

in this issue >>>

Ways to Give Back in University City

Walking Audits in Local Parks

Marcy Park Renovation Dedication

Pure Water Project Update

UC People: Mark Zumberge

universitycitynews.org



Community leaders "broke ground" at the Marcy Park improvements dedication on November 6. The \$5.1 million upgrade is expected to be completed by Spring 2026. Pictured above are: Andy Field, SD Parks & Rec Director; Chris Nielsen, UCPG Chair; Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava; Ruth DeSantis, UCCF President; Councilmember Kent Lee; Congressman Scott Peters; and Jemma Samala, UCCA President.

UNIVERSITY CITY... more than just a neighborhood!

University City

NEWS

UCCA's Holiday "Socking" Stuffer Idea for the Whole Family

Walk brightly into the holiday season with designer socks for children, men and women. Everyday plus Hanukkah and Christmas designs available. Don't wait, order now. With a small donation per pair, you can have a great gift for everyone on your list.

Go to universitycitynews.org, click on Neighborhood Watch/Socks for Safety for latest flyer or email bggellman@yahoo.com for the flyer. Donations received support the UCCA's Neighborhood Watch program.



Holiday Traditions: University City's Holiday Lights Annual Lighting of the Menorah and Christmas Tree at Standley Park – Friday, December 13

Friday, December 13 will be a lucky day for University City residents as we celebrate the 22nd lighting of the Christmas Tree and Menorah at Standley Park. The event is sponsored by your University City Community Association, Standley Parks Council, and Standley Rec Center.

- 5:15 pm - Dinner with Santa (Boxed dinner from Lorna's Italian Kitchen, \$10 each; followed by arts and crafts.)
- 6:10 pm - University City High School Band kicks off the entertainment.
- 6:30 pm - Welcome and Announcements, followed by:
 - Our Mother of Confidence Children's Choir
 - Spreckels Elementary Spanish Chorus
 - Montessori Academy Children's Chorus
 - Menorah Lighting and the Hanuckah Song by Tom Ventimiglia
 - Key of She Chorus
 - Countdown to the Christmas Tree Lighting

Santa will be visiting children during the dinner, and will then come outside to take photos throughout the evening. After the entertainment, attendees will be treated to cookies and hot chocolate. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring family, friends, neighbors to this highly anticipated University City tradition.

Thanks to the committee for planning, especially Darlene Ventimiglia and Barry Bernstein from UCCA, and Carol Parham from the Standley Parks Council. Volunteers are also needed for the decorating on Monday, December 9 at 9:00am. If interested, just show up at the Standley Rec Center!

The City of **SAN DIEGO**

Santa is here!

\$10 A MEAL, CASH OR VENMO ONLY

13TH DEC.

Dinner with Santa, Christmas Tree & Menorah Lighting

LIVE MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS, HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIES AND LOTS OF FUN!

3585 GOVERNOR DR., SAN DIEGO | 5:15 PM - 6:30 PM

UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Published by **University City Community Association**
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Editor Jemma Samala, UCCAeditor@gmail.com

Advertising Terri Day, 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 or jemmasamala@gmail.com.

Deadline for the FEBRUARY 2025 issue: JANUARY 16

Please send your submission as early as possible. The deadline for the February issue is **January 16, 2025**, 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.

2024/2025 UCCA Board Members

Executive Board

President: Jemma Samala, 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: OPEN

Neighborhood Watch: Barbara Gellman

*Newsletter Ads: Terri Day

*Newsletter Editor & Distribution: 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 November 19, 2024 at University Community Library Excerpts of Minutes taken by Katie Rodolico, UCCA Secretary

Motions were made and passed to approve the October Board Meeting minutes and Financial Report.

Public Safety Reports

SDPD Officer Anderson Brown (AB): Resource officer. The transition to the new chief is going well. Stats: top calls in UC: medical emergency, civil, property, nonviolent. Top time spent on calls by type: medical emergency, domestic violence, property, non-violent, civil. Top number of reports written: larceny, theft from motor vehicle, vandalism, burglary, breaking/entering. 18 accidents, 4 hit runs, no DUIs, no fatalities. Talked about what pedestrians and bikes should do when sirens are heard - they should clear the intersection if in the street. 222 "get it done" reports submitted for northern division. Average of 1.46 days to clear. Homeless outreach team - did just under 100 interviews. 20 citations given. Just under 10 arrests. Around 75 interviewees declined services. The Cop Team: Community Oriented Policing Team. Heading by Jessica Thrift and four other officers. They are focused on Get it Done submissions, violation of signs, etc.

There is one trolley officer assigned during mall hours. Plus mall security. For trespassing after mall hours, police are called by mall security.

Police have insisted on fencing and private security at the Cosa Verde property.

There is a 20-day grace period to educate the community on the new city daylighting parking restrictions.

Public Projects Reports

Pure Water Project Update - Matt Parks & Clem Wassenberg: Clem is retiring. Carlos Molina (CM) is taking over. There has been 3 tunnels, 1671 linear feet of tunnel installed. Carrier pipe at rose canyon is completed. Just completed the 2nd tunnel today. Continuing tunneling at I805. The newer contractor is making good progress. Continuing work at 52 tunnels. Tunnels are complete but need vertical pipes installed and hooked in. When complete will move back to under 52. Construction around UCHS should be complete by end of December 2024. Flagger onsite at Decoro to help pedestrians and bikes cross Genesee. Light is on flash. Crane at UCHS demobilized by the end of 2024. Final connection of 40 linear feet being installed at crane at 52. Focusing on getting out of Genesee at 52 south of 52. Should be done by the end of Q1 2025. Includes temp paving and curb stuff. Moratorium on work near the UTC mall from Thanksgiving to New Years. Pipe completed under Genesee between North Rose canyon and Genesee. The project is expected to be done by the end of March 2025. Median reconstruction was also discussed by Colleen Block.

Elected Official Reports:

Zach Burton (ZB) from Kent Lee's office: Thanks for coming to Marcy Park Dedication. Trees for troops program, which provides Christmas trees for active service members. Please get the word out to active duty families. There is a link on Kent Lee's website. Kent Lee and ZB will be at Holiday party.

UCPG: Chris Nielsen. (See page 12 for UCPG meeting recap.)

Open Discussion:

Library report Jackie: Friends of the Library book sale was very successful. Friends of the library purchased books for library programs. There is currently a veterans program at the central library to help with job search, housing search and other resources. The library has received significant feedback from the community with regards to the \$1.9M improvements. Please make your suggestions to Melissa Martin.

Helen Liebowitz - FOL is doing a membership drive. Forms are on the counter of the library.

Fee & Trash Recycling - Paula Roberts, Aqua Community Relations Group presented information outside the meeting but did not do a presentation.

Fire Safe Council: Several members of the UC Fire Safe Council attended the county meeting presentation. The focus of the meeting was on the Montezuma fire. This fire showed that urban fires in canyons happen and have big impacts. Six homes suffered significant damage in the Montezuma fire. None were totally destroyed.



UCCA President Jemma Samala

Season's Greetings! And what a cheerful greeting I had by these lovely ladies at my November Starbucks open hours – they even saved my favorite corner table! Thank you Andrea Lynch, Michelle Ogata, Heather Matson, and Diane McCarty for making my day and giving me the idea to ask for photos of UC folks with

their UC Newsletter, like what they do for the AAA Westways magazine. Yes – please send me your pics of where you read your UC Newsletter!

I love, love the holidays – the general festiveness, the food, the decorating, the cookies, the special events, the food. But I also love the special traditions that we all keep. One of my favorites is University City's tradition of lighting the Menorah and Christmas Tree, and I hope to see you there on Friday, December 13, starting with Dinner with Santa at 5:15pm. You'll especially love hearing the many singing voices from our youth, and those a little bit older – everyone will feel the urge to sing along too. It's that kind of special. And of course, the children will love taking photos with Santa (don't tell the kiddoes, but he's another one of our lifelong community volunteers).

Giving to others is also a gift to yourself, so make sure to look at the many ways to give back in our own community on page 11, plus holiday socks are available to support UCCA's Neighborhood Watch program (see cover for info).

It warms my heart to see a program I started at UCHS continue. Many years ago a friend asked if I could help out during the holidays with a local family in need, and I said yes, and also thought – there may be others in the same situation. That's when we started the adopt-a-family program at UCHS, which has evolved to being a Secret Snowman for those who could use a gift. One small gesture can become so much more, it's okay to start one.

Looking ahead to January, we like to make resolutions. I say be giving with your resolutions, like taking time to volunteer. And yes, you can volunteer for UCCA! We need all types of volunteers – newsletter delivery persons, Neighborhood Watch captains, membership, and for some new programs we are thinking about implementing, such as helping UC seniors.

No matter how your holidays look like, remember to enjoy every precious moment. Your joy is contagious. And if you see me humming the tune to Jingle Bell Rock while shopping at Sprouts, don't mind me, I'm finding my joy. Happy Holidays to you all, and to all of UC!

Jemma

Thinking Locally, Acting Neighborly



Ruth speaking at the Marcy Park Renovations Groundbreaking above and explaining the new upgrades to local residents below



If you have some to recommend for the Volunteer Spotlight, email jemmasamala@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Ruth DeSantis

Many of our community volunteers are those who are patiently and persistently working hard in the background trying to get things done for the neighborhood, taking years to advocate for forgotten projects. Ruth DeSantis, UCCF president, is one of those volunteers, and her hard work in getting renovations at Marcy Park has recently paid off. The city broke ground for \$5.1 million worth of upgrades to Marcy Park, which includes two new play areas for children ages 2 to 5, and another for ages 5 to 12; new shade structures; accessible walkways and play equipment; new lighting; and improved landscaping.

Ruth was also the force behind getting the city to agree to beautification improvements after the Pure Water Project is completed. Her go-getter attitude has helped educate our city leaders about our community needs, and in getting it done! Ruth's patience and perseverance got results for our University City community. Scott Peters said at the Marcy Park groundbreaking that "leadership happens at the community level", and we're happy to have Ruth advocating for University City.

Calendar

December 2024/January 2025

STANDLEY PARK COMMUNITY REC GROUP

Thursdays, 7:00pm

December 5 and January 23

For meeting details, call: 858.552.1651

PEOPLE FOR A CLEAN UC

Sunday, December 8 & January 12

7:15-7:30am – meet & greet

7:30-9:00am – work

Cleanup volunteers meet at Starbucks
3203 Governor Drive, supplies provided

DINNER WITH SANTA & HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Friday, December 13

5:15pm – Dinner with Santa, Arts & Crafts

6:10pm – UCHS Band Performs

6:30pm – Holiday Lights program begins – including lighting of the Menorah and Christmas Tree

Standley Park Rec Center

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25

HANUKKAH

Sundown, Wednesday, December 25 to

Sundown, Thursday, January 2

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Wednesday, January 1

JEMMA at STARBUCKS on SUNDAY

UCCA's President Open Hours

Stop by to discuss UCCA and University City, and **turn in 2025 membership forms!**

Saturday, January 11, 9:00 to 11:00am

Starbucks on Governor Drive

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Tuesday, January 14, 6:00pm

9880 Campus Point Drive, Third Floor

Zoom available

Info: planuniversity.org

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Monday, January 20

UCCA GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 21, 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

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



Package Theft Prevention Tips

Millions of packages are delivered every day in the U.S. and thieves know they are delivered straight to your front door step where they may sit for hours until you come home.

Here are some tips to ensure your packages are delivered safely!

1. Tracking numbers let you see when your package is supposed to arrive. This gives you the ability to pick up the package immediately upon delivery or to set up an alternate method of pick up.
2. Ask your neighbor to please pick the package up for you or Leave a note on your door instructing the carrier, where to leave the package or request the delivery to be at a location where somebody will be home.
3. Request a "Signature Delivery Option." This ensures the package will not be left on your doorstep. If you are unable to sign, the package will be taken to the post/carrier office.
4. Request a specific drop off time when you will be home.
5. Use a post office box and pick up all your packages there.
6. Have packages delivered to your workplace if possible.
7. If purchasing something online from a large retailer, have the item delivered to a local branch of the store so you can pick it up in person.
8. Request that the shipper holds the package at their facility for pick up.
9. Use Nextdoor.com to communicate any suspicious vehicles seen roaming the neighborhood after delivery times, take pictures if possible.
10. Call 911 if you see a theft occur and report all package thefts to San Diego Police 619.531.2000 or online www.sandiego.gov/police/crimereports/startaccess.
11. Set up a surveillance camera system aimed at you porch like Ring, Nest or Samsung's SmartCam. Let it monitor your entire front porch area. Some of these can record 24/7 video footage and send instant motion alerts to your smart phone. If you have any suspicion that a package might have gone missing, simply check the delivery time (as confirmed by your shipping service) against the stored recordings from your camera and see what happened. If indeed a theft has occurred, you can download the video and use it as evidence when you file your police report.

OFFICER ANDERSON BROWN

SDPD Inland Community Relations Officer Reminders to Public

If you are driving a car, cycling, or walking and you hear a siren from a first responder, such as police, fire, or paramedic, it is imperative that you move out of the way to prevent further injuries.

- Cars are expected to move to the right,
- Cyclists and pedestrians must move out of the street and intersections expeditiously.
- Emergency lighting is non-directional.
 - Non-emergency vehicles cannot predict the path or maneuvers needed to expedite first responder travel to the location of an emergency.

Northern Division - Captain Aguilar's Advisory Board Recap (Coastal and Inland Communities)

C.O.P team - Explanation of new team, Community Oriented Policing: In short, the community-oriented policing team is a proactive group of 4 Officers and a Sergeant. We will be in the field to address community concerns specific to Northern Division both inland and our Coastal Communities. Our proactive team will include meeting with retailers, community members, and other stakeholders to address the day-to-day concerns that are happening in our communities. The concerns can range from an oversized vehicle parked in your neighborhood, illegal vendors, illegal beach fires, violations on the beach and boardwalks, parking concerns, quality of life concerns, Letter of Agency concerns/trespassing, parking violations, traffic concerns, request for additional patrols, and so much more. The team is designed to be the initial responders to concerns that the patrol officers do not always have the ability to handle due to higher priorities.

Community Updates:

- E-bike education/enforcement - Northern has been conducting e-bike enforcement in La Jolla and on the boardwalk. (There is no e-bike registration program.) Record your serial number for bikes.
- Vendor enforcement - Northern has been enforcing the Street Vending Ordinance throughout the division. Our Officers cannot enforce on private property without an LOA on file. Call the Non-emergency line to report Vendors.
- VHO/OVO enforcement (Stats) as of September 1, 2024; 3,180 parking cites (2,250 violation of signs, 551 OVO, 379 other) and 171 Vehicle impounds.
- Safe lot update - new dashboard is up and coming for receiving live updates on vacancies in the City.
- Quality of Life concerns - please use Get-it-done.
- New Intervention Team at neighborhood policing- Chronic community issues, in-between outreach, and enforcement, undiagnosed mental health, the team works towards conservatorships and additional resources. For example: A subject had 163 arrests, since 2018 - worked with City Attorney, arraigned, and put into a residential program. (All programs are through courts, PD does not manage caseload).

Community Questions Submitted to CRO's:

- ABC licensing- SDPD crime statistics are considered when businesses seek an alcohol license.
- Graffiti Reporting - Get-It-Done at SDPDGraffitiStriketeam@pd.sandiego.gov (There is no pay program for graffiti).
- PERT- requests can be sent to CRO or called in to non-emergency.
- A community flyer is being created for E-bike awareness.
- Parking lot gates are closed by a 3rd party contractor. Any concerns go to Parks and Rec. (619.525.8213)
- Enforcement at the Jetty by Beach team, COP team, and 3rd watch, call non-emergency with concerns.
- Bait Bike Operations - Are conducted by the Night Beach Team and COP Team.
- The COP Team has been able to successfully reduce the number of Get-It-Done requests the past three weeks. The requests have gone down from 375 to 55.

Save Lives This Holiday Season: Don't Drink and Drive

by District Attorney Summer Stephan

My office has the tough duty of seeing the specifics of every fatal DUI that happens across the county and as you can imagine, the details are heart-wrenching. Case after case documents how lives were cut short and family units left in shambles with the painful knowledge that the catastrophe could have been prevented by a very simple act: not driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Just this month a 25-year-old man in North County was sentenced for driving under the influence of drugs and causing the death of a mother and her 4-year-old daughter. Also this month, a 38-year-old drunken driver was found guilty at trial of running over and killing a man as he walked to work in University Heights last summer.

These defendants, just like any person, could have prevented the tragic outcomes of these cases by simply not driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Instead, here I am telling you about the death and destruction caused by bad decisions.

Unfortunately, the number of young drivers involved in fatal DUI-related crashes has increased this past year. More than half of the individuals charged with DUI homicide offenses in 2024 were between the age of 18 and 26 at the time of the collision.

Our office has a specialized team of prosecutors and investigators who bring justice to DUI offenders who cause death. We just received a nearly \$900,000 grant – our eleventh one in a row – from the California Office of Transportation Safety to prevent and prosecute impaired driving deaths and DUI-drug cases. This grant comes as fatal DUI numbers in San Diego County remain at an all-time high with 25 people already being killed this year.

My message to every driver in San Diego County is clear and I hope every reader will help me spread the word: If you are caught drinking or drugged driving, you will be prosecuted. If you kill someone because of your impaired driving, you can be charged with homicide.

As we enter the holiday season when many people are celebrating with drinks or other substances, please begin your celebration by designating a sober driver or planning for a ride. Do not end the year with a DUI on your record or even worse, by taking someone's life. The combination of alcohol and marijuana have been the cause of death in several DUI cases. Even though either substance may be legal to consume at the appropriate age, it's not legal or safe to drive while under their influence.

At least 30 people die every year in San Diego County due to DUI driving. Here are some of the recent statistics that I hope will assure you to make a sober driving plan if you plan to consume alcohol or take substances that could impair your judgment.

- In 2020, 33 people were killed in 30 DUI-related crashes.
- In 2021, 39 people were killed in 36 DUI-related crashes.
- In 2022, 33 people were killed in 32 DUI-related crashes.
- In 2023, 32 people were killed in 29 DUI-related crashes.
- This year, 25 people have been killed so far in 20 DUI-related crashes.

Since DUI crashes are 100 % preventable, I am calling on all Californians to think twice before getting behind the wheel while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

When you're invited to that next holiday party or as you celebrate the year coming to an end, don't become a San Diego statistic of someone gone too soon or someone who caused another person's death. Plan on how you will get home safely and don't let anyone drive who you suspect may be impaired.

On behalf of our entire team at the District Attorney's Office, which is dedicated to building safe and healthy communities, we wish you a joyful and safe holiday season.

For more information, visit: sdcca.org.



Councilmember Kent Lee

As we head into 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the recent milestones we've achieved together and to express my gratitude for ongoing partnership with the community.

The groundbreaking celebration at Marcy Park in November was truly a highlight. Thank you to everyone who joined us — and the support of our dedicated community partners, including UC Community Foundation president Ruth DeSantis, the San Diego Parks Foundation, and the City's Parks and Recreation and Capital Projects Departments. We had the opportunity to recognize the years of advocacy by Ruth and numerous other community members, to reflect upon the collaboration and efforts across multiple elected offices, and to mark this joyous moment with many residents and children in attendance. Finally, Marcy Park is on its way to receiving the upgrades it deserves!

Throughout this holiday season, our office is staying focused on serving the community and celebrating together with our families, communities, and partners. In partnership with the San Diego Food Bank, we distributed Thanksgiving turkeys to families in need, and our Trees for Troops event offering Christmas trees to military and veteran families in District 6 at no cost – will occur on December 7th. We thank our partners for making these opportunities possible and look forward to continuing them annually in the years ahead.

This holiday season has also provided many opportunities to connect with the University City community as well. Recently, we recognized our First Responders at a luncheon held at Doyle Recreation Center and also joined Girl Scout Brownie Troop 3267 to discuss the structure of government and the unique ways it shapes our neighborhoods. Thank you to these inspiring young leaders for their enthusiasm and thoughtful questions! Throughout December, we look forward to celebrating the upcoming holidays with many at the upcoming menorah and tree lighting ceremony in Standley Park, as well as additional celebrations at UTC and more. These celebrations and more are a wonderful reminder of the vibrant spirit and sense of community throughout University City.

As we enter this new year, I am determined to continue building on our community partnerships and shared accomplishments. Together with our dedicated District 6 team, we're ready to tackle the challenges ahead and make meaningful progress for our community.

Thank you for your trust, collaboration, and support. Here's to a 2025 filled with connection, community achievements, and continued growth. Wishing you happy holidays and a prosperous new year!

If you have any concerns our office can help with, please contact me or my University City representative, Zach Burton, at zburton@sandiego.gov.

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

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

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.

All San Diego Public Library locations will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25, for Christmas;

Tuesday, December 31 and Wednesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day;

and on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day,

North University Community Library

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

Winter Concert: Saturday, December 7 at 2:30-4:30pm. Join us for a free concert featuring a variety of music styles and well-known holiday favorites.

Chess Club: Every Thursday from 3:30-5:00pm. We welcome players with all levels of chess experience from beginners to advanced. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

Holding Silence and An Open Heart in Meditation (8-week series): Starting Sunday, January 26 from 3:00-4:45pm. Jaime A Pineda, Ph.D., UCSD Professor of Cognitive Science and Neuroscience, will lead a meditation class is for all ages and levels. Bring a mat and cushion for comfortable sitting. Chairs will be available. We will do two 15-20 minute periods of meditation with a break or walking meditation in between. The aim is to provide space for our community to gather in silence and with an open heart to bring peace and healing to ourselves and others. Other dates include: February 2, 16, and 23. March 2, 16, 23, and 30.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Bilingual Korean Storytime: Fridays, December 6, 13, and 20, from 2:00-2:30pm. We will be reading and singing in Korean and English! 우리는 한국어와 영어로 읽고 노래할 거예요!

Bilingual Mandarin Chinese Storytime 中文故事時間: Sunday, December 29 at 2:00-2:30pm. Ms. Lily presents stories and songs in Mandarin. All ages are welcome.

Comic Art Creation Workshop (Grades 2-6): Saturday, January 11 at 4:00-5:00pm. Learn the awesome secrets and tricks for making your own comics, and how to improve your drawing skills, whether you like manga, super-heroes or Dog Man! Explore the art of comic storytelling in this workshop series led by comic art experts from Little Fish Comic Book Studio. Registration required.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Knitting & Crochet Circle: Every Friday, 9:30-11:00am. This is a social group where you can practice your fiber craft in good company, showing off your latest projects, getting support, and make friends. All levels are welcome. Beginners: please bring knitting needles/crochet hook, some yarn or your current project. Contact Joey garytashley@yahoo.com if you have any special need.

Amantes de la Lectura - Novelas Hispano-Americanos en Español: Saturday, December 7 from 2:00-4:00pm. The Amantes will be discussing *Hijos de la fábula* by Fernando Aramburu. RSVP to tlampell21@gmail.com.

Celebrity Memoir Book Club: Tuesday, January 28 from 6:00-7:30pm. The Celebrity Memoir Book Club selects a celebrity memoir to read and discuss each month. This month's selection is: *My Name is Barbra* by Barbra Streisand. Copies available to read at the front desk.

University Community Library (Governor Drive)

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

San Diego Jewish Men's Choir Hannukah Concert: Monday, December 9, 6:30pm. This amazing concert fills the room so arrive early to get a good seat! Casual overflow seating will be available in the main library space (no view).

Puzzle Competition: Friday, December 27, 1:00 to 4:00pm. Sign up teams of 2-4 people and race to complete a 500-piece puzzle within a 3-hour time limit. Winners take home a new puzzle of their choice. Drop-in players are welcome to join in this low-key, family-friendly activity. Stop by and enjoy refreshments while you cheer on your favorite team! Call UC Library to sign up your team today at 858.552.1655.

CHILDREN/TEEN PROGRAMS

Children's Craft (In-person) and Movie*: Tuesday, December 10, 2:30pm – Create a holiday gift card and a CD ornament. After craft time, stay for a holiday family movie.

Family Christmas Movie: Tuesday, December 10, 4:00pm – Enchanted Tales: The Night Before Christmas. Enjoy refreshments while watching an adorable holiday movie.

Children's Craft (In-person): Tuesday, January 14, 2:30pm – Sponge paint snowman.

Children's Take-Home Craft: Tuesday, January 28. Pipe cleaner and pony bead snowflakes.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Art for Adults with Ms. Saeda: Thursday, December 5 and Tuesday, January 2. both at 12:30pm. Enjoy the creative art process in a calm, relaxing environment with an experienced instructor. No registration required.

Paint & Sip with Ms. Tamanna: Monday, December 16, 3:30 – 5:00pm. Enjoy refreshments while an experienced instructor guides you in creating a personal masterpiece in acrylic paint. Back by popular demand! Register online or call the library at 858.552.1655.

Got Stuff? How to Rightsize Your Belongings (San Diego OASIS): Tuesday, January 14, 12:30pm. Learn valuable tips and how-to's to help you figure out what you have, what it's worth and determine the best outcome for your needs. Certified Antiques Appraiser and Rightsizing Expert, Lorelei Taylor, will share the secrets appraisers use.

Do You Own Your Stuff or Does Your Stuff Own You? (San Diego OASIS): Thursday, January 23, 1:00pm. You'll learn the difference between de-cluttering and organizing and learn about available resources and changes in the resale market.

Chair Yoga: Friday, January 24, 9:30am. Traditional Hatha Yoga is modified into poses you can do in your chair or while using your chair for support. Perfect for at home or in the office (one-time class). First come, first served – max. 15 people.

Mahjong Club (open play): 1st Saturday, 9:30am – 12:30pm and 4th Saturday, 2:00– 5:30pm. Good for beginners.

English Conversation Group: Fridays: December 13, January 17 and 31, 10:00-11:00am. No meeting December 27 due to the holiday. Meet with other people to practice and improve your English-speaking skills.

MORE FROM THE LIBRARY



Congratulations to the Friends of the UC Library on their successful book sale in November. Their hard work on the semi-annual and daily book sales provides financial support to pay for books, programming supplies and educational talks. Congratulations also goes to the quilt raffle winner, Monica, who was overjoyed and has plans to ship it to Indiana for her granddaughter to enjoy.

SWAP SHOP (Kitchen items): Saturday, January 18, 3:00 to 5:30pm. What is a Swap Shop and how does it work? Bring in gently used, working kitchen tools and appliances during designated drop-off hours on Friday, January 17 between 3:00 – 6:00pm. Call the library to sign up for a drop-off slot. For every item brought in, receive a ticket to exchange for another item during the “Swap Shop”. Only items in clean, working condition will be accepted. No drop-offs or donations outside of scheduled hours. The first Swap Shop will be kitchen items, and a future Swap Shop will be for children’s clothing. Drop-offs may close early if capacity is reached. For more information and to sign up for a spot for the drop-off, call UC Library at 858.552.1655.



Pride in Our Neighborhood and Our Local Schools

by Claire Shaunessy

Did you know your neighborhood has a Pride group? UC Pride is organizing to help make University City a more inclusive and welcoming home for LGBTQ+ families. We are pleased to support our local LGBTQ+ school organizations like the rainbow groups and GSA Clubs. We’ve helped bring more visible inclusion to UC with our colorful booths at Oktoberfest and the Fourth of July festivals. Our members are also responsible for helping bring Pride flags and inclusive safe spaces to our schools.

Would you like to help us make University City a safe and welcoming place for all? You can do that by putting a UC Pride sticker on your car, water bottle, computer, and front door. We’ll be providing clear stickers to folks who want one during the month of December. Just reach out to us by email at universitycitypride@gmail.com. Donations welcome.

Another way you can help LGBTQ+ students in December and January is by donating your middle or high school-sized gently used clothing. The San Diego Unified School District’s Youth Advocacy Department will make sure the clothes go where they are needed most for the students in our school district. You can drop off the clothes at the Ed Center or for a local drop location, please email us at universitycitypride@gmail.com.



UC School Cluster Construction Updates

San Diego Unified continues to make progress on improvements across UC Cluster schools, with several ongoing projects throughout the community.

The substantial site modernization at Spreckels Elementary is quickly approaching completion. Designed to enhance campus visibility and safety, the project includes a new parking lot with an on-campus student drop-off and pick-up area that leads to a renovated student services facility serving as a monitored, controlled campus entryway. On campus, improved hardscapes and landscapes guide students and staff to a new two-story classroom building, renovated existing classroom buildings and an upgraded multipurpose building. Soon to open for public use, an expanded joint-use facility will serve as a community park after school hours, featuring a new natural grass field, hardcourts, play equipment, and a parking lot. Project crews are currently finalizing landscaping work, capping off the significant renovation of the Spreckels campus.

The Spreckels modernization followed initial work at Standley Middle School, where the district expanded the joint-use facilities to include a new aquatic center, outdoor pavilion, and extended walking path. A new solar photovoltaic system was also added to campus. With the Standley improvements and Spreckels modernization completed, the district is now preparing to upgrade Standley Middle School with its own site modernization. This upcoming modernization will include upgrades to the existing campus buildings, including classrooms, restrooms, and support spaces. A new secure and accessible entry to the administration building will be added. Campus grounds will also be enhanced with new signage, accessibility improvements, drainage upgrades, and hardscape repairs and replacement. A walking path from the Radcliffe parking lot will be installed, connecting the hard courts and lower joint-use areas. Construction is estimated to start in early 2026. Additional projects throughout the cluster are also underway. The planning and schematic design process has commenced for whole site modernization projects at Curie and Doyle elementary schools. A solar photovoltaic project is under construction at Doyle Elementary, with another solar system planned at Curie Elementary School. Together, these projects greatly improve campus sustainability and bring the district closer to its goal of powering schools with 100% renewable energy by 2035.

Security improvements at both Curie Elementary and University City High School are nearing completion, with modifications to the main office entryways at each school to create secure, monitored campus entry points equipped with remote access technology. A similar project at Standley was recently completed.

That’s not all for UCHS. The stadium turf field was recently replaced, and work has started to remove all aging drinking water fixtures and replace them with strategically placed, filtered, hydration stations. For more info: sandiegounified.org

COMMUNITY SHORTS



THANKS FOR THE PIES

Thanks to The Ahearn Team for giving away pumpkin and apple Thanksgiving pies to UC residents for the 9th consecutive year!

STROLLIN' DEEP RUN CLUB

All are welcome to join UC's newest social run club! They run weekly on Thursdays starting at 4:30pm. Bring your little ones, your furry ones, or just yourself for a 3.3-mile run around the neighborhood. Start at the parking lot of the Our Mother of Confidence Church (3131 Governor Drive), run a loop to end at Outcast Grill with a quick break about halfway at Bloch Street for the Front Porch Pandemic Jazz Jam. Follow on Instagram for info and updates: @strollindeep_runclub.

FRONT PORCH PANDEMIC JAZZ JAM

The Front Porch Pandemic Jazz Jam continues to play each Thursday starting at 3:30pm, weather permitting. They will perform for two hours, non-stop, no breaks. They were selected as a Top 3 finalist in two categories in the Reader's Best of 2024 poll: Best Cover Band, and in Best Place to See Live Music Outside. Come watch them at: 5626 Bloch Street. Bring chairs and a picnic. Free for all.

WESTFIELD UTC HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Peppermint Beach Club: Join Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the Elves for yuletide fun in the sun with the magic of snowfall and photos with Santa.

Ugly Sweater Parties: Every Thursday til December 19.

Pajama Parties: Every Tuesday til December 17.

Holiday Open Skate: UTC Ice Sports Center will feature all-day holiday ice skating sessions from December 21 to January 4, 10:30am to 10:00pm. Cost is \$30, which includes rental skates. Enjoy top hits playing and fun colorful lights.

SAN DIEGO MEMOIR SHOWCASE

The International Memoir Writers Association is presenting their 10th annual San Diego Memoir Showcase at the David and Dorothea Garfield Theater (Lawrence Family JCC in UTC) on Friday, December 6 at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$33. This year's very fun and sometimes poignant theme is "But I did It Anyway" and will feature ten local showcase winners who submitted their story.

SAN DIEGO BLOODMOBILE – JANUARY 11

UC Blood Champs: The UCUC San Diego Blood Bank Bloodmobile will be at the Sprouts Marketplace on Governor Drive, Saturday, January 11, from 8:00am to 1:30pm. If you're 17+, healthy, looking incredible, feeling spectacular, and want to help people anonymously, you can sign up at: mysdbb.org or call 619.400.8251. For future planning, the remainder of the 2025 Bloodmobile Blood Drives at the Sprouts Marketplace, are scheduled for: March 8, May 10, July 12, September 6 and November 1 – all eight weeks apart.

SAVE THE DATE: TASTE OF THE TRIANGLE

Save The Date for EdUCate!'s Taste of the Triangle event at Farmer & The Seahorse on Friday, March 21st, from 7:00p-10:00p. The VIP party begins at 6:00p. We are seeking participating restaurants, auction item donations and volunteers for the event committee. EdUCate! raises funds to support our five University City public schools. The easiest way to contact us is by email: Information@uc-educate.org.



La Jolla Renaissance Singers to Celebrate 60 years of Making Music

On Saturday, January 11, the La Jolla Renaissance Singers (LJRS) will celebrate 60 years of singing in San Diego at a concert at University City United Church. The program will begin at 4:00pm, and will include a free-will donation benefitting the church.

LJRS performs a cappella programs of Renaissance (and Renaissance-themed) music in locations around the county. This program is focused on music inspired by Christmas that we have sung previously, and features both Renaissance pieces such as Tomas de Victoria's "O Magnum Mysterium" as well as Morten Lauridsen's setting of the same text.

We will welcome some of our alumni to join us on two pieces on the program. We hope that you can come to enjoy the music and to help us celebrate our anniversary!

Recreationally Speaking

by Diane Ahern

In University City, the winter holidays officially kick off the second weekend of December with community events at all three of our local recreation centers. Here's a summary; more information about these and other holiday events are available on the City Parks & Recreation site at: sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation.

- Friday, December 13, at Standley Recreation Center: Dinner with Santa with the Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting
- Saturday, December 14, at Doyle Recreation Center: Breakfast with Santa
- Wednesday, December 18, at Nobel Recreation Center: Cookies with Santa

The Standley Community Recreation Group (CRG) meets on Thursday, December 5, at 7:00pm at the Standley Recreation Center. The role of Community Recreation Groups (CRGs) is to make recommendations to City Council, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the various advisory boards with respect to proposed parks infrastructure and recreation programs in the community and to provide recommendations on the expenditure of Recreation Center Funds.

This is a public meeting and all are welcome. For more information, please call the Recreation Center at: 858.552.1652.



UC Del Sol Fall Ball Wrap Up

The UC Del Sol Girls Fastpitch Softball League wrapped up an incredible season! Fall Ball 2024 athletes across all divisions—6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U—showed tremendous strides in skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship. A big shout-out to our amazing Coaches, Managers, and Families whose hard work and support made this season possible! Congratulations to Coach Val (14U) and Coach Alan (12U 1904) on their championship victories during playoffs!

Registration is Open for Spring Season and Select

All interested players and coaches are invited to register for the upcoming Spring 2025 season! Early Bird pricing ends on December 9. Spring assessments will take place in January followed by team announcements and Opening Day in February. In addition to the Spring season, we're offering a *Select* season for players looking for more competitive play. The Select program is open to 8U-14U players (based on interest and skill level) and runs from January to April, with separate practices and games from the Spring season. Sign up today at www.ucdelsol.com and be part of an exciting season ahead!



UC Little League's Fall Season Ends

Fall baseball in UC gave young players a chance to challenge themselves at a higher level than they were previously comfortable, or more time to play the sport they love. Children just starting out in tee ball had the opportunity to learn the basics during the annual tee ball clinic that was held on Saturdays during the month of October.

There is a great community of families with UC Little League, from the team parents to the dugout managers, all the way to the amazing coaches. Without the large network of volunteers, the UC League would not exist.

Registration for the spring season has opened, as well as a request for volunteer coaches for the spring 2025 season www.ucll.org/ (click [Register] / or [Volunteer]). Early bird registration runs until January 10 (save \$50) and the last day to register is January 31.

League age is determined by the player's age on August 31, 2025. Practices and games will go from mid-February to late May. Opening day is planned for March 1 (weather permitting).

Let's Walk University City! Walk Audit at Standley Park

by Diane Ahern

Last month, on a cold and blustery Saturday afternoon, UCCA volunteers, accompanied by Standley Recreation Center acting director Anabel Wood, conducted a Walk Audit of the walking path at Standley joint use park on Governor Drive using the AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit, a guide for assessing a community's walkability. Armed with clipboards and worksheets and pens, our group set out from the Rec Center and followed the circular path in a clockwise direction to the east, walking in front of the pools, continuing past the Little League ball field, and turning right to follow the path into the joint use field and in front of the Standley pavilion stage. At the back of the park, we walked parallel to the fence that separates the park from the canyon as we headed back towards the picnic area, the playground, and eventually ended up where we started – at the picnic table in front of the Recreation Center building.

Along the way, we talked with several neighbors who were also enjoying a walk in the park. We noted maps depicting the park and the trail, water fountains and restrooms, benches, and even a nature sign about the Coastal California Gnatcatcher Bird and its habitat. The walking path is flat and level; it is concrete in some areas and decomposed granite others. We observed people of all ages using portions of the walking path including some with walking canes and others strollers.

One item to keep in mind is that some of the path travels through Standley Middle School fields and on school days, that portion of the path is closed to the public. In general, the path is open on weekends and when school is not in session. Those who must drive to the park will find street parking on Governor Drive as well as at the Standley Rec Center and the Swanson Pool lots. In our highly unscientific opinions, the path is appropriate for people of many different physical abilities because it is flat and it offers shorter loops within the longer loop that skirts the edge of the park. One thing we forgot to do is measure the distance of the longer loop. That will have to wait until next time. If you'd like more information or to help with next month's Walk Audit, contact Diane Ahern at: UniversityCityNews@gmail.com



Pictured above, left to right: Anabel Wood, Standley Rec Center Acting Director, Merle Langston, Diane Ahern, and Mack Langston

UC PEOPLE



Science on the Edge: Mark Zumberge’s Quest to Understand Earth’s Challenges

by Vince Reardon

Physics might not seem like an obvious path to exploring San Diego’s fascinating yet fragile environment, but for Mark Zumberge, it was the beginning of an extraordinary journey. While studying at the University of Michigan in the 1970s and later earning a Ph.D. at the University of Colorado, Mark never imagined how his expertise would shape a career that would take him to the frontlines of environmental and geophysical research.

In 1981, newlyweds Mark and Cathy moved to University City, where Mark began what would become a lifelong career at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO). Over the next four decades, he tackled some of the world’s most pressing marine and environmental challenges, including tsunamis, volcanic activity, plate tectonics, sea level rise, ocean acoustic monitoring, and soil erosion.



One of Mark’s current projects involves placing and monitoring sensors along the cliffs of Beacon State Beach and the railroad corridor in Del Mar. These sensors detect minute changes in soil tilt and displacement over time. “The idea is to see if there are signals preceding these sudden, catastrophic cliff failures, so we can develop an early warning system,” Mark explained.

Mark has also studied soil erosion caused by rising sea levels in the Mississippi Delta south of New Orleans. “The land there is sinking at several millimeters per year,” he said. “They’re losing land so gradually that it’s hard to notice—about a football field of land disappears every hour.”

Another major focus of his research has been measuring seismic activity using fiber optic sensors on the ocean floor off the Pacific Northwest, where a magnitude 9 earthquake is expected within the next 100 years. “The recurrence interval is roughly every 500 years,” he said. “We know an earthquake struck off the coast of Oregon in the 1700s because the tsunami it triggered was recorded in Japan.”

Throughout his career, Mark has authored or contributed to over 75 scientific papers published in leading geophysical journals. His work has taken him to remote research sites from Greenland to Antarctica, and next spring, he will travel to Costa Rica for seismic research.

Mark and Cathy raised their three children—Andy, Allie, and Marianne—in University City, where all three attended local schools. Cathy, who holds a master’s degree in business, spent years managing the business program at UCSD Extension. From studying cliff stability in Del Mar to monitoring seismic risks off the Pacific Northwest, Mark’s work has not only advanced scientific understanding but also helped address some of the world’s most urgent environmental challenges.



40th Senate District Honors Veterans

Senator Brian Jones honored local veterans in November, who said “We are fortunate to have many exceptional veteran in Senate District 40 who continue to make a difference long after their military service. Our Honored Veterans of Senate District 40 remind us of the ongoing extraordinary contributions of those who have bravely served our nation. We owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to these individuals who remain steadfast in supporting their fellow veterans and enriching our communities.” Amongst those honored included UCCA Past President Barry Bernstein for his faithful service in the U.S. Army as a 1st Lieutenant, and lifelong commitment to supporting the residents of University City, especially towards children and their academia.



Trash Talk for San Diego Trash and Recycling Customers

by Paula Roberts

The City’s Trash Study is a public process to consider enhancements and potential new fees for residents who receive their trash and recycling services directly from the City of San Diego. The study responds to voters’ approval of Measure B in the Fall of 2022, which allowed the City to recover the cost of trash and recycling services through a dedicated fee. Recently, we hosted an open house at the University Community Library. If you missed that open house, you can find information and can complete the Online Survey for City Trash and Recycling Customers at: cleangreensd.org





Toys for Tots

The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) is sponsoring the 2024 Toys for Tots toy drive in partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. All SDFD facilities (including several lifeguard facilities) are accepting donations of new unwrapped toys and books through Wednesday, December 18.

SDFD has been a toy drop-off point supporting Toys for Tots for almost 20 years. Since 1947, more than 600 million children have benefited from the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. For more information and other ways to donate, visit: san-diego-ca.toysfortots.org



A Lasting Legacy: Memorial Bricks Installed at UCHS Stadium

As part of the recent UCHS Stadium renovation, the Centurion Foundation unveiled a memorial brick display, giving supporters a chance to leave a lasting legacy on the stadium's new tower. Thirty bricks were added recently, marking the culmination of a number of fundraising campaigns over the years, and are now proudly installed. Each personalized brick serves as a tribute, symbolizing a community united in its dedication to UCHS and honoring alumni, families, and supporters alike.

The Centurion Foundation Executive Board would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this meaningful project. Your support has helped create a lasting legacy for future generations.



Wreaths Across America - Remember, Honor and Teach

National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Join the more than two million volunteers and supporters who will gather to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,000 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad, including at Miramar National Cemetery, 5795 Nobel Drive. Community members and groups can help by sponsoring wreaths, volunteering, and inviting friends to help.

Check the Miramar National Cemetery *Wreaths Across America* website for updated information for wreath sponsorship, parking and logistical information, and protocols for public wreath laying at: wreathsasscrossamerica.org/CAMRNC



Christmas Tree Removal

The UCHS Boys Lacrosse Team is gearing up for another exciting season! With hours spent practicing and training, the student athletes are hoping to make this the best season yet. As the holidays approach, the team is excited to give back to the community by offering tree recycling services after Christmas.

For a suggested \$20 donation, the athletes will remove your tree and save you from the hassle of dealing with endless pine needles! The dates available for pick-ups are December 28, January 2, and January 4 between 2:00 - 4:00pm in zip codes 92122, 92121, and 92117. Trees need to be outside in the driveway or next to the sidewalk to be removed.

To sign up, visit formurl.com/to/christmas-tree-away to make your tree disappear! All donations are tax-deductible and will go directly to making the UCHS Boys Lacrosse season a success. Donations can be made at givebutter.com/BoysLaxPay.



UCHS Secret Snowman

This yearly community event directly supports students at UCHS and their families that need some assistance this Holiday season. There are multiple ways to participate:

- Purchase Items Needed – sign up at: www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E48AEAF2AA4F94-53298382-secret#
Deliver items to the UCHS Office by 12/17
- Drop off Gifts Cards to UCHS Office
- Donate and items will be purchased for you; donate at: givebutter.com/SSnow24
Donations will be accepted until December 17.



Food Donations Needed

by Rita Shafer

Your help is needed for a food drive for our unhoused neighbors and families at the Rose Canyon Safe Parking Lot on Morena Blvd in Clairemont. University City residents volunteer through Jewish Family Services (JFS) to provide supplemental food support during the winter holidays. We are asking for kid-friendly donations of nonperishable foods such as:

- Cereal Boxes, Noodles, Oatmeal Packs, and Bread
- Snack Bars, Fruit Cups, Fruit Juice, Peanut Butter, and Jelly
- Canned Meats, Hearty Soups, Mac & Cheese Cups, Pasta and Spaghetti Sauce

Community volunteers will be on Governor Drive in the Standley Recreation Center parking lot on Saturday, December 14, from 10:00am to 1:00pm to accept food (and/or cash) donations and will provide receipts for tax purposes.

The Rose Canyon Safe Parking Lot program is managed JFS to help families with children who need a safe place to sleep at night. Most the parents at the lot work but have not been able to secure affordable housing. The children attend school in our area. These are our neighbors who need a hand up. Thank you for joining us in making a difference. For more information, please contact Rita Shafer at: shafer.lily@yahoo.com

UC Planning Group Meeting Update

by Chris Nielsen, UCPG Chair

The UCPG had a short agenda again for its meeting on November 12. Thanks to Alexandria for the use of the meeting room and the patio for voting. An election was held at our meeting location for the new UCPG District 4 (UC San Diego residents). Three UCPG seats were available. The results were:

- Mike Borisov - elected to seat R4-A, term ends March 2026.
- Emma Chavez - elected to seat R4-B, term ends March 2027.
- Henry Taylor-Goalby - elected to seat R4-C, term ends March 2025.

The new voting members from District 4 will take their seats at the next UCPG meeting. We'll move forward with city-required training for new planning group members.

We had a routine action item to vacate an easement to the city for a water main at 10290 Campus Point previously. The city routinely requests easement vacations of public utilities completely within large developments. We recommended approved unanimously.

Georgia Kayser developed a survey for the UCPG board to use to rank our CIP projects that were submitted to the city in July. This list will be approved by the UCPG at our next meeting and then submitted to our council office. The next UCPG meeting will be either December 10 or January 14, depending on the availability of agenda items.

Upcoming we do have an information item from Alexandria on their proposed 10210 Campus Point project, which will be implemented under the new community plan and includes mobility and housing elements. Since this project is of interest to the community, I have summarized what we know. We have limited information on the project, just a description from Development Services. The elements of this project are to be coupled with the Alexandria "Genesee Avenue / Campus Point Mobility Initiatives" proposed and described in an Information Item given at the UCPG on May 9, 2023. This mobility initiative involves the installation of Smart Signals on Genesee from Nobel Drive north to Scripps Heath Driveway on Genesee, and creation of a cut-through from Genesee to parking structures on the ARE campus. It also involves some micro-mobility initiatives, such as safer biking and pedestrian routes, and shuttle services to transit.

The project proposes 2,205 Dwelling Units of housing and proposes 5,153 parking stalls. The housing and parking should not be considered as a package. ARE could choose any mix of biotech space, housing, and parking to develop, depending on market conditions. These two numbers should be considered maximums. Keep in mind that ARE is a primarily biotech developer.

At last night's UCPG meeting I read a letter from ARE saying that they, in conjunction with UC San Diego, were going to implement the Smart Signals portion of their project within the next three to four months. ARE will likely go through several revisions of the project in the near term.

Development Services Dept. Description of project PRJ-1114473

As a property owner, tenant, or person who has requested notice, you should know that an application has been filed with the City of San Diego for a Tentative Map to subdivide 11 existing lots into 15 lots located at 10210, 10260, 10290, and 10300 Campus Point Drive and 4110, 4161, 4210, 4224, and 4244 Campus Point Court and to vacate a portion of the cul-de-sac at the terminus of Campus Point Drive. This project now proposes construction. The project proposes 2,205 dwelling units within 8 multi-level buildings and proposes 5,153 parking stalls (within four (4) 7- and 8-story parking structures and surface parking). A Planned Development Permit is required for deviations to height (180 feet tall where 120 feet is the maximum) and lot configurations to the base zones (lots without frontage). The project also proposes a Site Development Permit to allow an increase the residential density within the MCAS Airport APZII – Airport Safety Zone from 0.2 dwelling units per acre (du/ac) to 2 du/ac and to increase density in APZ II Transition Zone from 2 du/ac to 60 du/ac. A Neighborhood Development Permit is required for development within the Community Plan Implementation Overlay Zones – A and B. Total gross floor area proposed is 2,248,815 square feet. The 100.7-acre site is in the IP-1-1 and EMX-1 Zones within the University Community Plan Area.



Genesee Ave. work area near UCHS overlooking Rose Canyon.

Pure Water San Diego Update

The Pure Water construction crews made notable progress on pipeline installation and completed both Rose Canyon tunnels boring operations in the University City area in November. 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 and near State Route 52. The current phase of the project involves pipe installation in the completed tunnels, pipe installation north of Rose Canyon towards Decoro Street and Nobel Drive and completing work at the San Clemente receiving shaft at the SR 52 on ramp.

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

- Northbound Lanes on Genesee Avenue will be closed between Centurion Square and Decoro Street, with all traffic directed to southbound lanes.
- Decoro Street, east of Genesee Avenue, will be closed during working hours, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and open outside working hours and on non working days.
- "No parking" signs are in place on Decoro Street, parking restrictions will be enforced.
- Detours are in place during working hours.
- Residents to use Avenida La Bahia to avoid Genesee Avenue and Decoro Street intersection.
- Flaggers are onsite as needed to help direct traffic.
- North and Southbound traffic on Genesee Avenue will be maintained in both directions.

As of November 2024, nearly three miles of pipeline and nearly a quarter-mile of tunnel have been installed. Construction notices are shared online at UTC.PureWaterSD.org. For any questions, email PureWaterSD@sandiego.gov or call 833.882.7973.

As 2024 comes to a close, the Pure Water San Diego Morena Northern Pipelines and Tunnels project team extends warm holiday wishes to the University City community. We deeply appreciate your patience, cooperation, and support throughout this eventful year.

2024 has brought significant progress with major construction activities in full swing along Genesee Avenue, Towne Center Drive, Nobel Drive, and Rose Canyon. Your collaboration has been instrumental in advancing this transformative program, and we're incredibly grateful for the understanding and adaptability shown by residents.

As we celebrate the holiday season, we also look ahead with excitement. With the project nearing completion in the coming year, we are proud of the lasting impact University City's partnership will have in shaping a sustainable water future for San Diego for generations to come.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey. Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a bright, prosperous New Year!



Home Heating and Fire Safety Tips

CAL FIRE/SD County Fire

Home heating during the fall, winter, and spring presents significant fire risks if safety measures are not followed. Improper use of heating equipment is a leading cause of residential fires, often resulting from malfunctioning systems or flammable materials placed too close to heat sources.

Fireplace safety is essential to preventing home fires. Regularly clean chimneys and inspect for creosote buildup, and always use a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from escaping. Ensure combustibles are kept at least three feet away from the fireplace, and never leave a fire unattended.

Space heaters should be used with caution and positioned at least three feet away from curtains, furniture, and other flammable items. Always plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet and turn them off when leaving the room or going to sleep. Following these precautions can significantly reduce fire risks while ensuring safe and efficient home heating. We want you to enjoy a safe and cozy remainder of the year, free from any unexpected incidents. For more information, visit: fire.ca.gov

5 HOME HEATING FIRE SAFETY TIPS

KEEP THE HEATER AT LEAST 3' AWAY FROM ANYTHING FLAMMABLE

NEVER USE AN EXTENSION CORD WITH A PORTABLE HEATER

SCHEDULE AN ANNUAL CHIMNEY INSPECTION

PLACE HEATERS ON A SOLID, FLAT SURFACE

TURN OFF A PORTABLE HEATER WHEN YOU LEAVE THE ROOM OR GO TO BED

MTS Bus Service On East Governor Drive

UCCA is aware of a group of residents who live east of Genesee who want to persuade MTS to re-establish public bus service on Governor east of Genesee. What are your thoughts? Would you take a Governor Drive bus from east of Genesee to go north to the UTC transit center and beyond? Or catch a bus east of Genesee to go south through Clairemont and beyond? Please share your thoughts with MTS by using their Customer Feedback link: sdmts.com/contact/customer-feedback

If you'd like to make contact with others who would like to re-establish MTS service east of Genesee, we can help you make that contact. Please reach out to UCCA at: UniversityCityNews@gmail.com.



Doyle Recreation Center Hosts a Holiday Luncheon for First Responders

Doyle Recreation Center invited first responders to join them at their First Responder Luncheon in November. We provided a Thanksgiving-themed lunch with local entertainment and city staff to thank and honor them. Approximately 75 people participated and we plan to make this an annual event. Pictured above: Left to Right - Darlene Lane-Smith (Doyle Staff), Andy Field (Parks and Recreation Director), Kent Lee (Councilmember District 6), Zach Burton (Council Representative University City)

Bike with the SDFD Fire Chief!

Liberty Station

USS Recruit

2558 Laning Rd. SD 92106

Sat, December 14, 2023 from 9:30am - 12:00pm



Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Jackie Robinson YMCA Holiday Drive

San Diego Fire-Rescue, the YMCA and the SD County Bicycle Coalition are hosting a meet and greet, toy drive and guided group bike ride at Liberty Station on Saturday, December 14th.

All ages are welcome!

Take photos with Chief Robert Logan, see an SDFD fire engine and learn valuable biking safety tips.

This 5-mile, guided ride is for all ages and ability levels and will be led by certified instructors.

We look forward to seeing you!

Meet and Greet: 9:30 - 10:30

Group Bike Ride: 10:30 - 11:30

RSVP for the bike ride at <https://tinycurl.com/2vtrmhwd>



Click to sign up or scan the code above.



Thank You to Renewing and New UCCA Members for 2025

Individual

Inge Davidson
 Judith Dresser
 Michael Dwyer
 Dorothy Elwell
 Robert and Diane Estus
 Susan Foster
 Alma & Jonathon Geiger
 Paula Halprin
 Sally Huntington
 Robert & Elinor Jacobs
 Aileen Foug Knowles
 Margot Laue
 Christine Lille
 Larry Manuel
 Alvaro Munever
 Richard Nakao
 Kathy Neiss
 Rosemary Norling
 Connie Nowlan
 Rebecca Prater
 Paula Reis
 Dr. Robert Riffenburgh
 Diane Shelton
 Rosemary Straley
 Marge Suess
 Frank Tangherlini
 Alan & Monica Zabrocki

Supporter

Alan & Susan Brubaker
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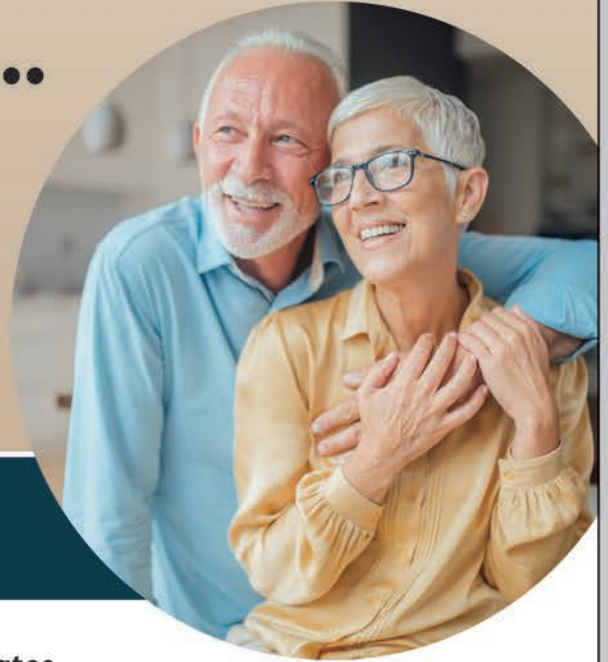



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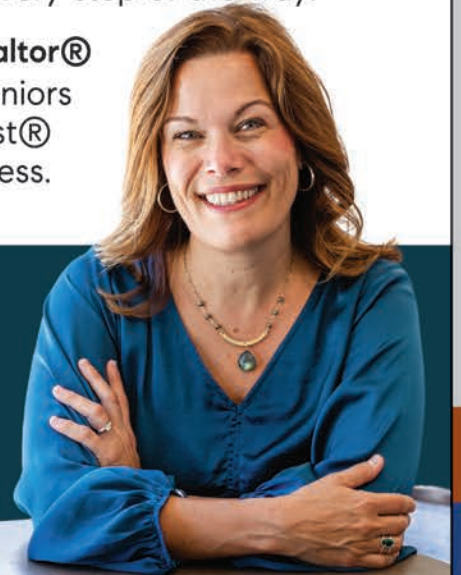


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