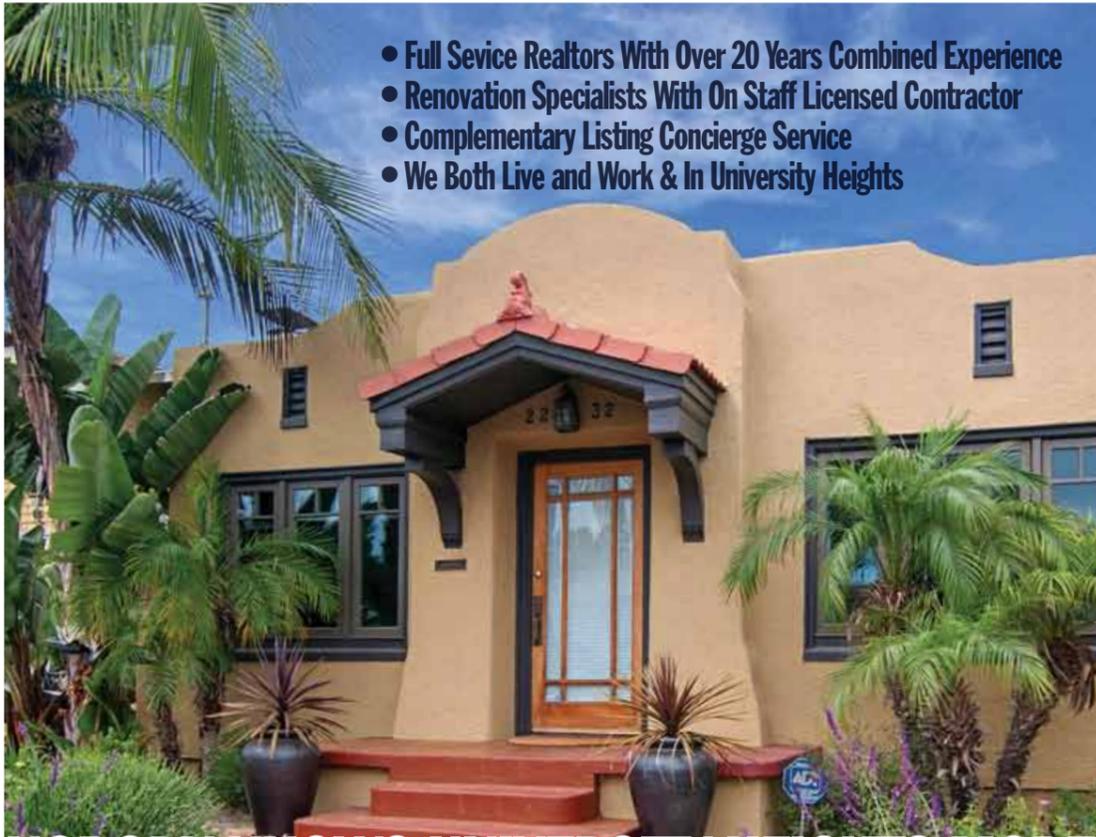
Graywater is an excellent way to recycle and conserve water, and can help you reduce potable water consumption. In 2013, the city streamlined its permitting process for both "simple" and "complex" system installation to encourage homeowners to conserve water and save money.

For more information on installing graywater systems within the City of San Diego, contact my office or the Development Services Department at (619) 446-5000. You can also learn more here: <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/graywater.shtml>.

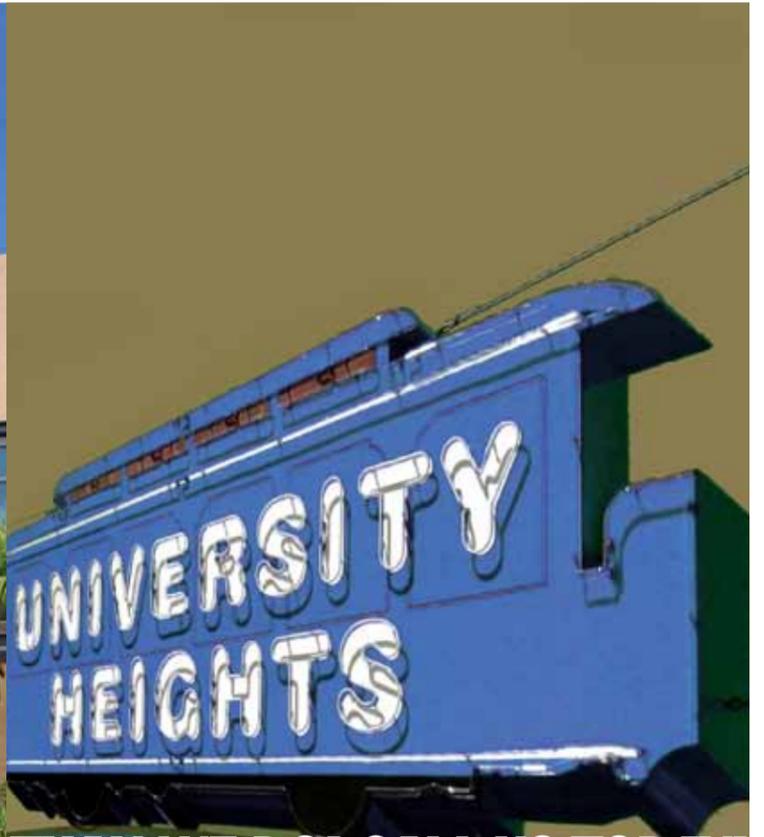
For additional resources and tips to save water, please visit [www.wastewater.org](http://www.wastewater.org).

Phone Book

Emergency (Police, Fire, Medical)	911
Non-Emergency suspicious activity/HOT-Homeless Outreach Team/etc.	619-531-2000
Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856
Alice Birney School Office	619-497-3500
Arson (SD Arson Investigators)	619-236-6815
BarkingDogs	619-238-2400
Brush and Weed Abatement	619-533-4444
Code Violations	619-236-5500
Crime Stoppers Tip Line	888-580-TIPS (8477)
Dead Animals	888-299-9905
Department of Animal Services (non-emergency)	619-767-2675
Department of Environmental Health (public health/rats/rodents)	858-694-2888
Downed phone lines	800-288-2020
Downed Power Lines (SDG&E)	800-411-7343
Dumpster Divers: in process: SDPD	619-531-2000
Environmental Services Department	858-694-7000
Emergency Water/Sewer Repair/Sink Holes	619-515-3525
Gangs	619-531-2847
Gas Leak	800-411-7343
Graffiti vandalism	619-531-2000 or 858-484-3154
Urban Corps	800-829-6884
Narcotics (suspicious drug house/anonymous)	619-531-2468
Noisy Neighbors	619-531-2000
Homeless Camps	SDPD 619-531-2000
Project Wildlife	619-225-WILD (9453)
RSVP: Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol	619-692-4945
RSVP (SDPD's Volunteer Patrol)	619-692-4800
SDPD Community Relations Officer David Surwilo	619-692-4858
SDPD Western Division: 5215 Gaines Street	619-692-4800
Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service	800-252-4613
Street Division	619-527-7500
University Heights Branch Library	619-692-4912
Waste Management (uncollected trash)	619-596-5100



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## Mary Anne Stevens

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123 Camino de la Reina Suite 100 South  
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## Featured Listing! Spanish Charmer

2BR/1BA | 1 Car-Garage  
Building: 954 Est. Sq. Ft

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\$495,958

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### Thursday, September 17th: 5-7pm

Please RSVP at: [roxanne@pemberleyrealty.com](mailto:roxanne@pemberleyrealty.com)

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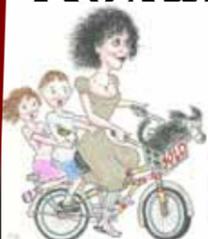
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## Helping University Heights businesses and residents achieve financial success



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