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Holiday Lights in Pictures

Walk A Mile in University City

New California Laws in 2025

Fire Safe Education

UC People: Patti Smith & ArtsBusXpress

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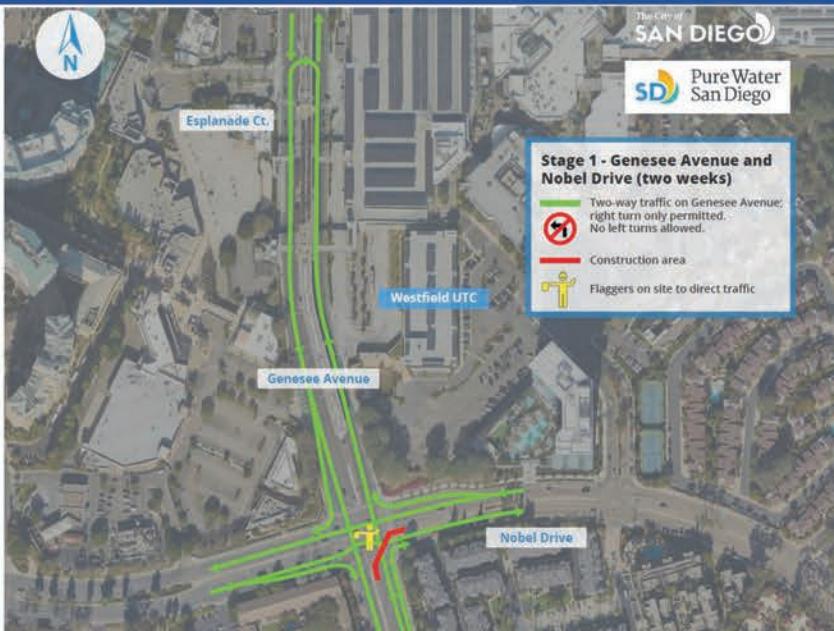
State Senator Brian Jones presented a Certificate of Recognition to University City Community Association. UCCA Vice President Jim Beshears, left, and President Jemma Samala, right, accepted the certificate at Senator Jones' annual Holiday Open House at his district office. They were able to connect with other area organizations and residents from his district, including from UC.



UNIVERSITY CITY... more than just a neighborhood!

University City

NEWS



Traffic control on Genesee Avenue at Nobel Drive.

Pure Water Project Sees Light at the End of the Tunnel

The Pure Water construction crews continue to make significant progress on pipeline installation and tunnel construction in the University City area.

In late January, traffic control was put in place at the intersection of Nobel Drive and Genesee Avenue for two weeks of preparation work. Following the preparation work, the contractor will remove traffic control from the intersection to install large-diameter pipelines on Genesee Avenue between Decoro Street and Nobel Drive, before returning to the intersection in early March to install pipelines through the intersection.

- The preparation work in the intersection of Nobel Drive and Genesee Avenue is scheduled Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm. As with all construction, the schedule is subject to change.
- Two-way traffic on Nobel Drive and Genesee Avenue will be maintained. All right turns will be permitted, and left turns will be detoured via U-turns at Esplanade Court to the north, Lombard Place to the east, Decoro Street to the south and Cargill Avenue to the west.
- Traffic signals around the intersection will be placed on flashing red with flaggers directing traffic during working hours. Traffic signals around the intersection will return to current operations during non-working hours.
- 24/7 access for emergency vehicles, residences and businesses will be maintained.
- If bike lanes are temporarily impacted, cyclist traffic will be maintained by flaggers.

For safety reasons, please follow all posted signage and detours, and anticipate traffic delays and construction noise. If possible, please avoid the intersection and use Interstate 5 or Interstate 805 to La Jolla Village Drive as alternate routes.

Construction notices are shared online at UTC.PureWaterSD.org. For any questions, email PureWaterSD@sandiego.gov or call 833.882.7973. The current Project Manager is Carlos Molina.



Genesee Avenue work area near UC High School overlooking Rose Canyon.

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 MARCH 2025 issue: FEBRUARY 13

Please send your submission as early as possible. The deadline for the March issue is **February 13, 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.

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

Public Safety Report

SDPD Officer Anderson Brown (AB): Resource officer. The second wave of smart streetlights is being started. In south UC there will be smart streetlights installed along Governor at 805, Genesee, and Regents. The smart streetlights read license plates and can be used to fight crime. Lots of discussion lately about fires. The Community Relations Officer for local fire is Captain Alma Lowry alowry@sandiego.gov

Public Projects Report

Pure Water Project Update - Carlos Molina (CM): Completed the tunnelling in front of UCHS. But they still need to connect the vertical shafts to the trenched horizontals. Completed the pipe connections south of SR52. Curbs and gutters reinstalled will be restoring temporarily. Hope to have the intersection fully open soon since there have been accidents there. Current work is occurring in the following areas: north of Rose Canyon at the tunnel shaft by the railroad tracks; north of Decoro towards Nobel where there are two trenches because of conflict with utilities; Continuing underneath SR 52, and continuing tunnelling at 805 at the Executive Drive shaft. Pure Water will be moving out of the Marion Bear parking lot by next month. Access will be restored to the parking lot with a full restoration later. Work on Genesee, under SR52: The pipe from Marian Bear to center of Genesee almost done. Contractor is making progress on pipe issue under SR52. At the Nobel Drive and Genesee intersection work will occur in 2 stages: The first stage is prep work due to the trenches running 20' deep. Beams will be needed to shore up the trench. Prep work is required because the installation over 20' deep and beams will be needed to shore up trench. That will last between 4 and 9 days. Started staging 1/21. Surveyors will be out this week and then drilling will begin. Flaggers will be onsite during work hours. Left turns are only impacted during work hours. The entire project should be complete sometime in May or June.

Elected Official Reports

Evan Bridgham and Omar Teran-Sosa - representing Supervisor Terry Lawson Remer. Omar will be taking over. The board voted for a special election for that district to occur on April 8. A lot of discussion about fire response. The county has an operational plan. The Office of Emergency Services coordinates fire response between CAL-fire, local fire, etc.

Zach Burton for council president pro-tem Kent Lee: sandiego.gov/fire - great resource. Another site, alertsandiego.org, is run by the county and gives up to date info on disasters and evacuations.

Liane Barkhordar for Congressman Scott Peters: Rep. Peters and Chair Westerman are working on a bill to restore forest health and improve fire response. Congressional app challenge winner announced in December: 1st place app called Checkpoint allows students to check in to La Jolla Country Day School office.

Special Reports

UCPG - Chris Nielsen: Last meeting UCPG welcomed 3 new district 4 (UCSD) board members. Miramar Base commander Col. Hermann gave a presentation. There were two recent fires on base. Poway fire and SDFD assisted. UCSD presented updates to the 2018 long range plan. They have opened new housing and are working on more. UCSD asked for a UCPG recommendation for a banner district. Alexandria might be presenting Campus Point project that includes housing and a new intersection onto Genesee. They've applied for a development permit for Costa Verde - no details available yet. Costa Verde is not being presented at the Feb meeting but will be presented "soon". There are two library projects in the CIP list. One was approved back in 2005. The other makes use of the state funds from Sen. Atkins office. Nominations for 4 UCPG residential seats. Notice needs to be made to CN by Feb 11 if you wish to run for a seat. Election at March meeting.

Friends of the Library - Helen Lebowitz: Library budget cuts are hanging over our heads. City is suggesting 20% cuts across the board. As fundraisers and advocates for the library we all should contact all city council members and the mayor to reduce the proposed 20% cuts. Please join Friends of the Library. You can also donate books and puzzles for the 2 sales a year. Books that aren't popular at the book sales (text books for example) they try to sell through "operation book support". If the book is accepted and sold Friends gets 40% of the sales price. Friends donated \$6k to this branch - which is matched by city's matching fund. Friends funds various programs at the library. Under budget cuts city matching will be reduced from \$1.2M to \$800K.

Committee Reports

Phil Fowler, Treasurer - presented Financial Report FYE 12/31/24.

Diane Ahern - Will submit a new grant application for street medians, and outreach. Completed a walk audit of Standley fields for AARP. Audience member Sally and her neighbor did a walk audit for AARP near the senior housing at Gullstrand and Kantor and are featured in an AARP video.

Barbara Gellman - Neighborhood Watch: Dispatch: Capt. Hara working on another phone tree. AI dispatcher can answer reports of noise or burglary - The AI bot gathers the information and texts it to dispatch. The "*" feature on the non-emergency line used to take you to the front of the queue, now goes to the AI bot - you have to ask for "dispatch dispatch" (twice) and you'll be routed to dispatch. Attended "Inside SDPD" program (next one in June). You rotate through different sections. It's a 2.5 hour project at the Kearny Mesa center. Run by San Diego Police Foundation. Very informative. Suggested donation of \$20 to the SD Police Foundation to attend.



UCCA President Jemma Samala

Happy New Year! Now it's back to work as I use my open Starbucks hours to have community meetings, as I did with Stephanie Taylor, Donna Burtch and Patti Smith pictured left. So much to do in 2025!

But first, let's recap 2024. Financially, we did better than budgeted, always a good thing. I credit that to our Treasurer Phil Fowler, who's done an excellent job in streamlining our books and to Terri Day who has cracked down on getting advertising dollars paid. We began hosting one-on-one events, and hope to do more in 2025 (we have SD Fire Chief Robert Logan scheduled for April 22), and I started the Starbucks open hours to increase our outreach and programming to the UC community. We have also increased our footprint by adding new newsletter delivery routes in north UC.

Speaking of North UC – kudos to Doyle Rec Center's Darlene Lane-Smith for putting together an excellent Breakfast with Santa. I was only able to attend briefly and was able to catch a performance by the UCHS ROTC Drill Squad. Don't forget to check out the North UC activities at the Rec Centers and the library – they have so much to offer.



In 2025, we plan to continue the above, plus we hope to create programs serving our senior community, and new versions of our volunteer recognition and Holiday Lights events. We continue to have Neighborhood Watch, Street Banners, Utility Box beautification, our newsletters, and be a forum for the community to share information and neighborhood concerns. And when issues become a priority for you, it becomes one for UCCA as well.

The recent fires has put the whole community on edge. Which is why we focus on fire safety information in this issue. Five years ago, I founded the UC Fire Safe Council, and we regularly post info in the newsletters. But even I am not fully prepared. I've concentrated on my exterior fireproofing, but not my to-go bags. Although, my one good tip – I've put many of my documents and photos on flash drives, which I keep safe at my office (yes, I have a day job). We've scheduled the SD Fire Chief for a one-on-one (the earliest date was April). And we will continue to regularly inform the community fire safe info in this newsletter.

Your paid memberships help us continue the work. From our lists of memberships posted in this edition, as well as the December/January issue, we're off to a good start. But if you haven't turned in your membership, please do to support the many programs and events we help organize and expand our work. We are a volunteer organization that gives back to our community, so your dollars help to make University City...more than just a neighborhood. In February we have Valentine's Day – show your love and support UCCA!

Jemma

Thinking Locally, Acting Neighborly



Pam and Myke Kulwiec at their annual Fantastic Front Yard Forest Decorating Derby (more pics on page 10)

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

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Pam & Myke Kulwiec

I think we can agree that University City is truly a special community. What makes UC so special is the people. One couple stands out as those neighbors you are so happy to live on your street.

Pam and Myke Kulwiec put together an annual holiday event where neighborhood families pick a tree on their front yard and decorate it. They supply the trees (Myke builds them), and food and prizes for all entrants. Out of the goodness of their heart.

My understanding is they always find ways to bring joy to the neighborhood families. When you have neighbors like Pam and Myke, who are always thinking of others, how can you not love living in UC. Thank you Pam and Myke for bringing joy to your neighborhood families and truly embracing the holiday spirit, you help University City be more than just a neighborhood – we're one big family!

Calendar

February 2025

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

JEMMA at STARBUCKS on SUNDAY
Saturday, February 8, 9:00 to 11:00am
Starbucks on Governor Drive

PEOPLE FOR A CLEAN UC
Sunday, February 9
7:15-7:30am – meet & greet
7:30-9:00am – work
Cleanup volunteers meet at Starbucks
3203 Governor Drive, supplies provided

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY
Sunday, February 9
3:30pm, Fox Network
Kendrick Lamar heading the Halftime Show

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
Tuesday, February 11, 6:00pm
9880 Campus Point Drive, Third Floor
Zoom available
Info: planuniversity.org

VALENTINE'S DAY
Friday, February 14

PRESIDENT'S DAY
Monday, February 17

STANDLEY PARK COMMUNITY REC GROUP
Thursday, February 27, 7:00pm
For meeting details, call: 858.552.1651

MUSEUM MONTH 2025

EXPLORE THE FUN THIS FEBRUARY!

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM MONTH

All of February

Pick up a Museum Month pass at any San Diego Public Library. Present your pass for half price admission for up to four people at more than 70 museums, historic sites, gardens, zoos, aquariums and more. You can download your Museum Pass to your phone. Info:

sandiegomuseumcouncil.org/specials/museum-month/

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



Neighborhood Watch Captains Needed

by Barbara Gellman

Below is a list of streets that need Neighborhood Watch captains. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Gellman at bgellman@yahoo.com.

Arnoldson, Bajer, Bloch, Brannick Pl, Branting, Bromfield Ave, Calgary Ave & Ct, Combe Way, Curie St, & Way, Dunnant, Erlanger, Enders, Farley Dr, Ln, Ct, Ferber St., Finsen Ave, Fried, Gullstrand, Haworth, Janan Way, Kanter Ct, Maynard St, Merwell St, Millikin (East of Mercer), Occidental, Pauling, Pennant, Ramsay Ave, San Clemente Ter, Sandburg Ave & Way, Stadium Pl, Ct, St, Soderblom, Steinbeck, Stettler Way, Syracuse Ln & Way, Tula Ct, Tulane Ct, Valoma Pl, Werner St, Willard St, Via Regla, and Whipple Ave & Way.



SHOW SOME LOVE FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Valentine socks will be available for the feet you love. Assorted styles and designs. Don't miss out. Cover with care. 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 bgellman@yahoo.com for the flyer. Donations received support the UCCA's Neighborhood Watch program.

Volunteer for UCSD's Brain Health VR Study

by Marcella Barneolo

The UC San Diego Brain Health Virtual Reality (VR) Study is currently seeking participants 50-85 years of age to participate in a brain and body training program at UCSD's off-campus health science facility (east University City). Participants will be randomly assigned to one of three groups: virtual reality only, physical activity only, or a combination of both to find out if and how physical activity and virtual reality impact brain health in older adults. The study spans 8-9 months in total with four scheduled assessment visits and 16-week period of active involvement.

Study procedures include:

- MRI brain imaging
- Bone density scan (involves radiation)
- Cognitive tests and questionnaires
- Physical function tests
- Blood draw

Who can participate? Participants must be fluent in English and able to safely ride a stationary bike. Participants cannot have pacemakers, claustrophobia, or a fear of needles or blood. Participants will be financially compensated with \$585 in cash for completing all assessments.

For more info, please visit: www.palab.ucsd.edu/participate, call 619.543.3494, or email brainhealth@health.ucsd.edu.

Scammers Exploit Victims in Natural Disaster Emergencies

by District Attorney Summer Stephan

When devastating natural disasters strike, like we are seeing in Los Angeles this month with the catastrophic and deadly wildfires and like we've experienced in years past in San Diego, conditions become prime for scams. Simply put, bad actors have a knack for exploiting people in desperate situations.

Inevitably, scammers, looters, gougers and unlicensed contractors come out during states of emergency, ready to prey on people trying to rebuild what they lost. Considering the recent destructive wildfires, this is a good time to remind the public that in these vulnerable times, unlawful activity by greedy businesses, contractors or fraudsters will not be tolerated.

During a declared state of emergency, it is illegal for a business to increase its prices for essential goods or services by more than 10%, unless they can show their own costs have been increased. In addition, looting during a state of emergency carries harsher penalties. Price gouging and unlicensed contracting during a state of emergency is not only a crime, it also can further victimize someone who is already suffering great loss. Here is what the price gouging statute applies to:

- Food (including for animals)
- Goods or services used for emergency cleanup
- Medical supplies including isopropyl alcohol and antibacterial products
- Home heating oil
- Building materials
- Housing
- Transportation
- Gasoline

It is also a misdemeanor for a hotel or motel to increase regular rates by more than 10% during a declared emergency and for 30 days following the state of emergency. Consumers should be extremely cautious if approached by aggressive agents, adjusters or contractors after a disaster. Most businesses are honest and have good intentions, but there are always bad actors waiting to take advantage of disaster victims.

Working as an unlicensed contractor during a state of emergency is a felony. Keep these tips in mind when selecting a contractor:

- Ask for proof of licensing such as a pocket license and a second photo ID.
- Always verify that the license number matches the contractor you are dealing with.
- Beware of scare tactics, odd calls or unsolicited contacts.
- Make sure the contractor carries workers' compensation and liability insurance.

In the aftermath of natural disasters, debris-clearing scams often surface. Do not provide payment upfront and be sure to ask where the debris is being taken. Scammers often ask for money up front and then disappear. Sometimes they dump debris on a neighbor's property or park, which may cause you to be responsible for the costs and penalties.

The public is also warned to be cautious when dealing with persons soliciting for purported "victim relief" charities. Many legitimate organizations seek contributions during or after an emergency, but scammers often use phony charitable pleas in times like these. Potential contributors should insist on seeing proper credentials before offering to help. Also, make sure you thoroughly vet anyone posing as an insurance agent to verify that the person is a legitimate professional.

Violations of the price gouging statute are subject to criminal prosecution that can result in a year in jail and or a fine of up to \$10,000. Violations are also subject to civil enforcement actions including civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per violation, injunctive relief and victim restitution. We stand with our neighbors to the north, and we want San Diegans to know our Consumer Protection Unit is always busy at work on behalf of the community. As your District Attorney, I'm committed to increasing communication and accessibility between the DA's Office and the public. I hope these consumer and public safety tips have been helpful. For more information, visit: sdcdca.org.



Several important California laws will take effect. Here are some highlights of the changes coming in 2025:

- **Reforming Conservatorship for those with severe mental illness:** This year, San Diego County will begin implementing Senate Bill 43, a law passed in 2023 that modernizes California's mental health conservatorship laws and make it easier to get severely mentally ill and addicted people the help they need. The law significantly modifies the legal definition of "grave disability," which can be used to evaluate the condition of a person with a behavioral health illness and will help us reach a small, but very visible, segment of our homeless population who up until now have been allowed to languish on the streets, often dying alone and forgotten by society. Detailed information is available at a website updated regularly by SD County Behavioral Health Services. Info: sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/senate_bill_43.html
- **Increasing Paid Family Leave and Disability Insurance benefits for California Workers:** A 2022 law, SB 951, reaches full implementation this year, bringing increases to wage replacement rates for Paid Family Leave and State Disability Insurance. Lower-income workers can receive up to 90% of their wages, while middle-income workers will see their benefits increase to 70%, making it easier for more Californians to take time off to care for family or recover from illness. For info: gov.ca.gov/2022/09/30/california-expands-support-for-working-families/
- **Strengthening Tenant Protections:** Tenants facing eviction will now have double the time to respond to legal notices and court filings. This new law provides renters with 10 days instead of the previous five to address eviction lawsuits, giving vulnerable residents more opportunity to seek legal assistance and avoid becoming homeless. Visit: calmatters.org/housing/2024/09/california-eviction-law/
- **Cracking Down on Retail Theft:** A suite of new laws will help address rising retail crime. This bipartisan set of laws provides new tools to crack down on retail theft, smash-and-grab robberies, property crime, and auto burglaries while holding criminals accountable. For more info, visit: gov.ca.gov/2024/12/30/new-in-2025-cracking-down-on-retail-theft-and-property-crime/
- **Improving Intersection Safety:** To reduce traffic accidents and save lives, drivers across California will no longer be allowed to park within 20 feet of an intersection. In San Diego, city crews are already working to repaint curbs, remove meters, and educate the public on this change. The new state law, which is currently in effect, prohibits stopping or parking a vehicle within 20 feet of any marked or unmarked crosswalk or 15 feet of any crosswalk where a curb extension is present. This applies to any intersection in the City of San Diego with a marked or unmarked crosswalk. San Diego Police will be handing out warnings to violators of the law for the first 60 days. Beginning March 1, 2025, motorists who park within 20 feet of any crosswalk, marked or unmarked, may be cited. For more info, visit: sandiego.gov/parking/enforcement/daylighting



Councilmember Kent Lee

Photo taken at the
UCCA Holiday Lights event

Dear University City Neighbors,

Our hearts go out to everyone affected by the devastating fires in Los Angeles. San Diego understands the destructive power of fires, which is why it's essential to stay prepared. Please take some time to visit sandiego.gov/fire/safety for safety tips and more information. If you haven't already, be sure to sign up for Alert San Diego at readysandiego.org to receive notifications about emergencies or disasters in San Diego County.

We want to extend our immense gratitude to all the firefighters and first responders in both San Diego and Los Angeles for their service and leadership.

Reflecting back on 2024, our office achieved significant tangible results in District 6 such as fixing over 1,400 potholes, repairing more than 450 streetlights, paving 30+ miles of roads (19 streets in University City), collecting 130+ tons of oversized trash at no cost, and addressing over 1,000 issues you and your neighbors reported to the City.

I am dedicated to continuing our work to ensure safer roads, stronger neighborhoods, and resources that benefit every resident, even during a challenging budget year.

Looking ahead to 2025, I want to congratulate Councilmember Joe LaCava on being unanimously elected as Council President and am honored to have been unanimously elected by my colleagues to serve as Council President Pro Tem.

Our Council Committee assignments have also been approved, and I will be serving in the following roles:

- Chair of the Land Use & Housing Committee
- Vice Chair of the Active Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
- Vice Chair of the Rules Committee
- Member of the Budget & Government Efficiency Committee
- Member of the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committees

I was also appointed to roles at the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and North County Transit District, two regional planning committees responsible for building transportation infrastructure throughout the San Diego region. I am hopeful that these appointments will give me the opportunity to fight for better transportation options for San Diegans and District 6 residents.

I am committed to working with my colleagues to address the important and challenging issues facing the city. It's an honor to serve in this new leadership role while continuing to represent and advocate for the residents of University City, District 6 and the entire city.

Stay safe,

Council President Pro Tem Kent Lee

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 Monday, February 17 for President's Day.

North University Community Library

ALL AGE PROGRAMS

Lunar New Year Celebration 农历新年庆祝活动: Saturday, February 8 from 1:30-3:30 pm. We will welcome the Year of the Snake with a Children's talent show and fashion show. This will be followed by a lion dance.

Holi Celebration: Sunday, March 9 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Join us as we celebrate the Festival of Colors with craft programs, activities, and dance performances.

Chess Club: Every Thursday from 3:30-5:00 pm. 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): February 2, 16, and 23. March 2, 16, 23, and 30. All events occur from 3:00-4:45 pm. 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.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Bilingual Mandarin Chinese Storytime 中文故事時間: Sunday, February 23 at 2:00-2:30 pm. Ms. Lily presents stories and songs in Mandarin. All ages are welcome.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Knitting & Crochet Circle: Every Friday, 9:30-11:00 am. 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 needs.

Bridge: Learn the Game from a Master: Beginning Saturdays, February 1, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL Bridge Unit 539) will provide free instruction in this basic bridge course. Space is limited. To register or for more info please contact Bridget Poizner at BridgeFun1430@gmail.com.

Amantes de la Lectura - Novelas Hispano-Americanos en Español: Saturday, February 15, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. The Amantes will be discussing *El niño que perdió la guerra* by Julia Navarro. If attending RSVP to tlampell21@gmail.com.

Celebrity Memoir Book Club: Tuesday, February 25, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. The Celebrity Memoir Book Club selects a celebrity memoir to read and discuss each month. This month's selection is: *Inside Out* by Demi Moore. Copies available to read at the front desk.

The Friends of the North UC Library are actively seeking new executive board members. Contact Azalea at AEbbay@sandiego.gov if you are interested.

University Community Library (Governor Drive)

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

Family Board Games: Saturday, February 1, & Friday, February 7, 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Play Ticket to Ride, Monopoly, Scrabble, Catan, Azul, Uno and more with other game lovers or bring your own game to share.

Cooking with Healthy Adventures: Thursday, February 6, 4:00 pm. Ages 8 & up. Learn how to make healthy and delicious meals that are easy to make in a short amount of time. Take home recipes and something yummy to eat! Register online or call UC Library for assistance with signing up.

CHILDREN/TEEN PROGRAMS

Signing Storytime (new series through June): First Mondays, 11:45 am. Learn basic ASL words through storytime.

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

Children's Craft (In-person): Tuesday, February 11, 2:30 pm. – Create an accordion heart-shaped person or for older kids, a bouquet of heart flowers in a paper cup

Children's Craft (In-person): Tuesday, February 25, 2:30 pm. – "Water" color a not-so-scary coffee filter creature!

FOR TEENS 13-18: Dungeons & Dragons @ the Library, Tuesdays evenings at the Library. Middle school and high school students are invited to join a 6-session D&D campaign. February 4 through April 1 on Tuesday afternoons/evenings. Register online or call UC Library to join – 858.552.1655.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Lectures at the Library (San Diego OASIS): America of Color. Tuesday, February 11 at 12:30 p.m. This lecture presents American history from the viewpoint of Indigenous People, African Americans, Mexican Americans and Asian Americans. It presents an account of American history very different from the origin stories taught in schools.

DIY Terra Cotta Planter: Thursday, February 20 at 4:00 p.m. Embellish a custom terra-cotta flower pot with permanent markers and specialty pens. Then, plant an herb to liven up your home or garden. Register online or call 858-552-1655

Art for Adults: Third Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. Enjoy the creative art process in a calm, relaxing environment with an experienced instructor. No registration required.

Mahjong Club (open play): First Saturdays, 9:30am–12:30pm. and fourth Saturdays, 2:00 – 5:30pm.** Perfect for beginners.

More Mahjong: We are offering a repeat of the popular beginner's American mahjong class on the first four Saturdays in March. Call the library at 858.552.1655 to register beginning on February 10 at 12:00 pm. Class size is limited.

English Conversation Group: Fridays: February 7 & 21, 10:00 - 11:00am. Meet with other people to practice and improve your beginner's English-speaking skills.

Qi Gong: Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:30am; 2nd Saturdays, 9:30 to 11:30 am. (classes held inside: Feb. 8)

Great Decisions 2025: Meets monthly to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Call UC Library to find out more about the program and get course materials. The 2025 sessions will start in March. The group is currently open to new members.

DISASTER/FIRE EDUCATION

Stay Informed with Genasys Protect, Watch Duty, and Alert San Diego

from the University City Fire Safe Council

Staying informed is essential to your successful preparedness during an emergency. The City's Office of Emergency Services has resources for information on

Current Incidents, Evacuations, Mitigation, Preparedness and Partners.

The City of San Diego has adopted the county-wide notification system to assist in the safe evacuation of area residents and businesses. For example:

- Download the Genasys Protect app and turn on your location to get notified about danger and evacuation orders wherever you are: protect.genasys.com/
- Sign up for AlertSanDiego to get safety information delivered directly to your phone: alertsandiego.org/
- Download the Watch Duty app and turn on your location to get notified about fires and evacuation orders wherever you are: watchduty.org/

For more information, go to:

- San Diego Office of Emergency Services: sandiego.gov/oes/informed
- University City Fire Safe Council: ucfiresafecouncil.com/



UCHS Music Marches On

by Andrea Lehman

It has already been a busy and successful year for UCHS Music. The Centurion Sound, our Marching Band and Color Guard, created their new show, "Fountain," based on Ponce de Leon's search for the Fountain of Youth. Daniel Gerardi, our Theater Tech teacher, helped build an amazing fountain prop, a hexagon with 12 foot sides, large enough for the performers to march and dance on, as well as mobile to move on and off the field, and collapsible to fit in our trailer for transport to competitions.

Under the direction of Brandon Rhinehart, UCHS Music Director, and Noah Nordstrand, Head Drum Major, the Centurion Sound won several local competitions, honed their performance, and ultimately brought home a Bronze Medal for 3rd Place in Southern California in their 1A Division. UCHS Color Guard bested that with top honors.

There are many more Music events to finish the year - Spring and Pops Concerts, Winter Guard and Percussion, plus Sights & Sounds on March 22. Keeping all of these opportunities alive and available to our students is expensive. Music Boosters must raise a substantial amount to support these programs. Our next event which is open to the community is our Applebee's Breakfast Fundraiser on Sat. Feb. 8th served by our talented and hard-working students. Tickets at: zeffy.com/ticketing/uchsmusicboostersapplebeesbreakfastfundraiser.

Support UCHS's Class of 2025 Grad Night

by Staci Torgeson

Since COVID, UC's Grad Night tradition has transformed, moving from the school gym to Party Pal's facility, where seniors now celebrate with an unforgettable evening of fun and entertainment. This year's Grad Night includes food, casino games, an arcade, ping pong, a mechanical bull, rock wall, fire pits, coffee cart, magic, and more! Grad Night keeps students safe and together on the night of graduation, and we're asking for the community's support to ensure every senior can participate and feel celebrated. We're raising funds to provide scholarships to cover the cost of attending Grad Night and collecting prizes for raffles during the event. Here's how you can support to help cover scholarships through these options: Go to givebutter.com/SFUN2025 or mail a check payable to "University City High School PTSA" to Dusty Reisch, 7131 Rock Valley Court, San Diego, CA 92122.

Join our dine-out nights! Print out or show the flyer on your phone when you order to provide a donation.

February 6 at Rubio's located in La Jolla Village Square at 8855 Villa La Jolla Drive. Find the flyer at bit.ly/UCHSRubios.

March 4 at Panda Express located in Clairemont Town Square at 4961 Clairemont Dr. Suite #B San Diego CA 92117. Find the flyer at bit.ly/UC25Panda.

Your support will help make Grad Night an unforgettable, welcoming and safe celebration for the Class of 2025. Thank you for helping us make it special. UC You Know!



UCSD's ALERTCalifornia - Developing Technology to Stay Ahead of Natural Disasters

Based at the University of California San Diego, ALERTCalifornia is a public safety program working to understand natural disasters and determine short and long-term impacts on people and the environment to inform management decisions.

ALERTCalifornia has more than 1,144 high-definition, pan-tilt-zoom cameras deployed across California providing a 24-hour backcountry network with near-infrared night vision to monitor disasters such as active wildfires. ALERTCalifornia cameras can perform 360-degree sweeps approximately every two minutes and can view as far as 60 miles on a clear day and 120 miles on a clear night.

For more information and to view live camera feeds, visit: alertcalifornia.org. Image above from Black Mountain camera captured on January 20, 2025.

COMMUNITY SHORTS

UC RESIDENT MAKES SD MUSIC HALL OF FAME

Congrats to UC's own Robert Harvey, whose band, the Electric Waste Band, was recently inducted into San Diego's Music Hall of Fame – the first band to be inducted. (More info about Bob in a future issue.)

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. Come watch them at: 5626 Bloch Street. Bring chairs and a picnic. Free for all.

WESTFIELD UTC SUPPORT FIRE RECOVERY

Shop for Heroes: Support our heroes at the Johnny Was store and show your gratitude to the LAFD—now through February 28, when 100% of sales from the California Everyday Tee & Tote will be donated to the LA Fire Department Foundation, funding lifesaving equipment & programs.

Blood Donation: The recent fires in Los Angeles have caused a critical shortage of blood supplies, & your donation can make a life-saving impact—donate & join the American Red Cross Blood Drive on February 2, & receive a free shake from Shake Shack for each blood donor.

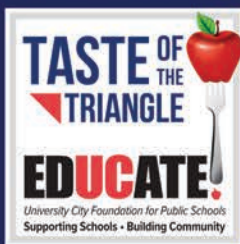
UC SENIOR WALKERS WANTED

Come join the UC Senior Walking Group. Start the New Year right and keep those New Year's resolutions. Meet every Wednesday morning at 9:30am in front of Swanson's Pool at Standley Park on Governor Drive. The neighborhood walk is for about one hour and returns to the Swanson Pool. Come meet your neighbors and make new friends. Once a month on the last Wednesday of the month, the walk ends at Starbucks for a little socializing with the group. Questions, contact Marie Pleasant at 858.453.2107 or seekgene@aol.com.

CURIE ELEMENTARY MULTI-CULTURAL FAIR

February 27, 1:30 to 6:00pm
Curie Elementary, 4080 Governor Drive
Celebrate Diversity and Community Together

SAVE THE DATE – Friday, March 21



by Holly Doolittle

We are pleased to announce EdUCate's 2025 Taste of the Triangle will be held on Friday, March 21st, 7:00-10:00pm at Farmer & The Seahorse, an indoor and outdoor event, at 10996 Torreyana Road. VIP Reception starts at 6:00pm. This is our biggest FUNdraiser of the year! Come enjoy tastes from local restaurants and chefs from in and around the Golden Triangle, craft beer, wine, featured cocktails, and live music. Bid on exclusive auction items and more. General admission tickets are \$95 per person purchased before March 20, \$120 afterward. Tickets include two drink vouchers and unlimited tastes. If you would like to donate a ticket for staff/teacher, their ticket price is \$85. EdUCate! is a non-profit foundation that raises funds to distribute to all five University City public schools (University City High, Standley Middle, and Curie, Doyle, and Spreckels Elementary Schools) based on principals' and teachers' needs. Support our local schools and buy your tickets today!

More info at: uceducate.org/taste-of-the-triangle/



Performance of Richard Strauss' Sonatina at UCUC

by Steve Shields

On Saturday, March 8, the Rose Canyon Harmonie will return to University City United Church, 2877 Governor Drive, to perform Richard Strauss' Sonatina 2 ("happy workshop"). The program, which will begin at 3:30pm, will include a free-will offering benefiting the church; it should last for about 1 hour.

Strauss wrote this piece when he was unable to work and was confined to his home during World War II. Despite the despair and darkness all around him, he was able to infuse this piece with joy and light. This piece for 16 wind instruments is very rarely performed because of its difficulty and because of the difficulty of getting 16 wind players together; it really is a symphonic work for winds. It is a wonderful piece; I encourage you to come and join us!

Porchlight Community Services: Empowering San Diego with Dignity

by Rachel Retherford

Since 2017, Porchlight Community Services has addressed food access and waste in San Diego with dignity and care. Founded by a single parent who faced the challenge of rising grocery costs while raising a family, Porchlight began as a grassroots effort to empower others facing similar struggles.

Porchlight operates like a grocery store, where community members can choose food that meets their needs while saving 40%–50% on groceries. Shoppers book 25-minute appointments, ensuring fair access for all. Programs include the **Free Food Basket** for income-qualifying families and **FoodSHARE**, open to everyone. Distributions are held by appointment on Thursdays (3:00–7:00pm) and Saturdays/Sundays (1:00–3:30pm).

This mission thrives thanks to volunteers, donors, and partners. Here's how you can help:

- **Volunteer:** Open to ages 12 and up, with flexible weekly shifts. Kids can earn school credits!
- **Donate:** Contribute time, funds, or food to support neighbors.
- **Host a Food Drive:** Rally your community to fight food waste and insecurity.
- **Partner with Us:** Help expand access to food across San Diego.

Porchlight proves that small efforts can spark big change. We can reduce waste, empower neighbors, and build a healthier, more connected community. Visit porchlightcommunity.org to learn more.

UC PEOPLE



Walk a Mile in UC

by John Lee Evans

With the opening of the joint use field at Spreckels Elementary, UC residents can now do a walking/jogging loop around Standley Park for approximately one mile. We have a beautiful public space from Standley Middle to Spreckels Elementary. This is a joint use project between San Diego Unified and the City of San Diego. The joint use areas are available to the community except when school is in session. When Spreckels is not in session the gate is open for walking around the track and for playing on the grass field and the playground structure.

The one mile walk begins at the pathway at the Little League field next to Standley Middle School. Proceed past the stage and behind the other baseball field. Continue towards the Rec Center past the playground. Head to the Governor Drive sidewalk and continue west to Spreckels past the Little League field. Turn at the sidewalk along the parking lot and through the gate to the Spreckels track. Make a lap around the track and then retrace your steps back to the original starting point at the first Little League field. One mile!

Parking during non-school hours is available in the lots at Standley Middle or Spreckels. You can use either end of the route as the starting point for a one-mile walk. For a shorter walk (about 1/3 mile) start at the Standley Little League field, past the stage, behind the baseball field. Instead of continuing on that path, turn right to walk alongside the Standley Pool and back towards the starting point.

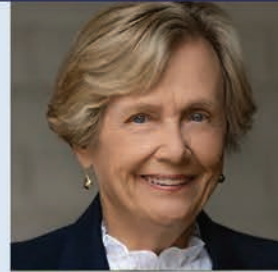


University City Neighbors Featured in AARP Video

by Diane Ahern

AARP California (formerly the American Association of Retired Persons) and local partners, through Livable Communities and Age-Friendly initiatives, have been working to make San Diego streets more walkable and accessible. Gail V. (pictured on left) and Sally T. shared their thoughts about some of the challenges that older adults face.

The Complete Streets approach fosters community empowerment, improved safety, and a better quality of life for people of all ages. The video highlights some of the changes happening in San Diego that improve mobility, safety, and sustainability. For more info and a link to the video, go to: smartgrowthamerica.org/championingcompletestreets



Patti Smith and ArtsBusXpress: Fueling Young Minds, One Field Trip at a Time

by Vince Reardon

Some road trips take you to destinations; others open doors to discoveries you never imagined. Case in point? Patti Smith.

"In junior high school, I took a field trip on a yellow school bus to visit my first museum," recalls Smith, co-founder of the nonprofit ArtBusXpress. "My classmates and I traveled all the way from Riverside to the San Diego Museum of Art." That journey sparked a love of learning that deepened with later trips to the Southwest Museum in Pasadena and Natural History Museum in Los Angeles.

"It was life-changing," she says, reflecting on an experience that would shape her lifelong passion for arts and science education. A University City resident since 1968, Smith has spent the past 23 years working to ensure that other students have similar opportunities.

ArtsBusXpress has helped fund or offset the cost of field trips for an astounding 230,000 TK-12th grade students and their teachers across San Diego County's public and charter schools – ensuring that the transformative power of discovery, creativity, and learning remains accessible to all.

With a dedicated team for two part-time employees, a bookkeeper, and an engaged, hands-on Board of Directors, ArtsBusXpress is forging ahead into a challenging year as it continues serving 42 school districts across San Diego County.

"We anticipate that many school districts will face significant budget cuts impacting programs across the board," she noted. Yet, despite the hurdles, ArtsBusXpress remains steadfast in its mission – ensuring that the journey of discovery and creativity never comes to a halt.

Last year, the organization took children on an unforgettable field trip to The Map, a stunning 2,200-square-foot LithoMosaic at Kellogg Park in La Jolla Shores. Sponsored by the Walter Munk Foundation for the Oceans, the intricate artwork beautifully showcases the underwater topography of the Grand Canyons of La Jolla while celebrating over 100 marine species native to our coastal waters.

"I love U.C.," Smith said. "Its commitment to education is inspiring, and I especially love that we're so close to UCSD – immersed in the energy of a world-class university setting."

Smith and her husband, David—a retired dentist from Scripps Memorial—are proud parents of three grown children, Brandt, Jenna, and Todd, and doting grandparents to six grandchildren, one currently attending University City High School and another at Standley Middle School.

If Smith and ArtsBusXpress had one grand wish for the New Year, it would be to welcome a few more funding partners, particularly from the banking or financial services sector. Ever passionate about expanding horizons, Smith dreams of every child having the chance to step aboard a yellow school bus—just as she did in her youth—and embark on a journey of discovery, wonder, and learning.

For info about ArtsBusXpress, go to artsbusxpress.org.



Valencia HOA Holds Chili Cook-Off

by Heidi Boose

On a late November day, the Valencia HOA Social Committee hosted its 1st annual Chili Cook-Off. Residents Felipe Burgaz, Donna Dinan, Ash Nasser, and Terry Percival entered crockpots full of meat chili, while Roberta Balstad, Heidi Boose, Martha Demski, and Daren Esposito cooked up meatless entries. Drinks and corn muffins were provided by the Social Committee. About 40 neighbors came to taste and judge the chilis, in this "crockpot to table" event held on Caminito Terviso. After all the votes were tallied, the blue ribbon winners were Ash Nasser (meat category) and Roberta Balstad (meatless category). Both Ash and Roberta graciously provided their recipes to all Valencia neighbors. The next Valencia HOA Social Committee event will occur in early Spring.



Ecolunches to Grow with UC Garden Club

by Jemma Samala

What started off as a group focused on building a more sustainable environment at University City High School, by ditching the plastic utensils provided at lunchtime, Ecolunches has their sights set on another fix at UCHS – the school garden. The plan is to create a garden space where students can come to enjoy lunch.

The students met with UC Garden Club members and shared their ideas and projects completed to date – including setting up gopher barriers. Project ideas bantered about were obtaining a shade sail and new garden tables and benches; planting native plants and succulents; and getting mulch placed over the hard dirt. Once the students establish a plan, UC Garden Club will plan a work day to help get it started. Funds and plant donations are needed, contact student member Samantha Barton through the UC Garden Club.



Fantastical Forest of Decorated Holiday Trees

by Kathy Niess

Saturday, December 7 was a fun and festive morning as some of my neighbors gathered to participate in Pam and Myke Kulwiec's 3rd annual "Fantastic Front Yard Forest Decorating Derby." We all were welcomed with hot cocoa and fresh donuts as we picked a wooden tree and decorated it with our own ornaments. There were a total of 15 trees (which Myke laboriously made and painted) and the idea was to pick a theme for your tree. It's always fun to see what creative ideas people come up with. There's even a judge and afterwards EVERYONE gets a very generous gift basket prize filled with holiday goodies. At the end there's a snow machine and the kids all laugh and throw "snowballs" at each other. Thank you Myke and Pam for always bringing the neighborhood together.



In February, the UC Garden Club has scheduled: February 8, 2:00pm – Learn to use pool water to extinguish a fire, and Zone 0 (within 5 feet of your home) landscaping. *In partnership with the UC Fire Safe Council.*

February 22, 11:00am, UC Library – Growing a Productive Vegetable Garden in Spring, with Master Gardener Heather Holland. Learn which vegetables to grow in spring, and how to recycle organic matter into compost to feed your soil.

For location info, to contact Ecolunches, and to get on the UC Garden Club email list, contact jemmasamala@gmail.com.



Event photos courtesy Greg Hom, UCCA Historian



University City High School Band



Our Mother of Confidence Children's Choir



Spreckels Elementary Spanish Chorus



Mission Bay Montessori Academy Children's Chorus



Key of She Chorus



Hanukkah Song by Tom Ventimiglia and Menorah Lighting with Merle Langston and Ruth DeSantis



You can always count on Santa to visit with the children.



University City experienced another successful community tradition when we celebrated at our annual Holiday Lights and Dinner with Santa at Standley Park one clear December night. Thanks to the Standley Park Community Recreation Group and staff, Standley Parks Council, and the University City Community Association for combining their efforts to bring University City this family-favorite event. Special thanks to Barry Bernstein, Darlene Ventimiglia, and Carol Parham for their planning, and extra thanks to the early morning elves who put up all the outdoor decorations.

If you would like to help in planning the UCCA 2025 Holiday Lights portion of the events, please contact jemmasamala@gmail.com.



Pictured above - left: Cheers from helpers Jemma Samala, Jacque Bernstein, Ruth DeSantis and Katie Rodolico; middle: Jim Simon, Tree Engineer; and right: Carol and Gordan Parham selling Dinner with Santa tickets. Below – crowds gather to celebrate the holidays and watch the entertainment.



UC Planning Group Meeting Update

by Chris Nielsen, UCPG Chair

The University City Planning Group (UCPG) welcomed our three new District 4 residential voting members of the UCPG board: Henry Taylor-Goalby, Mike Borisov, and Emma Chavez.

We began with an Information item from MCAS Miramar base commander Col. Eric Herrmann. Col. Herrmann described how the base fire department dealt with two fires on the base, one 2-acre fire near the East Gate, and one 12-acre fire south of the south runway. Poway and San Diego Fire Departments assisted with the fires, demonstrating cooperation between Miramar, Poway, and San Diego fire.

UC San Diego presented their strategy moving forward as an information item, including the updating of the 2018 Long Range Development Plan, and the addition of further housing to the campus. The opening of Ridgewalk North this fall will add 2,400 beds to the existing 22,100 beds. UC San Diego is planning a 6,000 bed Pepper Canyon East living and learning facility. UC San Diego expects to house 30,500 students out of a total of 56,000, or 55%, by 2040.

Upcoming in February, we may have a recommendation on a banner district by UC San Diego that would ring the campus. We will very likely have an information item by Alexandria on proposed changes to their Campus Point development, including the addition of housing, together with the mobility proposal for Campus Point and Genesee that they have presented multiple times to the UCPG.

Alexandria is not prepared to answer questions about Costa Verde, for which they have submitted a Notice of Application to DSD. This will be coming to the UCPG as an info item soon.

The UCPG held a discussion about ranking its Capital Improvement Projects list, and during this discussion we were informed by Michaela Valk, our rep from the Mayor's office, that there were in fact two CIP projects for the UC Community Library, one, the original renovation, with cost around \$6M in 2005, and a second CIP project that takes a \$1.9M grant funded by the state, adds some city money, and creates a smaller renovation project that could be funded near-term. The UCPG will add this smaller CIP to on our list and ranked it along with our other CIP projects. We were told it did not matter what position this project was ranked, only that it be on our list.

Nominations will be open for four residential seats on the UCPG board, one for each UCPG district, due no later than February 11. Three business seats, one for each of UCPG District 1, 2, and 3, are also open. UCPG District 4 does not have business members. Elections will be held in March.

CIP (Community Improvement Project) List

- Genesee Ave and Governor Drive Safe Crossing
- North UC Regents Road Rose Canyon Overlook Park
- South Rose Canyon Regents Linear Overlook Park
- Standley Recreation Center Cooling System Evaluation & Design
- Standley Recreation Center Modernization
- UC Library Renovation CIP (State of CA grant plus City money)
- UC Gardens Park
- Safer School and Recreation Zone: Governor Drive (Stadium Street to Radcliffe Drive)

Colonel Herrmann, CO MCAS Miramar

by Diane Ahern



At UCPG, CO Herrmann spoke about fires, drones, FAA Air Traffic Control (ATC) and a discussion of aviation course rules that involved North Island, Camp Pendleton, and MCAS Miramar.

Fires 1: There was a fire at MCAS Miramar on Monday, January 13, that sparked south of the main runway. The cause is still under investigation, but it appears that there were workers in the area and in the course of their work, a spark touched off a fire. There was no aviation mishap. The Miramar aviation rescue (ARFF) and Miramar fire-rescue departments responded immediately and were assisted by San Diego FD crews and a SDFD helicopter which did water drops. The fire burned 12 acres, all of which were on MCAS Miramar federal property.

Fires 2: Also related to fires, CO Herrmann mentioned that the Miramar area east of the I-15 is a concern because there is lots of dry brush in that area and there are not a lot of structures that would stop a fire. They are continuing regularly scheduled brush management; and they are also considering the use of goats to help with brush management in the Federal property that is east of the 15.

Drones: There are drone detection systems in place at the MCAS. The base is concerned about unauthorized drones because flying drones in the area and over the installation is both a safety and security issue; and it would impact training and air operations.

FAA Air Traffic Control: CO Herrmann did not discuss changes in flight patterns due to Santa Ana winds but he did mention that the FAA Air Traffic Control occasionally re-routes Miramar air traffic. This re-routing could result in aircraft flying routes other than the usual and customary. There is info about FAA Air Traffic Control and the impacts of Santa Ana wind conditions at: universitycitynews.org/UCCA/SantaAnaWinds

Aviation course rules: The commanding officers at Marine Corps Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Miramar have met with the commanding officer of Navy North Island/Coronado to review flight course rules. This came about because of community concerns about Navy and Marine Corps helicopters and rotary wing aircraft traveling to and from all three bases. For us locally, the big news about course rules is that the Marine Corps and Navy North Island flight operations are involved in the discussion and now everybody is aware of everybody else's course rules. Nothing has changed that we would notice in our University City community. The Miramar aviation course rules are the same as they have been; and they are being enforced by the Miramar Operations Dept and CO Herrmann.

- The Miramar course rules are described in the AICUZ; available here: miramar.marines.mil/Resources/Air-Installations-Compatible-Use-Zones/
- The airport operations, departure and arrival procedures for the Miramar airport (KNKX) are summarized here: airnav.com/airport/KNKX
- If you would like to listen to Colonel Herrmann's presentation, it is available on UCCA's website and starts at approximately 8 minutes into the recording. Available at: universitycitynews.org/UCCA/UCPGJan2025



What University City Can Do to Survive a Firestorm

by Louis Rodolico, UC Fire Safe Council President

One of the largest fires in San Diego history was the 1970 Laguna Fire which burned 175,000 acres. The biggest was the 2003 Cedar fire which threatened University City, burned 280,278 acres, destroyed 2,232 homes and claimed 15 lives. If the winds had continued from the northeast for a few more hours the 2003 Cedar fire would have burned University, similar to what we are currently seeing in Los Angeles, but we got lucky in 2003.

As of today, if an intense firestorm approaches the University City area, the firestorm will be greeted with fuel, in the form of combustible building surfaces and foliage. University City, with its building stock built before the building codes changed in 2007, would look like the recent LA fire. Very few buildings would survive.

The best thing we can do as property owners is to remove as much fuel as possible before the next firestorm arrives. Having all non-combustible building surfaces is just the start. We need to keep plants away from our houses so they do not burn near the houses. The current recommendation is to have only non-combustible paving/groundcover within 5 feet of our houses. As for larger bushes or trees, the further away from the house the better. Trees should be no closer than 20 feet.

All existing soffits, garage floor vents, roof and wall vents need to have 1/16th inch stainless steel screening to keep small embers out. Before you leave in an evacuation, bring trash cans and any combustible furniture inside the garage. Turn off your above ground irrigation controllers, it was plastic irrigation controllers that melted during the 2023 Maui fire, greatly reducing the water pressure for first responders. Consider turning off utilities before you leave.

The more fuel we give the fire the greater the risk to all structures. If all of us work to reduce combustible items, then we will have starved the firestorm of its fuel. The firestorm could pass through the community and possibly be contained by our non-combustible community.

- For more information about the Fire Safe Council, visit: ucfiresafecouncil.com
- For more information from the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, visit: sandiego.gov/fire

Will You Do Something Now?

by Ex-Fire Chief William H. Beck, UC Fire Safe Council Member

Firefighters dedicate their careers to protecting homes and property from devastating fires. However, when the recent Los Angeles wildfire erupted, even their decades of experience and specialized equipment were no match for its fury. With Santa Ana winds reaching up to 100 miles per hour, no fire department could withstand the unstoppable force of destruction the fire brought. Tragically, some have attempted to place blame on the fire department for the immense losses so many endured.

Yes, this was a true disaster, but responsibility must be shared among many, including Mother Nature. How many homeowners had implemented the fire prevention measures recommended by fire officials? How many eaves were enclosed? How many homeowners had cleared vegetation to create a defensible space around their homes?

Disasters like the one in Los Angeles can happen anywhere. Recently, La Jolla experienced a small brush fire on Gillman that proved difficult to contain. Thankfully, after several hours it was extinguished with no homes being damaged.

Will these fires serve as a wake-up call, or will they soon be forgotten, leaving us vulnerable once again? Both homeowners and the City must take responsibility and work together to mitigate the risks. The cost of prevention may be high, but the alternative—losing lives and property—is far greater.

Ready, Set, Go

Ready -- Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire, so your home is ready in case of a fire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Plan escape routes and make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action.

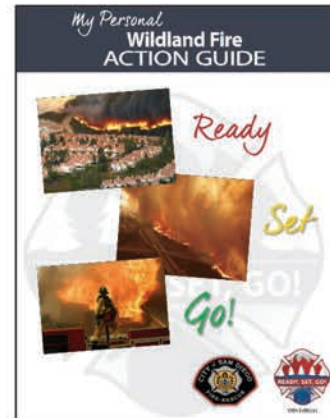
Set -- Pack your emergency items. Stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, your local fire department and public safety.

Go -- Follow your personal wildland fire action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire.

Read and download the Ready, Set, Go! guide at: sandiego.gov/fire/safety/tips/readyssetgo

Additional Resources:

- Make a Plan: sandiego.gov/oes/plan
- Emergency Preparedness Resources: sandiego.gov/oes/emergencypreparedness
- Earthquake Preparedness: sandiego.gov/fire/safety/tips/earthquake
- Fire Preparedness: <https://www.sandiego.gov/fire/safety>
- Flood Preparedness: <https://www.sandiego.gov/floodprep>
- Office of Emergency Services: sandiego.gov/oes



WILDFIRE SAFETY

Here are essential resources to help you and your neighbors stay updated on emergencies like red flag warnings, wildfires, or evacuation orders in the City of San Diego:

- ✓ Follow @SDFD: x.com/SDFD
- ✓ Follow @SanDiegoPD: x.com/SanDiegoPD
- ✓ Download the Genasys Protect App: protect.genasys.com/download
- ✓ Get the SD Emergency Mobile App: www.alertsandiego.org
- ✓ Check out this Personal Wildland Fire Action Guide: sandiego.gov/fire/ready-set-go

Remember to ALWAYS follow evacuation orders from public safety officials.



Thank You to Renewing and New UCCA Members for 2025

Individual

Fred & Alice Andrus
 Susan Anuskiewicz and Kim Misegades
 Ann Collins
 Clare Eckhardt
 Mary Eggen
 Marcia Ellison
 Fishman Family
 Tim Garfield
 Millie Goddard
 Ann & Phil Gonsalves
 Kathleen Hopely
 Elizabeth Koehler
 Ingrid Liebscher
 Nancy McAvoy
 Phyllis Munoz
 Rita Newell
 Chris Nielsen
 Joann Nogel
 Pamela Norton
 Elisa Parker
 June Pozzi
 Debra Reed
 Sandy & Barbara Rosenthal
 Gerry Senda
 Richard & Kay Slader
 Nicolas Triantafillopoulos
 Adrian Wadsworth
 Anita Wilson
 Katherine Wong
 Kris Worley

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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

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

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Seaside Chapter

Class of 2021 Welcomed!

The National Charity League Inc. (NCL) is a 100-year-old national non-profit organization designed to encourage community service for mothers and their daughters in grades 7-12. Beyond volunteering, members have an opportunity to gain leadership skills and experience cultural activities. The Seaside Chapter invites mothers and daughters currently in 6th grade to join us for a presentation about NCL Seaside, refreshments and a philanthropy activity for potential new Ticktockers! Applications are due by 3/1/25. Space is limited.

RSVP and questions email: membership@nclseaside.org

Prospective New Members Meetings

Wednesday 1/29 • 6pm-8pm
 Private Residence in UC - Email for address
Sunday 2/2 • 2pm-4pm
 Alta La Jolla Clubhouse - 1570 Alta La Jolla Drive
Wednesday 2/26 • 6pm-8pm
 Location announced soon

Please follow us on Instagram @NCLSeaside for updates.
www.nationalcharityleague.org/chapter/seaside

We hope to see you!

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Monday, February 17th

Presidents' Day is a federal holiday in the United States on the third Monday in February. Because it is a federal holiday, federal services, such as US Postal Service post offices, are closed on Presidents' Day. Some schools close as well. Private businesses are usually open, as well as private mail and delivery companies. Public transport often operates on a Saturday schedule.

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Next Issue: March 2025

Deadline: February 22, 2025



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What else is going on in February?

Feb 1	Saturday	First Day of Black History Month
Feb 2	Sunday	Groundhog Day
Feb 5	Wednesday	National Girls and Women in Sports Day
Feb 7	Friday	National Wear Red Day

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Monday, February 17th



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- Getting your estate planning documents in order
- To stay or move
- Sell "As-Is" or fix before you list
- Simplifying your space with purpose
- 2025 real estate projections
- Recent changes to real estate commissions

**All are welcome.*



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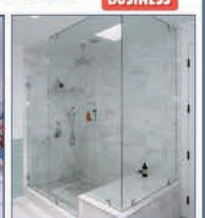
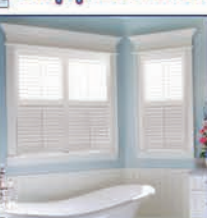
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8:00 – 10:00am

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- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Scrambled eggs
- Beverage

Be served by our talented UCHS Musicians!

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/uchs-music-boosters-applebees-breakfast-fundraiser>



Questions? Contact adlehman@att.net



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