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*Peace Pole Redicated at Standley Park*

*Halloween Events in University City*

*Garden Club Visits the Curie Garden*

*Fire Prevention: Smoke Alarms*

*UC People: Bob & Barbara Starkey*

[universitycitynews.org](http://universitycitynews.org)

This Peace Pole stands as a symbol of our community's commitment to peace. It is a reminder that we are all connected and that we must work together to create a better world for ourselves and future generations. May this Peace Pole inspire us to act with kindness, compassion, and understanding towards one another, and may it serve as a beacon of hope for all those who seek peace.

*Taken from the UC Peace Pole Ceremony program. See page 11 for photos and event recap.*

**UNIVERSITY CITY... more than just a neighborhood!**

# University City

# NEWS



## UCCA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE KICKS OFF NOW

Traditionally, University City Community Association begins the annual membership drive in November. We are pushing it out early this year, and are welcoming University City residents to send in their early bird 2025 paid memberships.

UCCA uses membership funds to help support neighborhood events, such as Taste of the Triangle, UC Celebration, local school fundraisers, and Oktoberfest. Those funds also help UCCA accomplish the mission of communicating with neighbors about local issues and activities through hosting general meetings, website, social media platforms, and in publishing this local newsletter, delivered by an all-volunteer force.

Volunteers are needed to help deliver newsletters and become Neighborhood Watch captains. Contact [president@universitycitynews.org](mailto:president@universitycitynews.org) if interested.

Support UCCA today by sending in your membership dues using the form on page 14, going to [universitycitynews.org](http://universitycitynews.org), or scanning the QR code below. Let's all do our part to keep University City more than just a neighborhood!



## SDPD Chief Scott Wahl Chats with UC Residents

San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl, sat down One-on-One with UCCA President Jemma Samala and University City residents, answering a wide range of questions submitted to UCCA and during Q&A. Topics ranged from police department organization, homelessness (mental illness and substance use issues), local crime rates (going down), traffic issues (not concerned about Governor Drive), racial bias within the police force, and the vehicle pursuit policy; as he and the community are deeply saddened by the recent death of SDPD Officer Austin Machitar after a vehicle pursuit in Clairemont led to a fiery vehicle crash.

A consistent theme in Chief Wahl's comments is the concept of community policing. He points to our Northern Division's Community Resource Officer Anderson Brown, who regularly attends UCCA general meetings and provides updates to the community about recent police activities, while also listening to residents concerns. Officer Brown can be reached at [anbrown@pd.sandiego.gov](mailto:anbrown@pd.sandiego.gov) or 858.552.1703. Chief Wahl gave big kudos to UCCA's Neighborhood Watch program, and in particular our NW coordinator Barbara Gellman. He commented that University City's NW is the role model for other NW programs in the city. Additionally, Chief Wahl is creating youth outreach programs, and has brought in Lyndsay Winkley as the new civilian SDPD Community Liaison Manager to help with public communications; she was formerly a reporter for the Union-Tribune.

Chief Wahl formerly led Northern Division, grew up in Clairemont, and his father was in law enforcement. In case you're wondering, his favorite tv police show is Blue Bloods.



## UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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**Editor** Jemma Samala, [UCCAeditor@gmail.com](mailto:UCCAeditor@gmail.com)

**Advertising** Terri Day, [uccaADS@gmail.com](mailto:uccaADS@gmail.com)

**Be the Eyes and Ears of UC:** The University City Community Association Newsletter is comprised of information sent to the editor. The association does not have reporters, photographers or staff. You are welcome to write and submit articles and story suggestions that pertain to community and residents.

### Guidelines:

1. Your article should be approximately **250 words or less**, sent in a **Word document** and attached to an email (not within the email).
2. Include who, what, why, where, and how.
3. Be as brief and concise as possible. Editing may result in errors.
4. DO NOT send articles in a pdf formats.
5. UCCA does not guarantee publication.
6. Submitted materials may be published on the Internet.
7. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles as needed.
8. Articles or ads considered to be political will not be accepted.
9. Attach photos separately in a picture format at high resolution or straight from camera as a jpeg or png.
10. Send to [UCCAeditor@gmail.com](mailto:UCCAeditor@gmail.com) or [jemmasamala@gmail.com](mailto:jemmasamala@gmail.com).

### Deadline for the NOVEMBER 2024 issue: OCTOBER 10

Please send your submission as early as possible. The deadline for the November issue is **October 10, 2024**, but the newsletter can fill up before the deadline. Articles and news items are reviewed as they are received. Priority may be given to UCCA members and time sensitive material. Articles may also be edited for allowed space. UCCA does not discriminate against nor endorse all information in the monthly newsletter. The UCCA Newsletter receives information and advertising from a variety of sources. UCCA cannot and does not guarantee the accuracy of the information or the complete absence of errors and/or omissions, nor does UCCA assume responsibility for the same. Publication does not constitute an endorsement.

## 2024 UCCA Board Members

### Executive Board

President: Jemma Samala, [president@universitycitynews.org](mailto:president@universitycitynews.org)

Vice-President: Jim Beshears

Secretary: Katie Rodolico

Treasurer: Phil Fowler

### Appointed Positions

Beautification Chair: Merle Langston

CASA Liaison/Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Chair/Publicity

& Promotion/Webmaster: Diane Ahern

\*Holiday Lighting: Darlene Ventimiglia

Membership: Alain Gazau

Neighborhood Watch: Barbara Gellman

\*Newsletter Distribution: Don Hotz

\*Newsletter Ads: Terri Day

\*Newsletter Editor: Jemma Samala

North UC Liaison: Bill Beck

Parliamentarian/SD Network of Town Councils: Mack Langston

Past-President: Diane Ahern

\*Special Events: Barry Bernstein

\*UCPG Liaison: Katie Rodolico

### Other Volunteers:

\*Wendy Lee: Street Banners

\*Vince Reardon: Newsletter Committee

\*Non-Voting Position

## SUMMARY OF UCCA GENERAL MEETING September 17, 2024 at University Community Library Excerpts of Minutes taken by Katie Rodolico, UCCA Secretary

### Announcement of Actions Taken from August Board Meeting

- Approval of EdUCate! Oktoberfest sponsorship of \$1,000
- Approval of Spreckels PTA Wildcat Run sponsorship of \$600

### Public Safety Reports

**SDPD Captain Aguilar:** Thanks for the support and generosity for the police/northern division. Especially during the recent loss of officer Austin, and injured officer Martinez. Northern is committed to community engagement and building trust, and has created a new community engagement team of four officers. The community can let this group know where the problem areas are when they attend the public meetings like UCCA. Examples of problem issues are oversize rv's parked along public streets, street vendors, etc.

**SDPD Officer Anderson Brown:** Shift change just happened. Officers working mornings now work evenings, officers working evenings now work late nights, etc. It is important to report issues like porch pirates.

### Public Projects Reports

**Pure Water Project Update - Matt Parks & Clem Wassenberg :** Genesee south of Governor at SR 52: shafts are complete. They are working to connect the tunneled pipe to the pipe heading up to Appleton, south of the intersection and should be finishing up in the next two months. The contractor working on the pipe under SR52 is redoing the section of pipe and casing and should be done at the end of the month. Pure Water is still working at the high school at Centurion Square in southbound lanes. One shaft done, tunnel done, 3rd shaft, north of railroad tracks starts this coming week. Nobel is finishing up through Lombard and this section will be repaved. That contractor will start working in the northbound lanes on Genesee heading south from Decoro towards the railroad tracts. The other contractor will be working north from the railroad tracks from Centurion Square. Tunneling continues under 805 at the dead end of executive drive. The Genesee and SR 52 area should wrap up by the end of October. The last section from Nobel and Lombard to Decoro and Genesee will wrap up after the holidays. There is a moratorium on work near the mall during the holiday shopping season.

### Candidate Introduction

**Heather Ferbert, Candidate for City Attorney.** She is currently the Chief Deputy City Attorney. She's been in San Diego for 20 years and received her law degree from USD. She previously worked for the Housing authority before moving to the City Attorney's office. The City Attorney's office provides legal advice to city agencies and prosecutes misdemeanors. She is a qualified municipal lawyer. [Heatherferbert.com](http://Heatherferbert.com)

### Special Reports and non-agenda Public Comment

**Chris Nielsen, UCPG Update:** There was a different meeting location last month but they will meet at Alexandria GradLabs again in October. There have been no status changes on the 4249 Nobel project. Alexandria announced in the UT that they are looking at their options for the Costa Verde project in light of the new community plan. They should be announcing their new plan by end of the year. UCPG will have a booth at Oktoberfest. The Community Plan update passed at council August 7. 2nd reading was 1 week ago. Plan goes into effect December 1, but coastal area will be later after coastal commission review.

**Jeff Dosick, Bicycle Master Plan Update:** The master plan was discussed on page 5 of the September newsletter. September 10 was the deadline for public comment but it has been extended to September 30.

**Jackie Macias UC Community Library:** Library is working with the Curie principal to keep students safe as they cross Governor. There will be a Dias de los Muertos event at both libraries.

**Azalea Ebbay - North UC Library:** residents can reach out to librarians for help with concerns about cyber security, etc.

### UCCA Committee Reports

**Barbara Gellman - Neighborhood Watch & Utility Box Painting:** There is a program in the Northern Division called YANA (you are not alone). Police can check up on seniors. The last utility box of the current grant will be completed this weekend.

**UCCA President  
Jemma Samala**

Weekends in University City can be busy with community events, Starbucks meetings, and walks in the neighborhood. Yet, no matter how much we feel that there's not enough time for ourselves, we leave our local events with a sense of pride and gratitude.

We have so many great annual UC traditions, like Taste of the Triangle, UC Celebration, Summer Concerts, and in

October – Oktoberfest. I love attending these events because they're a time to reconnect with old friends and neighbors - we get to catch up on current happenings. And I was also able to do that at the UC Peace Pole Ceremony with my good friend Marie Webber, pictured with me above (and yes, I will get you my tax stuff). We've known each other since our sons were in Kindergarten, so over 20 years. And while we don't see each other on a daily basis at school grounds anymore, when we do see each other, it's just like old times – chatting about what's going on in the neighborhood.

Conversations with my UC neighbors are always made with good intentions, and many times new ideas are hatched. Like at my monthly Starbucks open hours, when I got to chat with long-time UC residents Betsy Sickels and Darlene Ventimiglia, pictured right. Not only did we have an impromptu brainstorming session, but they were able to reminisce and tell me stories of our neighborhood volunteers who started many of those community traditions.



When we were talking about the old guard, it really made me thankful in winning the geographic lottery of being able to reside in University City. While many of our original organizers may be moving away, or sadly passing on, there's always another core group of volunteers that keeps things running. We worry about succession, but it always works out. It's because there's a reason why we all wanted to live in UC – there's a certain nostalgia for living in a community of people that look out for each other. We may not always agree on issues, but we agree we need to work together. The dedication to community is the glue that keeps University City united in providing a peaceful place to raise our children and to continue in retirement.

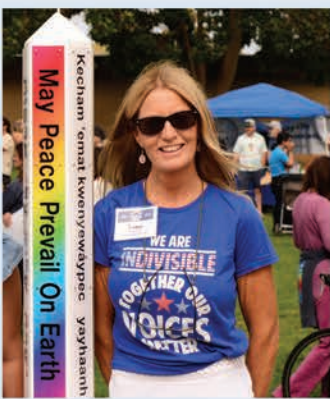
Help me and UCCA keep the glue flowing. Volunteer, show-up, and become a paid member of UCCA. We can't do it without our neighbors. See you at Oktoberfest on October 5 – stop by and say hello at the UCCA booth!

*Jemma*

*Thinking Locally, Acting Neighborly*

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT  
TAMA BECKER-VARANO**

Anyone who attended the UC Peace Pole Ceremony in September surely felt the love spread around to all peoples of our community. In the thoughtful activities and entertainment, the mood of the event came from the top organizer – Tama Becker-Varano. We thank her for having the foresight 19 years ago to bring the Peace Pole project to her daughter's Girl Scout Troop, and now to realize that a full-fledged Peace Pole Ceremony would bring a gratitude-filled positive gathering.



Tama has long been a strong community volunteer. Not only as a Girl Scout Troop leader, but as a PTA board member, including as PTA President at University City High School. Almost eight years ago, she founded the local Change Begins with ME group, part of the collection of Indivisible groups nationwide. She has also been a strong advocate for a no-waste and vegan lifestyle, putting up a Free Vegan Pantry in her front yard. No matter what project Tama is behind, we know not only will it get done, but accomplished with a goal of trying to make a difference in society. And we are grateful to have Tama in UC.

*If you know of a longtime, behind the scenes volunteer for a future spotlight, contact [jemmasamala@gmail.com](mailto:jemmasamala@gmail.com).*

# Calendar

## October 2024

**NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION MONTH**

**ROSH HASHANAH**

Sunset, Wednesday, October 2 to  
Nightfall, Friday, October 4

**OKTOBERFEST by EDUCATE**

Saturday, October 5, 2:00-6:00pm  
Craft Fair opens 1:00pm  
Standley Park

**UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP**

Tuesday, October 8, 6:00pm  
9880 Campus Point Drive, Third Floor  
Zoom available  
Info: [planuniversity.org](http://planuniversity.org)

**YOM KIPPUR**

Sunset, Friday, October 11 to  
Nightfall, Saturday, October 12

**JEMMA at STARBUCKS on SATURDAY**

UCCA's President Open Hours  
Stop by to discuss UCCA and University City  
Saturday, October 12, 9:00 to 11:00am  
Starbucks on Governor Drive

**PEOPLE FOR A CLEAN UC**

Sunday, October 13  
7:15-7:30am – meet & greet  
7:30-9:00am – work  
Cleanup volunteers meet at Starbucks  
3203 Governor Drive, supplies provided

**COLUMBUS DAY / INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'**

Monday, October 14

**STANDLEY PARK COMMUNITY REC GROUP**

Thursday, October 24  
For meeting details, call: 858.552.1651

**HALLOWEEN**

Thursday, October 31

**SAVE THE DATE**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS,  
STANDARD TIME RESUMES**  
Sunday, November 3 at 2:00am  
Turn clocks back one hour.

**UCCA GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday, November 19, 5:30pm  
UC Library on Governor Drive

**RENEW YOUR UCCA  
MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025**

**GO TO UNIVERSITYCITYNEWS.ORG, OR MAIL  
IN MEMBERSHIP FORM ON PAGE 14**

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Extra copies of newsletters are available at University City local libraries and other public areas. A complete online version can be found at: [universitycitynews.org](http://universitycitynews.org)

## Why Neighborhood Watch

by Barbara Gellman,  
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Consider being part of the solution by participating, as a Captain or Co-Captain on your street for Neighborhood Watch, one of the most effective means of fighting crime in our communities in partnership with our police. We do this through education, observation and reporting, not confrontation. Learning how to report a crime, how to recognize scams, how

to help prevent vehicle related crimes, home security tips and more. One of the most important aspects of this program is knowing your neighbors so you will then recognize the strangers.

If interested, check to see if neighbors feel the same and that 50% or more would be comfortable with you as their street captain. Once that is established, we can meet and discuss further; contact me at [bgellman@yahoo.com](mailto:bgellman@yahoo.com) and join the other 100 Neighborhood Watch Captains that help keep our streets and community safer.

### Home Security Tip:

Trees and shrubs may give your house curb appeal, but, they also give burglars a handy place to hide. Clean out any ivy, leaves or overgrowth and dead bushes to prevent fire issues and or unwanted critters. Eliminate hiding places by trimming trees and plants close to your home that could be used for concealment. Lock side gates and any sheds or outdoor buildings. Always put away ladders and stools so they cannot be used by burglars. Do not tempt thieves by leaving pricey goods on display in the yard or garage doors open. Stay tuned for more tips.

### FIND US AT OKTOBERFEST

Just a reminder, on Saturday, October 5, to stop in the Neighborhood Watch and Socks For Safety booth for safety information and fun and fashion for your feet. Styles for men, women and children; conversation starters for everyone. Holiday styles will be available also.



It's Free Ride Day! Get a free lift on Wednesday, October 2

The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and the North County Transit District (NCTD) have announced today both agencies will provide free transit rides Wednesday, October 2, to encourage residents to save money, reduce carbon emissions and shake up routines. Free Ride Day includes all MTS buses, the Trolley, COASTER, SPRINTER and BREEZE fixed-route services. This will be the fifth Free Ride Day held jointly by MTS and NCTD. Free Ride Day is sponsored by Mission Fed Credit Union and is part of California Clean Air Day, which encourages the state's residents to reduce carbon emissions to improve the region's air quality. For more information, visit: [sdmts.com/free-ride-day](http://sdmts.com/free-ride-day)

## US vs. Rahimi: A recognition that common sense gun violence prevention measures save lives

by San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott

The Supreme Court did the right by domestic violence victims. The court's 8-1 ruling overturned the appellate court decision in the United States vs. Rahimi case which erroneously determined a felon's right to possess a gun outweighed a victim's right to safety and even life.

This landmark ruling protects Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) in the states that have them and paves the way for additional states to adopt them. We passed red flag and other related laws here in California ten years ago. And in the decade since thousands of lives have been saved.

GVROs, allow law enforcement, family members, and sometimes even coworkers or educators to petition a court to temporarily remove firearms from individuals deemed to be a threat to themselves or others. This proactive approach targets those in crisis or with a history of violence, preventing potential tragedies before they occur.

Gun violence is not inevitable. Under our State's laws we can respond to situations we **know** are likely to lead to violence: from the just-fired employee to the person struggling to cope with PTSD, to the middle schooler who vows to teach his bullying classmates a lesson. If someone is going through a really hard time, GVROs allow law enforcement to get the guns out of their home so they can then get the help they need. GRVOs have no impact on responsible gun owners.

California's approach to gun violence, particularly through GVROs, can serve as a compelling model for the rest of the nation. Over the past decade, our state's gun violence death rate has consistently been about 43 percent lower than the national average. If the entire country had matched California's gun violence rate, an estimated 140,000 lives could have been spared over the last ten years. Numbers don't lie – GRVOs reduce gun violence and save lives.

The Supreme Court's latest decision could be an important turning point in the national conversation about gun violence. It marks one of the most consequential reversals of gun proliferation policies in recent history, signaling a shift towards prioritizing public safety over unrestricted gun access. By upholding the rights of states to enact protective measures for domestic violence victims, it can open the door to other common-sense gun laws aimed at keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people while protecting the rights of law-abiding, responsible gun owners.

Disarming domestic violence abusers is a critical step in this direction. Statistics show that the presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%. By removing guns from individuals with a history of domestic violence, elected leaders and law enforcement can continue to do their jobs to significantly reduce the incidence of fatal encounters and protect vulnerable individuals.

State-based solutions to gun violence offer a pragmatic and effective approach to addressing this pervasive issue. While federal legislation has been mired in gridlock and intense partisan debate, several states have acted swiftly and decisively to implement policies that reflect the needs and values of their communities. The success of California's GVROs serves as a testament to the potential of state-level interventions to make a real difference in reducing gun violence and saving lives.

The Supreme Court's decision is a rare but vital beacon of hope in a landscape often marred by tragic headlines and senseless loss. This is not just good news for states like California that already have these laws in place, but for every American who stands to benefit from a safer, more sensible approach to gun regulation. We have an urgent need to protect domestic violence victims from gun violence. Now, it is up to the states to seize this opportunity and implement GVROs to safeguard citizens.

While it is too late to bring back the lives lost due to the lack of effective gun control measures over the past decade, this decision represents a hopeful opportunity to prevent future tragedies. By embracing the lessons learned from California and advocating for the widespread adoption of GVROs, we can honor the memory of those lost by ensuring that their deaths were not in vain.

## Simple Forgery can Lead to Massive Real Estate Fraud

by District Attorney Summer Stephan

Every year in San Diego County dozens of real estate fraud cases are referred to our office for potential prosecution. Since buying a home is one of the biggest financial investments people make, when bad actors cheat victims out of house and home, the effects are financially devastating.

With a few forged documents, scammers can satisfy the recording requirements with the County Recorder, thereby changing title to the property and effectively stealing ownership rights. This is title fraud. Bad actors also use impersonation to swindle million-dollar homes from rightful owners or heirs. This is forgery, identity theft, filing a false instrument and grand theft.

Last fiscal year, more than \$300 million in real estate fraud was perpetrated against San Diego property owners. It's an egregious figure for an egregious crime.

You might be wondering how this type of fraud was possible. There are several ways fraudsters use illegal methods to worm their way into your home, including:

- Creating forged title documents and filing them with the Office of the County Recorder.
- Impersonating the true owner and sending phony account information for escrowed funds.
- Falsely listing property, particularly vacant property, for sale.
- Recording fraudulent liens on property.

Until recently, title fraud crimes went undiscovered until the homeowner had a reason to check on title during a refinance or sale of their home. The District Attorney's Office fights this type of fraud with a dedicated team of prosecutors and investigators who work collaboratively with the Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk's office to bring fraudsters to justice. However, often the damage to victims has already been done.

The San Diego County Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk Jordan Marks launched a system called Owner Alert, that will protect homeowners through a Recording Notification Service, free to all members of the public. Consumers may register online to receive an e-mail alert within 48 hours whenever a document is recorded on a registered property. Homeowners can register up to five names and five Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN). This service will allow consumers to get ahead of fraudsters before they've had the opportunity to do real damage to a property.

Previously, there were no systems in place to notify the rightful owner that title had been stolen. This gave fraudsters valuable time to obtain loans using the property as collateral or when the property is vacant, install renters and even sell the home to an unsuspecting buyer.

Consumers may register online by going to the San Diego County Assessor / Recorder / County Clerk website at: [arccprn.sandiegocounty.gov/](http://arccprn.sandiegocounty.gov/). Here are some tips to avoid title fraud:

- Sign up for Owner Alert.
- Search the official County index for documents previously recorded under your name and your property.
- Use caution with online signature applications such as DocuSign – read the full document to ensure it's the correct contract and keep a copy of the signed version.
- If you have a second home or vacant home, check it regularly to ensure there are no squatters, unwanted renters or fraudsters attempting to occupy the home – this can be as simple as installing an internet-based webcam at the home.
- Ensure your property tax bill is paid on time and is in your name.
- Ensure all your utilities are paid on time and are in your name.
- Continue to take steps to protect yourself from basic identity theft.

If you believe you were the victim of a title fraud, report the incident to a local police agency or request a San Diego District Attorney Real Estate Fraud Complaint Form at [realestatefraudcomplaints@sdcca.org](mailto:realestatefraudcomplaints@sdcca.org). For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.sdcca.org/preventing/real-estate-fraud/>.



Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. In California, every active registered voter will receive a ballot in the mail nearly a month before Election Day and in-person voting opportunities are available over multiple days. You choose when, where, and how to vote. Elections are no longer a one-day event. There is no need to wait until Election Day to vote. You can vote in the comfort of your home or visit a vote center near you. Important election deadlines and key dates for San Diego County voters:

- September 26: Voter information booklets begin to be mailed out to registered voters.
- October 5: Ballots will start to be mailed out to registered voters.
- October 7: Early voting starts at the Registrar of Voters' office from 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.
- October 8: Voters can begin dropping off their ballots at official drop boxes throughout the county. For hours and locations visit: [sdvote.com](http://sdvote.com)
- October 21: Voter registration, though conditional voter registration will continue after this date. Learn more at: [sdvote.com](http://sdvote.com)
- October 22: Conditional voter registration and voting begins at voting centers, including the Registrar of Voters office, through November 5.
- October 26: Select voting centers start to open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm through November 4. For a list of voting centers, visit: [sdvote.com](http://sdvote.com)
- November 2: All voting centers begin to open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm through November 4.
- November 5: It's Election Day. The Registrar of Voters office, ballot drop boxes and voting centers are open from 7:00am to 8:00pm. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by Election Day. For more information, visit: [sdvote.com](http://sdvote.com)

# BIKE HELMET GIVEAWAY

HOSTED BY SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER



DATE  
**THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 3**

TIME  
**6 PM**

LOCATION  
**LA JOLLA COMMUNITY CENTER  
6811 LA JOLLA BLVD, LA JOLLA, CA 92037**

**University Community Branch, 4155 Governor Drive, San Diego, CA 92122: 858.552.1655**

[sandiego.gov/public-library/locations/university-community-library](http://sandiego.gov/public-library/locations/university-community-library)

**North University Community, 8820 Judicial Drive, San Diego, CA 92122; 858.581.9637**

[sandiego.gov/public-library/locations/north-university-community-library](http://sandiego.gov/public-library/locations/north-university-community-library)

Library Hours and programs are subject to change. Call to confirm hours and events.

Local libraries are currently open on Monday and Tuesday from 11:30am to 8:00pm; and Wednesday through Saturday from 9:30am to 6:00pm. University branch closed Sundays; North University branch open Sundays 1:00-5:00pm.

## What's Happening at the Libraries?

### North University Community Library

#### ALL AGES

**Diwali Celebration:** Sunday, October 27 at 2:00-4:00pm. Everyone is welcome to join us in celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights and new beginnings. Diwali is celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains around the world. There will be crafts and classical Indian

dance performances. While supplies last. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the North University Community Library.

**Scary-oke:** Tuesday, October 29 at 5:30-7:00pm. This is an all-ages karaoke and costume party. Come fill the air with scary sounds and be filled with chills as ghosts, goblins, and witches slowly creep towards you! No need to worry, though; they merely want to move to your groove and watch you (try) to sing. Wear your best Halloween costume and enjoy some delicious snacks (while supplies last). There may be plenty of "boos" but there will be no judgement.

#### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Toddler Storytime: One Book, One San Diego for Kids:** Wednesday, October 23 at 10:00-11:15am. Join in as we read, sing, dance, and play at Toddler Storytime! Come and build essential early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. Designed for children ages 1-3. We will be featuring the 2024 One Book, One San Diego selection for kids, *Barrio Rising: The Protest that Built Chicano Park* by María Dolores Águila and Magdalena Mora.

**Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Storytime:** Monday, October 21 at 11:45am-1:15pm. In honor of Nuestra Cultura (our library's version of National Hispanic Heritage Month) and Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), we will host a special story time led by Ms. Jackie! She will read stories and sing and play guitar. The story time will be followed by a sugar skull craft. First come, first serve. While supplies last.

#### ADULT PROGRAMS

**Knitting & Crochet Circle:** Fridays, October 4 and 18 at 9:30-11:00am. This is a knit and crochet group where you can learn how to knit/crochet, knit/crochet in good company, show off your latest projects, and get to know your fellow neighbors. Children are welcome.

**Monthly Lecture Series: Talking to Your Doctor about What is Important When you Have a Serious or Fatal Illness:** Saturday, October 12 at 1:30-3:00pm. Many people fear being over-treated as the end-of-life draws nears. This talk will give you the language you need to have discussions with your health providers and family to ensure your wishes are honored.

**Community Gynecological Cancer Support Group Meeting:** Thursday, October 31 at 10:00am-12:00pm. This is an ongoing monthly support group meeting for patients and survivors of gynecological cancers.

### University Community Library (Governor Drive)

#### CHILDREN/TEEN PROGRAMS

**Celebrate Nuestra Cultura - San Diego Public Library's recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 – October 15. Wednesday, October 30 at 10:30am.** Ms. Jackie hosts a very special storytime and tells the story of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), shares a song and offers a fun sugar skull craft (while supplies last). Ms. Jackie will repeat this program during the month of October at various San Diego Public Library branches. Check here for times/dates: [www.sandiego.gov/public-library/culture/nuestracultura](http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/culture/nuestracultura)

**Toddler Storytime & Craft – Wednesdays, 10:30am.** Sing and dance and listen to stories with Ms. Jackie!

**Children's Craft (In-person):** Tuesday, October 8, 2:30pm – Make paper beads and turn them into bracelets and necklaces. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Younger patrons will need their adult to help them make the beads.

**Fall Cookie Decorating\*:** Thursday, October 8, 4:00pm. All supplies provided. Limited to 20 participants. \*Register online or call the library to register.

**Children's Take-Home Craft:** Tuesday, October 22 – Not-So-Spooky Spiders. All ages.

**Learn to Make & Decorate Sugar Skulls\*:** Thursday, October 24, 4:00pm. All supplies provided. Limited to 20 participants. \*Register online or call the library to register.

#### ADULT PROGRAMS

**Mahjong Club (open play):** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 9:30am – 12:30pm. & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 2:00pm. – 5:30pm.\*\* Space available for 12 players. Beginners are welcome. Three mahjong sets are available for use and we recommend that you bring your own 2024 card. *The Mahjong Club will not meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in October 25 due to election preparations.* Stay tuned: another mahjong class is planned for next spring!

**USS Midway Museum presents: Where is the Nearest Carrier?** Tuesday, October 8, 12:30pm. Learn all about the surprising roles of aircraft carriers from 1922 to present, from supplying an American city's electricity to volcano evacuations to marathon hostage crises.

**English Conversation Group:** Fridays: October 4, October 18, November 15, 10:00am-11:00am. Meet with other folks to practice and improve your English speaking skills with a native speaker. No curriculum, no homework – just a chance to practice talking with others. Monthly topics will be shared prior to each meeting.

**Book Discussion: Absolution, by Alice McDermott.** Saturday, October 26, 11:00am. Are you on the holds list waiting for a copy of *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah? Did you read *The Women* and want to know more about the different roles held by American women during the Vietnam War? Pick up a copy now and join the discussion on October 26. Copies are available for pick up now at the University Community Library.

**Qi Gong:** Thursdays, 9:30am-11:30am

**Qi Gong:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 9:30am to 11:30am (next class October 12 - outside).

**MORE FROM THE LIBRARY**

**News from the Friends of the UC Branch Library**

*by Helen Lebowitz*

The Friends would like to inform you of a change in date for the Fall Big Book Sale. The sale will be held on Saturday, November 9 instead of October 26 as originally planned. Please mark your calendars with the change. As usual we can accept only cash or checks. We are also pleased to announce that Amy Barkan and Susan Griffin will again be donating a beautiful quilt to be auctioned at the sale. We are hoping the quilt will be available to view before the sale so that you may purchase tickets at your leisure.

We'd also like to announce that the Friends have recently joined with Operation Book Support to help us with on-line sales of donated books. Proceeds of these sales as well as our daily sales go directly to the library to support programs, materials and equipment. We are always looking for help with our sales and for participation in the day to day activities of the Friends, so if you have some time to spare we'd love to see you. Please reach out to the library staff who will pass the information on to us. See you at the sale!

**PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT**

Through the Exposure Photo Fellowship, artist John Raymond Mireles has fostered connections with San Diego immigrant communities, engaging in community outreach and personal interactions. With this collaborative process, Mireles created a series of environmental portraits, capturing the essence of foreign-born and second-generation individuals who are integral to the city's fabric. The New Colossus is on view throughout the city, including nine library locations, through October 31. The image at University Community Library features Amand from Haiti, and is located next to the Circulation Desk.

**Colonel Erik Herrmann assumes command at MCAS Miramar**

*by Diane Ahern, rep to MCAS Miramar Community Leaders Forum*



Commanding Officer Col Erik Herrmann provided an introductory brief at the September UCPG meeting. Of particular interest to me and perhaps to other residents of UC are these two items:

Col Herrmann introduced himself by sharing his University City connections - his parents used to rent an apartment on Nobel Drive; and his wife and her sister shared an apartment in the same area many years ago. He's also done a previous tour of duty at MCAS Miramar with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (3rd MAW), leaving that command in 2021. He's happy to be back at MCAS Miramar for a three-year tour of duty and looks forward to working with the University City and San Diego community. He mentioned that many of the Marines and Sailors stationed at MCAS Miramar and many of the civilian employees who work on base live throughout the San Diego area and they are all part of the community just as we are who live in University City.

Col Herrmann summarized his priorities as the MCAS Miramar commanding officer:

- Support and maintain current operations and the relationship with the 3rd MAW.
- Ensure base security and energy resilience.
- Improve quality of life for those who live and work on the base.
- Support future operations and force design. Force design refers to the Marine Corps goals to transform into a more agile, efficient, and technologically advanced force to meet the challenges of the future.

For more information about MCAS Miramar, visit: [miramar.marines.mil](http://miramar.marines.mil)

**Drop, Cover, and Hold On during the 2024 Great California ShakeOut**

International ShakeOut Day is the third Thursday of October; this year it's October 17. As always, you can hold your personal ShakeOut drill when and where you want. Taking the proper actions, such as "Drop, Cover, and Hold On," can save lives and reduce the risk of injury to you and family members during an earthquake. Everyone, everywhere, should learn and practice what to do during an earthquake, whether at home, work, school, or traveling. In MOST situations, you will reduce your chance of injury if you:

- DROP where you are onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and also allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter if nearby.
- COVER your head and neck with one arm and hand. If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath it for shelter. If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall (away from windows). Stay on your knees; bend over to protect vital organs.
- HOLD ON until shaking stops. If you are under shelter, hold on to your shelter with one hand; be ready to move with it if it shifts. If no shelter, hold on to your head and neck with both arms and hands.

The Library Department invites you:

# Employment Informational Session

Start your career with us!



**October 18th**  
**3 pm - 4 pm**

Location: 4155 Governor Dr, San Diego, CA 92122  
(University Community Library)



Register with the link  
Or scan QR code  
[tinyurl.com/UniCommEIS](http://tinyurl.com/UniCommEIS)

Any Questions?  
Email us at: [jobs@sandiego.gov](mailto:jobs@sandiego.gov)

Learn about city jobs and the application process!



Browse Now:  
City Jobs Available  
[sandiego.gov/jobs](http://sandiego.gov/jobs)






## HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

from the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department

Halloween should be fun and safe for children and parents. Follow these simple rules to be sure that it is.

- Purchase only costumes, wigs and props labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant. When creating a costume, choose material that will not easily ignite if it comes in contact with heat or flame. Avoid billowing or long trailing features.
- Provide children with lightweight flashlights to carry for lighting or as part of their costume
- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.
- Use flashlights or battery-operated candles when illuminating jack-o'-lantern. Use extreme caution when decorating with candle lit jack-o'-lanterns, and supervise children at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o'-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches and be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn including doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, ensuring nothing blocks escape routes.
- Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torchlights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.
- Instruct children to stay away from open flames or other heat sources. Be sure children know how to stop, drop and roll in the event their clothing catches fire. (Stop immediately, drop to the ground, covering your face with your hands, and roll over and over to extinguish flames.) Cool the burn.
- Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside, that the venting is kept clear and unobstructed, and that the exit point is properly sealed around the vent, all of which is to make sure deadly carbon monoxide does not build up in the home.
- Instruct children who are attending parties at others' homes to locate the exits and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM COUNCIL'S  
**KIDS FREE**  
**KIDS FREE SAN DIEGO 2024**  
**KIDS ARE FREE THIS OCTOBER!**  
**KIDS FREE AT MORE THAN 50 MUSEUMS**

All month long in October, kids 12 and under receive FREE admission with a paid adult to more than 50 of San Diego County's favorite museums, historic sites, aquariums, gardens and more. Many are even free for the whole family! Kids also get to eat, stay, and play for free with dozens of deals on hotels, activities, attractions, restaurants and more. Plan your trip today at [SanDiego.org](http://SanDiego.org) and get ready to explore! For a listing of Kids Free offers in October, go to the website: [sandiegomuseumcouncil.org/specials/kidsfree/](http://sandiegomuseumcouncil.org/specials/kidsfree/).

## Halloween Happenings at our Local Parks & Recreation Centers

by Diane Ahern

There's always something to do at our local parks. This month we highlight Fall Festivals, Halloween Carnivals and Spooky Movies. For a complete list of all program and service offerings at San Diego Parks & Recreation Facilities and Pools, visit: [sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation](http://sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation)

- October 11 at *Nobel Park Recreation Center*: Nobel's Halloween Carnival and Movie in the Park kicks off at 4:00pm and the Movie will start around 6:30pm. There are carnival games, picture area, public relations area, food trucks and a visit from the fire truck! The Halloween movie, *Coco*, will start around 6:30pm. Bring your own blankets and chairs.
- October 18 at *Doyle Park and Recreation Center*: Doyle will present its Halloween Movie in the Park. *Caspar* will begin around Sunset. Bring your own blankets and chairs.
- October 23 at *Doyle Park and Recreation Center*: Doyle's Halloween Carnival in the Park is after school from 12:30 to 2:30pm. Activities include arts & crafts, games and music.
- October 26 at *Standley Park and Recreation Center*: Halloween events include arts & crafts, a costume parade as well as a movie. The arts & crafts and costume parade will take place shortly before the movie. This year's Halloween Movie in the Park, *Hotel Transylvania 3*, will begin around sunset. Bring your own blankets and chairs.

The City of SAN DIEGO

Movie in the Park Featuring:  
**"Hotel Transylvania III"**  
 Movie starts at Dusk  
 Movie sponsored by Standley Park Community Recreation Group

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024**  
 Costume Parade, Arts & Crafts  
 Before the Movie.

Movies in the park is a perfect chance to relax and enjoy a safe and special night under the stars.

All City of San Diego Parks and Beaches are Smoke Free.  
 For More Information Please Call  
 (858) 552-1852





## After 37 Years - Roger Says Goodbye

by Venkat Sethuraman

Standley Recreation Center's Director Mr. Roger Hughes will be retiring on Friday, October 18, after working for San Diego Parks and Rec. department for 37+ years. Mr. Hughes was born in San Diego and grew up in Clairemont area. He joined Parks and Rec in 1987 and has worked at various recreation centers namely South Clairemont, Mid-City Gym, PB, Robb Field, Cabrillo Rec., Robb Field Skate Park, Kearny Mesa Rec, Santa Clara Rec and all three of University City's Doyle, Nobel and Standley (2 terms) Rec Centers. His current term at Standley started in 2017.

During his current term at Standley, he oversaw the transition of Recreation Councils to Community Recreation Groups (CRG) including the complex financial transition. He hosted regular movie, Easter, Halloween and Holiday events in addition to Standley Rec Center's very own annual UC Celebration and Banana Split events. He was a regular fixture at these events and his absence will be most noticeable at these events.

Mr. Hughes maintained cordial relationships with the community members, community organizations, user-groups and CRG members. A full CRG membership and regular smooth conduct of CRG meetings that keep community in the know are a testament to his effort in this regard. He further trained many successful Assistant Center Directors (ACD's) who have gone on to become successful Center Directors. Mr. Hughes is known for his quick and 'Dry' sense of humor.

We wish Mr. Hughes a happy retirement. Please take some time to stop by the Rec. center to wish him well and thank him for his memorable stint in San Diego Parks and Rec. department.

## UC PEOPLE: BOB & BARBARA STARKEY



### Shaping a Community: The Starkey's Legacy in University City

by Vince Reardon

In the summer of 1967, Bob and Barbara Starkey embarked on a new chapter, leaving behind the familiar sights of Whittier, California, for the emerging community of University City. Drawn by the promise of innovation and community, Bob accepted a position in the Planning Department at UCSD, a move that would soon define his legacy in the area.

Bob's passion for community development quickly earned him the presidency of the fledgling University City Civic Association [*preceding the current University City Community Association*] (UCCA), a role he held for six years. With a vision for a harmonious and well-planned neighborhood, he set out to draft a comprehensive "blueprint" that would lay the foundation for University City's future.

"One aspect of that blueprint was south UC would be reserved for single-family homes, while north UC was for apartments and condos," Barbara noted. "There was also one section for duplexes. Bob spent a lot of time talking to our City Councilman," she said with a laugh.

At that time, a significant portion of University City was a blank canvas on the cusp of transformation. Barbara said parents of the post-war Baby Boom generation — the largest generation in U.S. history — were fueling the demand for family-oriented communities with ample housing, public schools, parks, and even a community swimming pool. "Bob and the UCCA board had to deliver," she said.

Building on this momentum was the proximity of the rapidly expanding UCSD campus. With many university professors and staff in need of housing, University City was poised to meet the demand.

During this pivotal moment, Bob and Barbara were also raising a young family. Their two children, Catherine and William, attended local public schools, and Bob and Barbara engaged them in Scouting, Little League, backpacking, and skiing. Meanwhile, Barbara led a Girl Scout troop for 13 years. This year, many of the girls from that troop, now women, reunited to thank Barbara for her unwavering dedication and the positive impact she had on their lives.

Bob retired from UCSD in 2000, but his lasting impact on University City will be felt for decades to come.



## UC GARDEN CLUB VISITS CURIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GARDENS

by *Jemma Samala*

Vanessa Walkowiak led UC Garden Club members on a tour of the Curie Elementary School gardens, which includes a Kindergarten garden, the Butterfly garden (pictured above), and the Teaching garden visible along Governor Drive. Partially funded through a grant from the Sage Garden Project, Vanessa leads the students in learning about the importance of engaging with the earth and the natural growing cycles throughout the year. The school-wide program reaches all 540 students and provides a more equitable method than the volunteer led programs that only reached a few classes.

Students learn all aspects of gardening, beginning from planting from seed, the harvesting with a lesson on mindful eating. Besides the outdoor classroom, the program has use of one of the nearby bungalow rooms, outfitted with kitchen supplies and a cooking lesson mirrored table. They also learn about natural fertilization methods and techniques to get rid of pests, although, like many of us in the neighborhood, those gophers are pretty pesky critters. Future goals include taking leftovers from lunch to use in compost bins, and creating a learning trail.

The mission of the program is: *to provide dynamic garden learning spaces, tools, curriculum resources and a school community infrastructure to Curie Elementary. All teachers and all 540 Curie students have access to outdoor, hands-on, integrated garden, cooking and scientific educational opportunities on an ongoing basis throughout their entire school year.* One parent said, "My kids come home after garden/cooking class and are so excited to try making the recipes at home. My kids rarely eat vegetables and now they are begging for vegetables!"

Since only partially funded, the program does need help in continuing to provide environmental education to the students. If you would like to help by making a donation, or through giving of your time and expertise as a volunteer, contact Vanessa Walkowiak at [vw.samjack@gmail.com](mailto:vw.samjack@gmail.com).



Scenes from the learning garden, and above left, Jason (JJ) and Jack, our student guides.



## UC GARDEN CLUB TO LEARN ABOUT FALL GARDENING

In October, the UC Garden Club will piggyback on the UC Library's event:

**Fall (Cool Season) Edible Gardening:** Saturday, October 12, 1:00pm. Grow your own nutritious fruits, vegetables and herbs at home using these simple but detailed instructions. Heather will share with you all the necessary inputs to grow an edible garden from fall through winter. You'll know which vegetables can be grown in the fall and how to irrigate and harvest your produce. Thanks to the UCCE Master Gardeners of San Diego County for their expertise.

To get on the UC Garden Club email list, contact [jemmasamala@gmail.com](mailto:jemmasamala@gmail.com)



Photo: John Jacobs, SDUSD



## BRINGING PEACE TO THE COMMUNITY

by *Jemma Samala*

When walking around Standley Park, you may have noticed a Peace Pole. Originally dedicated 19 years ago, the Peace Pole was getting shabby. Step in Tama Becker-Varano, one of the original Girl Scout Troop leaders, along with Marie Webber, who decided it was time to refurbish the Peace Pole. And on September 21, the International Day of Peace, there was a UC Peace Pole Ceremony to rededicate the Peace Pole and to bring the community together.

The event was organized by the *Change Begins with Me Steering Committee*, pictured above from left: Vivian LaPaglia, Nancy Kern, Netanya Cranford, Rojielynn Fay, Tama Becker-Varano, Petrine McShane, Cheryl Stigall, and Jane Moores; not pictured: Marie Minnick.



*Mission Bay Montessori Academy Peace Choir*



*Hip hop performances by San Diego Civic Dance Arts*



*Martial Arts demo from Kyung Hee TaeKwonDo; peace speech from Avery, Girl Scout Troop 3266*



Event activities included a mock voting booth for children, and tables for "Get Out the Vote" postcard writing. Day of volunteers included students from the UCHS CSF, UCHS MCIRTOTC, and Girl Scout Troop 3266. The students helped run the booths which featured crafts from the 12 languages around the Peace Pole: English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Kumeyaay, Spanish, Ukrainian, and Xhosa.



*Kumeyaay native language speech; Spreckels Elementary Spanish Choir*



The event ended with a fun handheld peace dance around the Peace Pole, led by San Diego Dances of Universal Peace. To learn more about the local Change Begins With ME group, follow at: [facebook.com/groups/ActnowChangebeginwithme](https://facebook.com/groups/ActnowChangebeginwithme)



*Councilmember Kent Lee; Tama Becker-Varano, Nomsa Burkhardt (South African performer), and Marie Webber*



*Photos courtesy Greg Hom*

## UC Planning Group Meeting Update

by Chris Nielsen, UCPG Chair

The September UCPG meeting was held at an alternate location in September due to a special at our regular meeting location, Alexandria's GradLabs. Thanks to Biomed Reality for the meeting room at the Center for Novel Therapeutics that supports hybrid meetings.

At the beginning of the meeting, we had a short presentation by Col. Erik Herrmann, the new MCAS Miramar base commander. Col. Herrmann outlined his goals for his three-year term as base commander. (See the related article by Diane Ahern on pg. 7)

On the agenda, we had the renewal of a Conditional Use Permit for an ATT Wireless Control Facility located just north of the Salk Institute, an action item to postpone UCPG District 4 elections by one month, an action item to determine if the UCPG would like to take a final vote on the University Community Plan, and an action item to rank our CIP choices. The wireless project was approved. The District 4 election postponement by one month was approved to facilitate outreach to UC San Diego residents.

The UCPG meeting attendance was impacted by the presidential debate held at the same time as our meeting. We did have a quorum, but 7 of 10 voting members present elected to attend via Zoom. We did decide to postpone the discussion on a final vote on the plan update and CIP ranking until October to facilitate a more focused consideration of these two issues.

The UCPG will have a booth at the Oktoberfest event at Standley Park benefitting the EdUCate! University City Foundation for Public Schools, so stop by and say hello.

The UC Plan Update passed the City Council on July 30, with the ordinance enacting the plan signed by the Mayor on August 7. Ordinances enacting the CPIOZ, rezone, and 166-acre open space dedication had a second reading at City Council, which the City approved September 10, 2024. The community plan will go into effect on December 1, 2024. The exception is the Coastal Zone, which requires certification from the California Coastal Commission.

The UCPG will meet as usual on October 8 at our regular location, Alexandria's GradLabs building, third floor Terra Nova conference room, at 6:00pm. The GradLabs building is located at 9880 Campus Point Drive.

## City Planning Fiscal Year 2025 Work Program

The City Planning Department has announced that its Work Program for 2025 is now available online. The Planning Department has summarized all the major planning initiatives and year-round planning work underway, along with estimated completion dates and current status. The work program is also available in PDF format.

The work program includes ongoing work and as well as new planning initiatives that provide an actionable roadmap toward the Planning Department's mission to plan for an equitable and sustainable future with affordable homes, good jobs, infrastructure and public spaces for the people of San Diego. The Planning Department hopes that residents stay engaged in this important work. To view the Work Program, visit: [sandiego.gov/planning/work/working-on](http://sandiego.gov/planning/work/working-on)



Genesee work area near UC High School overlooking Rose Canyon

## Pure Water San Diego Update

The Pure Water construction crews made notable progress on pipeline installation and tunnel construction in the University City area over the last month, and work will continue through the end of the year as part of the Morena Northern Pipelines and Tunnels project.

Construction is currently underway on Genesee Avenue between Centurion Square and Decoro Street. This phase of the project involves the construction of the third tunneling shaft south of Decoro Street, which will connect with the recently completed shaft at Rose Canyon. In addition to what you can see happening above-ground in this area, there is also activity occurring underground as a part of the tunneling.

To facilitate this construction the following traffic adjustments have been implemented:

- Northbound Lanes on Genesee Avenue will be closed between Centurion Square and Decoro Street, with all traffic redirected to southbound lanes.
- Two-lane northbound traffic restored prior to Decoro Street.
- Traffic will be maintained in both directions.

To date, nearly three miles of pipeline and nearly a quarter-mile of tunnel have been installed. Construction notices are shared online at [UTC.PureWaterSD.org](http://UTC.PureWaterSD.org). For any questions, email [PureWaterSD@sandiego.gov](mailto:PureWaterSD@sandiego.gov) or call 833.882.7973.

## OCTOBER FOOD DRIVE REMINDER

University City United Church's (UCUC) monthly food drive for the benefit of Community Christian Service Association (CCSA) will take place on Sunday, October 6 from 11:30am to 12:30pm at the UCUC parking lot. UCUC's parking lot is located off of Gobat Avenue, directly behind the Church's 2877 Governor Drive location.

As a postscript to UCUC's September 29 Blessing of the Pets, we are encouraging our neighbors to donate pet foods and supplies which will be distributed by CCSA to pet-owning individuals and families who are experiencing food insecurity. These cherished, joy-nurturing animals often share in their loved one's hunger.

Our special October ask does not preclude our neighbors from also donating unexpired packaged food items, baby food and diapers as well personal care products. CCSA continues to face shortages of rice (1 lb. bags), pasta, beans (1 lb. bags), pasta sauce (plastic jars), cereal/oatmeal, cans of fruit & vegetables, peanut butter (16oz. plastic jars) and boxes of macaroni and cheese. Details about the vital services CCSA provides may be found at [www.ccsasandiego.org](http://www.ccsasandiego.org). Info about UCUC is found at [www.ucuc.org](http://www.ucuc.org)



## UC Fire Safe Council Hold Home Hardening Event

by *Jemma Samala*

The University City Fire Safe Council held a seminar event at the North UC Library on September 14 to discuss various fire-related topics. First off, San Diego Fire Rescue Department Battalion Chief Erik Windsor spoke about the fire department services in general, and the many programs in place to help residents to fire harden their home. He spoke about the different fire zones around your home, including Zone 0 which is the first five feet around your home and should be kept clear of any combustible materials. He also stressed the importance of when being told to evacuate during a wildfire to comply, and when it's a mandatory evacuation, then it's too late. Battalion Chief Windsor noted that many times during such evacuations, the fire and rescue personnel have to spend time doing welfare checks and evacuating residents, rather than putting out the actual fires; lives are a priority over property.



California Department of Insurance Outreach Analyst Sharon Smith also spoke about the CA Sustainable Insurance Strategy and its importance to both the insurance market and consumers. More info can be found at [insurance.ca.gov](http://insurance.ca.gov). She also mentioned that communities as small as 8 homes can be designated "Fire-Safe" and receive insurance discounts.



UCFSC Vice President Tom Cartier presented an update on local fire hardening projects throughout our local neighborhoods and the positive changes we have seen in the past few years. Smoke detectors were given to those in attendance. For more info about the UC FSC and fire hardening, go to [ucfiresafecouncil.com](http://ucfiresafecouncil.com)

### QR Code to City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department

Use this QR code to connect to the Wildlife Management and Enforcement page and information about the Real Estate Defensible Space Inspection Program. An inspection is also needed when you sell property that is located on a high or very high fire hazed severity zone, such as being located along a canyon. There will be a link to begin an application process. There is also information about the Proactive Brush Management Program, the Annual Weed Abatement Vacant Lot Program, and the Weed Abatement and Brush Complaint Program – with a link to submit a complaint. Additional Resources on that page include: Erosion Control, a Ready, Set Go! Wildland Action Guide, and a low-cost retrofit list from CAL Fire.



## Your Smoke and Carbon Detector and You

by *Ex-Chief William H. Beck*

National Fire Prevention Month is celebrated every October to raise awareness about the importance of fire safety, commemorating the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. This tragic event killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, and destroyed over 17,400 buildings. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has announced that the theme for Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, 2024, is "Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You!" This theme aims to educate residents on the simple but crucial actions they can take to stay safe from home fires.

Your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, when properly installed and maintained, can be your best allies in the fight against fire. While good fire prevention practices help reduce the chance of fire in your home, there is always a risk of it occurring. Similar to a dog warning of danger from an intruder, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors alert you to the deadliest intruder. Smoke detectors can detect the presence of smoke during the early stages of a fire, while carbon monoxide detectors alert you to deadly gas long before large amounts can trap you. These detectors are especially crucial while you are sleeping.

The first step is to purchase smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, readily available in many stores. The next step is to install them properly. They should be placed in bedrooms or just outside of bedrooms where they can be easily heard while you are sleeping. Smoke detectors should be installed on ceilings or high on walls where smoke and heat will begin to accumulate first.

Carbon monoxide detectors should be placed low. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when installing detectors. For optimal performance, I recommend avoiding combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Unfortunately, just having smoke and carbon monoxide detectors is not enough. Like a family pet, detectors require regular attention. Detectors should be tested at least once a month, and most units now come with a test button for that purpose. Never paint a detector, as it could affect its proper operation.

Most detectors today come with a ten-year sealed battery; however, if yours does not, change the batteries once a year. It is recommended to change your detector's batteries when you change your clocks in November. Better yet, replace that old detector with a new ten-year one.

Remember, what fire destroys never returns!

# Thank You to Renewing and New UCCA Members for 2025

### Individual

Barbara Magdlen

### Supporter

Edward & Sheryl McAtee  
Chuck & Pam McPherron  
Jo-Ann Middleman  
Tiffany Nelson

### Angel

Dieter & Margaret Boothe  
Leslie Abrams & Nick McCulley

### Gold

Diane Ahern  
Thomas Ahern  
EdUCate!  
Martha Gerth  
Nancy & Bill Ivy  
Steve Lyons  
Bob & Amy Murad  
Mike & Judy Palm  
Roxane Roberts  
Jemma Samala

### Donor

May Lee Chang & Ju Chang Ho

UCCA Membership dues help fund the printed University City NEWS. To help continue publication, please consider being a paid UCCA member and/or making a contribution by sending in the form below, or going to [universitycitynews.org](http://universitycitynews.org). Thank you!

## UCCA AT WORK



### Butterfly Box on Stresemann

The vibrant colors of the butterflies and flowers that Karen Dang painted, wake up your senses to the beauty of nature that she has captured. Her artistic talents are so diverse and we are so fortunate that she could share her art in our community.

We thank SDGE for giving us permission to beautify these boxes and give artists the opportunity to showcase their talents.

*UCCA uses funds collected from membership dues to help fund the utility box beautification project. If you want to see more of these projects, become a paid UCCA member today!*

### University City Community Association 2025 UCCA Membership Application\*

\_\_\_\$100 Gold | \_\_\_\$75 Angel | \_\_\_\$50 Supporter | \_\_\_\$25 Individual | \_\_\_\$500 Donor/Corporate



\$\_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation Enclosed



Please print Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Corporate name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*We prefer checks; please make your check payable to UCCA; mail to UCCA, 3298 Governor Drive, #22574, San Diego, CA 92122.*

Payment is also accepted on UCCA's website at [universitycitynews.org/join-ucca-today](http://universitycitynews.org/join-ucca-today)

Your UCCA membership dues (and optional additional donation) make a big difference in our community. These funds help support worthwhile local organizations, as well as many local projects, events, and activities.

Your membership dues also support UCCA's University City News print newsletter, and UCCA's website and social media sites.

Would you like to volunteer? We welcome your time, talent, comments and suggestions.

Please let us know by emailing us at: [UniversityCityNews@gmail.com](mailto:UniversityCityNews@gmail.com)

\*This membership is valid for the 2025 calendar year. UCCA is a 501(c)4 organization and membership dues are not tax deductible.

*Thank you for joining UCCA. For the latest University City News, visit our website at: [UniversityCityNews.org](http://UniversityCityNews.org)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN UC...

### FURNITURE DONATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Whether it's a cozy chair, a sturdy table, or any piece that can turn a house into a home.



Your generous furniture donation will help foster youth furnish their First Home.

Recommended items:

- |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Gently Used       | New Condition              |
| Dressers          | Vacuums                    |
| Nightstand        | Towels                     |
| Coffee tables     | Cookware/Kitchen appliance |
| Small desk/Chairs | Dishware/Glassware sets    |
| Lamps             | Silverware sets            |
| LCD TVs           | Comforters and Blankets    |
|                   | Sheets and Pillows         |

October 12, 2024  
9am-12pm

Scan or call to let us know you are coming so we can plan for your items. Have a larger donation? We can make other arrangements.



### OUR NEXT FREE BRUNCH & LEARN IS OCT 5TH

If you have been thinking about your next chapter, then you don't want to miss this homeowner seminar before making any moves!

Everything you need to know about:

- ✓ Pre-move planning and consultation
- ✓ Professional organization/decluttering/estate sales
- ✓ Selling "AS-IS" vs remodeling
- ✓ Housing market update
- ✓ Tax implications when selling your home
- ✓ How Prop 19 can benefit you and/or your parents
- ✓ Living trusts and estate planning
- ✓ Real estate commission changes

October 5, 2024  
10am - 12pm  
Lawrence Family JCC



FREE BRUNCH

See you there!

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### BECOME A WILDCAT RUN COMMUNITY SPONSOR

Spreckels Elementary PTA is on the prowl for new businesses to sponsor our 2024 Wildcat Run!

Why sponsor?

- **Promote your business** within the local community through unique promotional opportunities such as banners displayed outside the school!
- **Tax-deductible donations** -- Spreckels Elementary PTA is registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit!
- **Multiple Sponsorship Levels & benefits are available** -- starting at \$200 to have your business name appear on our WCR T-shirt distributed to all 675 students & staff!
- **Show your support** and make a difference in your local community school!

PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT BY  
OCT. 15 FOR MAXIMUM PROMOTIONAL BENEFIT

EMAIL [WILDCATR@SPRECKELSPTA.ORG](mailto:WILDCATR@SPRECKELSPTA.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION



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**Nobel Athletic Fields & Rec Center**  
8810 Judicial Dr., San Diego, CA 92122  
858-552-1626

**Nobel Halloween Carnival & Movie in the Park**

**Arts and Crafts - Goodie Bags - Costume Parade  
- Halloween Festival - Movie**



**Friday, October 11, 2024**

Festival Starts: 4:00 p.m.

**Community Resources**

Food Vendor

Carnival Games

Costume Parade: 6:00 p.m.

Movie: Dusk (Around 6:15 p.m.)

Please bring your own blanket or a chair.

**This is a free event!**

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The City of **SAN DIEGO**  
PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**Doyle Recreation Center**  
8175 Regents Road, San Diego, CA 92122 (858) 552-1612

**HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL & MOVIE IN THE PARK**

October 23, 2024 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm  
Activities include arts & crafts, games and music.  
All activities are FREE!

*Featured Movie in the Park*



*Casper (1995) - PG*

*A Special Thanks to our Event Sponsor:  
Doyle Park and Recreation Advisory Group*

Volunteers are needed, please contact staff at 858-552-1612 if interested.

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Next Issue: November 2024  
Deadline: **October 22, 2024**



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## Día de los Muertos Bilingual Storytime


Monday, October 21st 11:45 AM North University Library 8820 Judicial Drive 858-581-9637	Wednesday, October 30th 10:30 AM University Community Library 4155 Governor Drive 858-552-1655
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With special acknowledgement to the Friends of the University Community Public Library and SDPL's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, we are proud to invite you to join our Youth Services Librarian, Ms. Jackie, in celebrating Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. This holiday is a time honored tradition remembering the beloved lives of those who came before us.


Ms. Jackie will share a special story, lead the group with fun songs while playing her jarana, followed by an engaging sugar skull decorating craft.

Oh, don't worry if you can't make it. Ms. Jackie will present this storytime at other branches throughout San Diego in late October. Check SDPL's website for a list of times and locations.  
<https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.





**University Community Library**  
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15th Annual

# Oktoberfest

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**2 - 6 PM STANDLEY PARK**  
**CRAFT FAIR OPENS 1 PM**

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