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

UCCA PRESENTS

**One-on-One:  
San Diego Fire Department  
Chief Robert Logan**

Tuesday, April 22, 6:00pm  
University Community Library, 4155 Governor Drive



The University City Community Association will sit down with SDFD Chief Robert Logan, recently becoming fire chief in August of 2024. A native San Diegan, Chief Logan will answer questions about the current state of the fire department, fire prevention, fire management, and more. UCCA will ask prepared questions from the community, as well have a Q&A session. Send your questions in advance to: [jemmasamala@gmail.com](mailto:jemmasamala@gmail.com), by April 18.

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

# University City

# NEWS

## Front Porch Pandemic Jazz Jam Celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*by Greg Pardue*

Back in April 2020, three long time professional San Diego musicians found themselves without any gigs or opportunities to play with other musicians because of the new Covid 19 Pandemic. Having gigged together in various bands for many years, on April 30, 2020 (UNESCO International Jazz Day), Greg Pardue (saxophones), Jack Hoffman (piano) and Roy Jenkins (bass) decided to try jamming outdoors on Greg's front porch where there was plenty of fresh air, a light breeze and room to observe the new concept of "social distancing". They had so much fun that they decided to make it a weekly jam and invited a few friends to check it out because, being outside with mild weather, it was relatively safe for an audience and the musicians even in the throes of the pandemic.

Word got out about great live jazz every Thursday afternoon when public live music performances were almost non-existent. Several local TV stations checked them out and the event garnered local and even a little international media coverage. During the first couple of years the band grew from 3 to 6 musicians in any given week and the audience grew to 30-50 people from all corners of San Diego County. They have also had audience members and other musicians from all around the US and Europe stop by to check it out. Word has really gotten out and this proves Jazz is truly an international music.

Because the musicians are having so much fun, it has become a rotating collective of around 20 musicians from all over San Diego County and southern California. As the world has started to get a handle on Covid, the audience has also been having more and more fun. They now regularly bring picnics, have wine tastings and bring their kids, dogs and bicycles. Another nice surprise has been USD Music professor, Dr. Angela Yeung. Dr. Yeung has made the Front Porch Pandemic Jazz Jam a class field trip every year since 2022.

Thankfully our neighbors and the University City community have enthusiastically supported the weekly event since the beginning. April 30, 2025 marks the 5th Anniversary of the Front Porch Pandemic Jazz Jam and the musicians and audience are still having so much fun each week it shows no signs of stopping any time soon.

The Front Porch Pandemic Jazz Jam performs Live Jazz every Thursday starting around 4:00pm for 2 hours or so (subject to weather) outside at 5626 Bloch Street in San Diego's University City neighborhood.



*The main group of the Front Porch Pandemic Jazz Jam*



*Jam time with guest Dr. Gary Chun, even while on baby watch duty*



*The band is on the syllabus of a USD music class field trip*

## UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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

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

### Guidelines:

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

### Deadline for the MAY 2025 issue: APRIL 17

Please send your submission as early as possible. The deadline for the May issue is **April 17, 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](mailto:president@universitycitynews.org)

Vice-President: Jim Beshears

Secretary: Katie Rodolico

Treasurer: Phil Fowler

#### Appointed Positions

Beautification Chair: Merle Langston

CASA Liaison/Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Chair/Publicity

& Promotion/Webmaster: Diane Ahern

Historian: Greg Hom

\*Holiday Lighting: Darlene Ventimiglia

Membership Co-Chair: Wendy Lee

Membership: Corporate Co-Chair – 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

Senior Watch: Valerie Upham

\*Special Events: Barry Bernstein

\*UCPG Liaison: Katie Rodolico

#### Other Volunteers - Newsletter

\*Mike Frattali: City Issues

\*Vince Reardon: UC Profiles

\*Non-Voting Position

**UCCA February Board Meeting Actions** Confirmed the board approval of the January minutes; approved \$1,500 grant to EduCate!; and approved \$500 grant to UC Fire Safe Council.

#### Public Projects Reports

**Pure Water Project Update: Carlos Molina and Yvette Gonzales** - Work continues on the three tunnels : Rose canyon tunnel is complete but still needs to be connected into the shafts at Centurion and just north of the train tracks. Tunnelling continues under I-805 at Executive. Working hours: 6:30am – 5:00pm with occasional Saturday work as necessary. Current work sites: Centurion to Nobel - traffic restriction in place at Decoro, north bound Genesee to west bound Decoro requires a U-turn at Nobel. Flaggers working the intersection of Decoro during work hours. The site near the train tracks will be used to pressure test the system so the grading and retaining walls at that site will be maintained. The three shafts for Rose Canyon: South (Centurian), middle (east of Genesee near railroad tracks), and the North shaft (in center of Genesee, north of Centurion and train tracks) need to be connected to the tunneled pipes. The contractor is currently working on the south shaft connection to the tunneled pipe.

Upcoming work: Genesee at Marian Bear - The contractor will have to shut down Genesee, in both directions, to trench from the Marian Bear parking lot to the trench under 52. This is expected to be a 72-hour closure in April. Plates will be in place so that pedestrians and bicycles can cross, during this work.

Pure Water is working with the contractor to get potholes filled after recent rains. Pressure testing at Rose Canyon will happen sometime this summer. For the north city pipeline \$113M was budgeted; to date they have spent \$86M. This is only for the pipeline from Appleton to the Pure Water processing station at Eastgate Mall. Contractor discovered that the water line valves were inoperable at Nobel and Genesee - so they need to be replaced. Completion expected summer 2025.

#### Elected Official Reports:

**Marc Schaeffer & Juliette Castner for State Senator Jones office:**

The following are bills that Sen. Jones worked on or sponsored.

SB2 - Changes the greenhouse gas emissions requirements; save 65-85cents/gallon

SB286 - Elderly and youth treated the same; restricts parole for violent offenders

SB379: Requires considering of public safety when placing violent predators in post-prison housing

SB356: Allows parole board to see all evidence of crimes by parole applicants

SB554: Maintains SB54, prohibits local governments from imposing restrictions greater than the state restrictions, when working with ICE

SB581- Seasonal Cal Fire employees can be reclassified as permanent employees

SB1: - Excludes military retirement and survivor income from state income tax

Drive Smart program will likely be offered again in the summer or fall. Governor Newsom's proposed budget is \$322B claiming a small surplus. The Independent budget office says there will be a shortfall. Real numbers will be released in May.

#### Zach Burton for Councilmember Kent Lee:

Councilmember Lee's office will be having a townhall about the budget. Measure B open houses. Another round of meetings: North UC library April 8, 5:30-8:00pm.

#### Omar Telon-Sosa (OTS): For County Supervisor Terra Lawson Remer:

Over 500 people assisted in exiting homelessness. Expanded the program to include more providers. Cost is about \$1,600 per person, or \$3,100 per household.

#### Special Reports:

**UCPG: Chris Nielsen:** Alexandria presented for over 2 hours on the 10210 Campus Point project. The project includes a mobility initiative as well as up to 2200 possible housing units on site. The proposal calls for two new road cutters from Campus Point to Genesee - one way in, one way out. This will allow for better fire access. Adaptive smart signals are part of this project. Alexandria needs 3 discretionary permits for the project. Parcels might be remapped since current parcel lines cut some buildings in half. They are requesting a height variance to allow 180' height vs 130' allowed. UCPG recommended the new parcel map. They approved the 60 du/acre. The project is in the Miramar transition zone. UCPG recommended that the lots facing Roselle Canyon and Sorrento bluffs be limited to 140' to lessen impact of light and risk of bird strikes next to sensitive lands. The rest of the project could be a 180' height limit. No timeline given - 5 or 6 of the buildings exist and have tenants. They will probably develop 600 housing units to start.

#### Library Branch Update: Melissa Martin

No budget info yet. \$1.9M grant - at estimating stage. Basics first - flooring, walls, ceilings. Three concerts planned for live music.

#### UCCA Committee Reports

**Financial Report:** lower membership dues, lower ad revenue.

**Neighborhood Watch:** Please keep a lookout for damaged looking neighborhood watch signs. Still looking for more neighborhood watch captains.

**Senior Watch: Introduction of Valerie Upham** - Jemma contacted her about being lead for a program for connecting seniors in our community. The idea is community members and neighbors help their older neighbors pack up and get out in case of fire or emergency evacuation. They are also looking at ways the community can provide respite care for caregivers. (volunteers). The idea is to be a resource for this community's seniors. There was a suggestion to look into You are Not Alone through the SDPD. Program that uses RSVP officers for wellness checks etc.

**Reminder that April 22, 6:00pm is a One-on-One with Fire Chief Logan.**



**UCCA President  
Jemma Samala**

I was out of town for most of March, and I can't believe it's April already – time for spring cleaning and rejuvenation of your energy. Easier said than done.

I was very happy to hear the re-establishing of the monthly Cars & Coffee (and donuts too), which will continue to be held the last Saturday of the month (see page 10). My partner Richard is a car guy, and gladly rode up in his Triumph Thruxton 900 motorcycle.

The hardest part for me will be the spring cleaning. Including, tidying up the garden, which grew wild while I was away (I guess we had some torrential rains). I have to get out the big shears to cut back some leaves – including trimming my artichoke plants. Cleaning out your gardens also means clearing out the flammable materials in your Zone 0 – 5-feet around your home. It's important to have your home prepared for possible fires and during spring cleaning is as good a time to do so. See page 13 for some tips.



You could also ask SDFD Chief Robert Logan what he thinks about fire safety at our One-on-One talk with him, Tuesday, April 22, 6:00pm at the UC Library. You can send me questions in advance at [jemmasamala@gmail.com](mailto:jemmasamala@gmail.com).

No matter what your spring cleaning to-do list looks like, you know it'll be beautiful days up ahead in UC, and we can all help keep UC Clean (such as volunteering for the People for a Clean UC on April 13, 7:30am at Starbucks). See page 8 for Earth Day ideas too.

Oh, and help support UCCA with our own beautification projects by becoming a paid member or making a donation! Let's all help University City stay clean, and remain being more than just a neighborhood! It's your home.

*Jemma*

*Thinking Locally, Acting Neighborly*



Volunteers help with day of event registration, and serve on the EdUCate! board, some are pictured below left: Jonathan Doolittle, Katie Dunahoo; and below right: Bonnie MacRitchie, Holly Doolittle and Kendra Cole.



**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT –  
EdUCate!**

On page 11 you'll see some great pictures from the Taste of the Triangle annual fundraiser for EdUCate! – a nonprofit foundation that supports the five public schools in University City – University City High, Standley Middle, and Curie, Doyle and Spreckels Elementary Schools.

Since 1994, EdUCate! volunteers have not only planned what has become one of our local UC iconic events, but has raised well over \$1 million for our local public schools. Those dollars have gone on to fund Principal grants for school-wide needs, Teacher grants for classroom needs, Jr Achievement BizTown for all fifth-graders, Wellness Together mental health services for high school students, and the afterschool Math Academy & Homework Club for middle and high school students.

The dedication of EdUCate!'s volunteers, some whose children are out of school, is what has kept the organization going for decades – helping provide University City with that special something that makes us all so proud to live in this community.

Thank you EdUCate! volunteers!

# Calendar

## April 2025

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH**

**SPRING BREAK - SDUS**

March 31 – April 4

**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**

Sunday, April 6 to Saturday, April 12  
"Drawn to the Library"

**UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP**

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

**JEMMA at STARBUCKS OPEN HOURS**

Saturday, April 12, 9:00-11:00am  
Starbucks on Governor Drive

**PASSOVER**

Sundown, Saturday, April 12 to  
after nightfall Sunday, April 20

**PEOPLE FOR A CLEAN UC**

Sunday, April 13  
7:15-7:30am – meet & greet  
7:30-9:00am – work

Cleanup volunteers meet at Starbucks  
3203 Governor Drive, supplies provided

**TAX DAY**

Tuesday, April 15

**EASTER SUNDAY**

Sunday, April 20

**EARTH DAY**

Tuesday, April 22

**UCCA: ONE – ON – ONE**

**SDFD Chief Robert Logan**

**Tuesday, April 22, 6:00pm**

**UC Library on Governor Drive**

**Send questions in advance to  
[jemmasamala@gmail.com](mailto:jemmasamala@gmail.com). Q&A  
following One-on-One talk.**

**STANDLEY PARK COMMUNITY REC GROUP**

Thursday, April 24, 7:00pm  
For meeting details, call: 858.552.1651

**UC CELEBRATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, April 30, 6:15pm  
Standley Rec Center

**RENEW YOUR UCCA  
MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025**

**GO TO [UNIVERSITYCITYNEWS.ORG](http://UNIVERSITYCITYNEWS.ORG), OR MAIL  
IN MEMBERSHIP FORM ON PAGE 14**

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



## Crimes of Opportunity - A Reminder

provided by Barbara Gellman,  
UCCA Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

According to Wikipedia, "a crime of opportunity" is a crime committed without planning when the perpetrator sees that he/she has the chance to commit the act at that moment and seizes it. In other words, given the opportunity, a crime can be committed with little or no premeditation. The following is a partial list of crimes and how to prevent them.

### Auto break in/thefts

1. Lock car in driveway or street if not in garage.
2. Leave nothing of value visible in the car including backpacks, hanging wires, laptop cases, gym bags, clothes, packages or mail with personal information.
3. Lock car even if leaving the area for a short time.
4. Be observant when placing items such as valuables in your trunk; it's best to go home and unload them instead of driving around with them.

### Home break ins

1. Keep all doors and windows locked, if you have an alarm system, use it.
2. Lock all side gates. Consider posting a "Beware of Dog" sign even if you don't have one.
3. Keep spare keys out of reach from doors and windows
4. Install dusk to dawn or motion detector outside lighting and timers inside.
5. Do not open doors to strangers, talk through the door, install a peep-hole if necessary. Add dead-bolt locks to doors.
6. Lock door from house to garage
7. Remove garage door opener from car to prevent possible entry into house.
8. Change home address in GPS to a commercial location close to home. In case car is stolen, they won't know where you live.
9. Never leave bikes, strollers, lawn mowers, tools, sporting equipment unattended around your home.
10. Keep garage door closed unless working in or around area.
11. Ask neighbor to take in fliers/papers/packages if not going to be home.
12. Don't post "back at 2:00" on front door
13. Avoid personal information on internet sites including Facebook. Don't post when you will be on vacation.

### Miscellaneous

- Never leave your purse in the shopping cart or hanging on the chair or on an unattended desk at work.
- Use an ATM inside. Block screen when putting in pin number
- Don't count money in public
- Meet your neighbors so you know who is a stranger.

If you witness a **crime in progress** such as a burglary, **call 911** and report. **Non-emergencies call 619.531.2000**, when you hear "Mathew" speaking you can ask for "dispatch" 2 times and he will send you to the queue.

**Participate in Neighborhood Watch**; be part of the solution. Contact me at [bgellman@yahoo.com](mailto:bgellman@yahoo.com) to find out if you have a street captain and become part of the crime prevention team in partnership with our police. Help protect your family, property and neighborhood.

## Senior Citizen Scam Alert: Don't Give Money to 'Couriers'

by District Attorney Summer Stephan

Every year in San Diego County, senior citizens are scammed out of \$100 million by bad actors who trick the elderly into believing any number of scenarios. It's an astonishing figure, but the sad fact is that it's probably even higher. Many people who lose their life savings to a scam are so ashamed that they never report it. With this in mind, our office works day and night to protect vulnerable citizens from falling prey to liars trying to steal their money. Through our Elder Justice Task Force, public education and through prosecution, the District Attorney's Office is leading the way in the effort to halt scams before they wipe out bank accounts. The San Diego Elder Justice Task Force is made up of local and federal law enforcement partners, who work collaboratively to hold perpetrators accountable in state and federal prosecutions. Creating this task force has allowed our prosecutors and investigators to connect dots among statewide and federal criminal rings that target senior citizens.

A popular scam to which many San Diego County seniors have fallen prey involves bad actors tricking victims into thinking their computer has a virus or has been hacked and that the victim needs to allow "Microsoft" or some other company remote access the victim's computer to protect them. Once the bad actor has access to the victim's computer and financial information, they devise ways for the senior citizen to part ways with their cash or victims are instructed to purchase gold, under the guise that the bad actor is safeguarding the money. The most common method for thieves to obtain the victim's cash is by sending a courier to their front door to pick it up. Our office has prosecuted many of these couriers working on behalf of criminal organizations.

Banking institutions are mandated to report this type of suspicious activity to police. For example, if a bank or financial institution employee is aware of a senior citizen removing large sums of money and the employee suspects the senior could be getting scammed, by law the employee must alert police. Keep these tips in mind and discuss them with the people you care about:

- Never allow anyone to install remote access software on your computer or to download apps on your phone.
- Never disclose your home address or agree to meet with unknown individuals to deliver cash or precious metals.
- Do not click on unsolicited pop-ups on your computer, links sent via text messages, or email links and attachments.
- Do not contact unknown telephone numbers provided in pop-ups, texts, or emails.
- Do not allow unknown individuals access to your computer.
- If anyone asks you to pay for something or to secure your money by wiring money, using crypto currency, Bitcoin, gift cards or to pay large sums of cash or buy gold, end contact with that person immediately. You are being scammed.
- Immediately talk to someone you trust.
- Never believe anyone who tells you that you will get into trouble if you tell someone else about a situation that involves your money or financial accounts.
- Government officials and legitimate businesses will never request you purchase gold or other precious metals.

If you suspect that you have been the victim of fraud, report it or any suspicious activities to the FBI IC3 at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov) and also report this to your local police agency; include as much transaction info including:

- The name of the person or company that contacted you.
- Methods of communication used, including websites, emails, and telephone numbers.
- Any bank account number to which you wired funds and the recipient's name.
- The name and location of the metal dealer company and the account to which you wired funds, if you were instructed to buy precious metals.

If you have been the victim of elder abuse, report it to Adult Protective Services: 800.339.4661.



## Gloria Administration Proposes Reforms to ADU Density Bonus Program, Invites Public Feedback

Mayor Todd Gloria is bringing forward reforms to the City of San Diego's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Density Bonus Program that will continue its success in expanding affordable home options while ensuring projects are consistent with the scale and character of San Diego's neighborhoods.

The City Planning Department is preparing amendments to the City's ADU regulations that implement state legislation, include clarifications and corrections, and reform the City's ADU Home Density Bonus Program (ADU Density Program). The proposed reforms to the ADU Density Program include the following:

- **Address Infrastructure Needs:** Propose options to collect opt-in fees from ADU Density Bonus home builders to fund needed infrastructure, such as parks and libraries.
- **Development Scale:** Amend the applicability of the ADU Density Bonus Program by applying base zone height and overall allowable building area of a property in a manner that ensures ADU Density Bonus homes are similar in scale to the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Parking:** Apply parking requirements to ADU Density Bonus Program development outside of the Transit Priority Area. State law prevents the City from requiring parking inside the Transit Priority Area.
- **Compliance:** Increase fines for violations of the deed restriction for affordable rents on homes created through the ADU Density Bonus Program.
- **Adequate Evacuation Routes:** Eliminate the ADU Density Bonus Program's applicability in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones unless adequate emergency and evacuation routes exist.
- **Fire Code:** Apply fire code requirements for multifamily buildings to ADU Density Bonus Program developments, including fire sprinkler requirements.
- **Setbacks:** Align all ADU home setbacks to be consistent with fire code regulations related to brush management.

Other ADU amendments are also anticipated to be included as necessary to comply with state law and to implement AB 1033, allowing for ADU homes to be available for homeownership.

The tentative public schedule includes the Planning Commission on May 1, 2025; the Land Use & Housing Committee in May; and the City Council in June 2025.

The Proposed draft amendments will be posted soon. Meanwhile, the public is invited to provide feedback on these proposed reforms and learn more at: [sandiego.gov/planning/work/land-development-code/updates-in-process](http://sandiego.gov/planning/work/land-development-code/updates-in-process)

## Councilmember Kent Lee

I want to start by recognizing an incredible moment in San Diego sports history—four teams made it to an NCAA Tournament for the first time! Congratulations to the SDSU Aztecs and my alma mater, the UCSD Tritons, as both their men's and women's basketball teams achieved this historic milestone. While the results may not have been in our favor this year, it was a huge moment for these student-athletes and for San Diego.

At City Hall, spring marks the beginning of the annual budget process. Due to declining tax revenues and increases in expenses based primarily on weak economic conditions and inflation, the City is facing a \$258 million deficit in the upcoming fiscal year. The Mayor is expected to release a draft of the budget on April 15 and will present the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget to the City Council on Monday, April 21st. The City Council and Independent Budget Analyst will then comprehensively review the Mayor's Proposed Budget. There will be a series of Budget Review Committee hearings that will give the public opportunities to provide critical input on the budget's development prior to the City Council considering its final adoption in early June. It is likely that deep operational cuts will be proposed to close the financial deficit. This is why community input will be so important throughout the Budget Review process. There are evening Budget Review Committee hearings specifically focused on giving the public an opportunity to participate on Monday, May 5th, and Monday, May 19th. Separately, I will be hosting a budget town hall in District 6 so that I can hear directly from District 6 residents. Stay tuned for details, and as always, you can find the complete budget timeline at [www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd6/budget](http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd6/budget). As we approach this year's fiscal challenges, I remain especially committed to protecting the core services that matter most to District 6 families and our communities.

Recently, I was honored to be named one of Biocom California's 'Legislators of the Year' alongside Senator Akilah Weber, MD! San Diego is a global leader in life sciences, with many of our most innovative life science companies and the families they support clustered throughout District 6. I look forward to working alongside Biocom California and my colleagues to keep San Diego a hub for innovation and opportunity — especially as San Diego seeks to retain its best and brightest while attracting talent from across the country.



Next, my team and I look forward to upcoming community events in University City! Be sure to visit our tent at the Spring Egg Hunt at Nobel Athletic Field and Recreation Center on April 5—stop by to say hello and pick up a fun prize for the kids. And on April 12, we'll celebrate with CalCoast Credit Union as they mark their fifth anniversary in the UC community with a public event. We hope to see you there!

Finally, a quick reminder that the City of San Diego is holding a third round of community open houses to give you the opportunity to learn more about proposed waste collection costs and service options. The District 6 open house will be held on **Tuesday, April 8, at the North University Community Library**, 8820 Judicial Dr., 92122. Visit [cleangreensd.org](http://cleangreensd.org) for more information. As always, if you have any concerns our office can help with, please contact me or my University City representative, Zach Burton, at [zburton@sandiego.gov](mailto:zburton@sandiego.gov).

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

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

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

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

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

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

## North University Community Library

### ALL AGE PROGRAMS

**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):** Saturdays, April 5, 19 & 26. May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31. All events occur from 4:00-5:30pm. 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

**Ta-Da!: The Science of Magic (Magic Show):** Saturday, April 12 at 4:00-5:00pm. Prepare to be amazed! Explore how magicians use the principles of science to develop illusions, make paper disappear into thin air, create balls of water, and pull a (stuffed) rabbit out of a hat! For grades 3-5.

**Bilingual Mandarin Chinese Storytime 中文故事時間:** Sunday, April 27 at 2:00-2:30pm. Ms. Lily presents stories and songs in Mandarin. All ages are welcome.

**Día de Los Niños Toddler Storytime and Craft:** Wednesday, April 30 at 10:00-11:15am. Join in as we read, sing, dance, and play at Toddler Storytime! Come and build essential early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. Designed for children ages 1-3. This week, we will be celebrating Día de Los Niños, and there will be a "take or make" craft option following Storytime.

### ADULT PROGRAMS

**Memory Evaluation Screenings:** Tuesday, April 15 at 12:00-3:00pm. We are hosting free and private 30-minute memory screening appointments led by Sharp Neurocognitive Research Center. Annual memory testing is highly recommended for adults ages 50 or older, or even earlier if you're experiencing memory problems that concern you. Please call library staff at 858.581.9637 to schedule a 30-minute appointment.

**SDIS Monthly Lecture Series: Women Philosophers of the 20th Century:** Saturday, April 12, 1:30-3:00pm. Oliva M. Espin is Professor Emerita in the Department of Women's Studies at San Diego State University. She will discuss the contributions of four women to the philosophy of the 20th century: Simone de Beauvoir, Edith Stein, Simone Weil, and Hannah Arendt.

**Amantes de la Lectura - Novelas Hispano-Americanas en Español:** Saturday, April 19 from 2:00-4:00pm. The Amantes will be discussing *El problema final* by Arturo Pérez Reverte. RSVP to [tlampell21@gmail.com](mailto:tlampell21@gmail.com).

**Community Gynecological Cancer Support Group Meeting:** Thursday, April 24 at 10:00am-12:00pm. Patients and survivors of gynecological cancers can meet during this ongoing monthly support group.

**Celebrity Memoir Book Club:** Tuesday, April 22 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: *Coming Home* by Brittney Griner. Copies available to read at the front desk.

## University Community Library (Governor Drive)

### ALL AGES PROGRAMS

**Cooking with Healthy Adventures: Thursday, April 3, 4:00pm.** Ages 8 & up. Learn how to make healthy and delicious meals that are easy to create in a short amount of time. Take home recipes and something yummy to eat! Register online through or call UC Library for assistance with signing up.

**Robotics Demonstration and Competition: Saturday, April 19, 1:00-2:30pm.** Come and learn about The FIRST Robotics Organization, how to get involved in robotics, the different types of robotics leagues and learn all about Team Bumblebee's success as a newer robotics team.

### CHILDREN/TEEN PROGRAMS

**Signing Storytime (new series through June):** First Mondays, 11:45am. Learn basic ASL words through an engaging story time. Next classes: April 7, May 5, June 2.

**FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS Grades 6-8: Watercolor Painting with Spices, Tuesday, April 29 at 4:00pm.** Join us for a fun and creative workshop where you'll discover the art of painting with spices right from your pantry! Explore how to use everyday spices to create vibrant colors, unleash your creativity and have a blast with friends or make new ones!

### ADULT PROGRAMS

**English Conversation Group:** Fridays: April 4, April 18, 10:00-11:00am. Meet to practice English-speaking skills.

**Mindful Meditation for Memory and Cognition, Friday, April 11 at 9:30am.** Mindful meditation helps us become aware of what is already true moment by moment and teaches us how to be unconditionally present. Mindful meditation has been beneficial to some in lowering heart rate, respirations, blood pressure and stress. It is a great addition to your current health routine. No registration required.

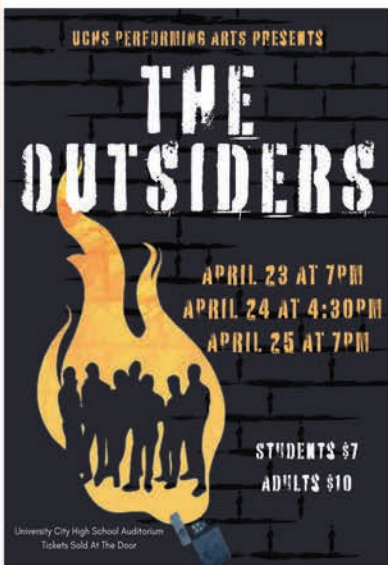
**Art for Adults with Ms. Saeda (now through December): Third Tuesdays at 12:30pm.** Enjoy the creative art process in a calm, relaxing environment with an experienced instructor. No registration required. Next meetings: April 15, May 20, June 17.

**Lectures at the Library (San Diego OASIS): The Fall of Saigon and Operation Frequent Wind, April 8 at 12:30pm.** Rudy Shappee, U.S. Navy veteran and local historian, explores the final days of the Vietnam War as the People's Army of Vietnam surrounded Saigon and thousands of South Vietnamese desperately fled to the U.S.S. Midway.

**Lectures at the Library (San Diego OASIS): Write On! Remedies for the Reluctant Writer, April 22 at 12:30pm.** You have a story to tell, but you can't get started or maybe you've reached a roadblock in your writing. Are you ready to assess your situation and start writing (again)? Patricia Benesh, Ed. D brings together writing tips and effective techniques from her **7 Memories Series** to help you identify behaviors and beliefs that deter your writing. Bring story ideas or previous draft.

**EXHIBIT: Write Out Loud** will be exhibiting amazing artwork by local students who participated in **The Big Read**. Each year, Write Out Loud partners with local teachers in a program where students all read the same book and then make art inspired by the characters or themes in the book. The Big Read Exhibit Reception will be held on Saturday, April 19.

**EXHIBIT:** Check out a special display for **National Coin Week** hosted by a local student and numismatics enthusiast!



## The Outsiders

by Stacie Bresler

University City High School Performing Arts proudly announces its upcoming production of "The Outsiders," adapted by Christopher Sergel, from the book by S.E. Hinton. It tells the story of three orphaned brothers and their struggle with right and wrong in a society that labels them as outsiders. Show times: Wednesday, April 23 at 7:00pm, Thursday, April 24 at 4:30pm, and Friday, April 25 at 7:00pm. Tickets available at the door: UCHS Auditorium, 6949 Genesee Ave.



## Spreckels Unveils "Paws for Peace"

by Veronica Vidal Praeger

On March 6, the Spreckels Elementary School community gathered to celebrate the completion of their campus mural, created with contributions from hundreds of K-5 students. Inspired by the colorful painted pillars in Barrio Logan's Chicano Park, the mural features a large tree with winding branches and leaves made up of hundreds of individual paw prints stamped by individual Spreckels students.

Earlier in the year, Spreckels students participated in the KPBS One Book, One San Diego program in which students read *Barrio Rising: The Protest that Built Chicano Park* by Maria Dolores Aguila. The murals in Chicano Park were painted to tell the stories of the local Mexican American communities residing there; they are the largest collection of outdoor murals in the U.S. The park was designated as a National Historical Landmark in 2016.

Fourth-grade Spreckels teacher Lori Huntsman, an ambassador for Students Rebuild, an initiative to encourage young people to use creative expression for the greater good, wanted to extend her students' learnings from the One Book reading to this larger school-wide effort.

For every creative work submitted or youth engaged in creating it, Creative Visions—the foundation that manages the Students Rebuild program—donates \$5 to nine international peacebuilding organizations, up to \$1 million.

The March 6 celebration at Spreckels featured a local mariachi band and refreshments and was intended to prepare for the welcoming of *Barrio Rising's* author, Maria Dolores Aguila, the following week. For more information about Creative Visions, visit: [creativevisions.org](http://creativevisions.org)

## UCHS Lawn Sign Fundraiser

by Wendy Lee

It's been a tradition at University City High School to celebrate their seniors each year with a public celebration on the lawns of their graduates. These public displays mark a significant turning point of our young residents. Parents may be sad sending their kids onto the next huge stage of life, but in the meantime can relish in their pride of their graduating senior for months. These signs are customizable if you want to include the student's name and/or photo. As a bonus, each purchase includes a donation to the PTSA-sponsored 2025 Senior Grad Party. Please see the order information from our neighborhood vendor. Congratulations to all of our 2025 UCHS graduates!



And for those with students at Standley Middle School, they will be having their own fundraiser. For more info on both fundraisers, or to order, please contact: [wendy@wikitiki.com](mailto:wendy@wikitiki.com).

## Day of (No) Silence 2025

by Theo V.

Day of Silence is a day started by students in the 1990s to spread awareness about the impacts of bullying and harassment of LGBTQ+ students. Historically it is a day in which students in the US take a vow of silence to represent the silencing of LGBTQ+ students.

This year, GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) is working with students to switch to a day of (No) Silence in opposition to the current attempted erasing of LGBTQ+ people from public life. GLSEN has a webpage for Day of (No) Silence sharing toolkits, info, and to register to attend an event local to you: [www.glsen.org/dayofnosilence](http://www.glsen.org/dayofnosilence)

Per GLSEN's website, "Being silent is no longer an option. We must use our voices throughout the week leading up to Day of (No) Silence on April 4th."

### Yoga Fundraiser

Open to everyone 14 years old and up!

**April 28th, 7pm-8pm**  
UCHS Media Center

#### YOGA NIDRA

"Yoga Sleep"

Journey into a deep relaxation, all while lying down and listening. Can create balance in the left and right brain, promote entire mind/body relaxation, reduce stress, improve sleep, blood pressure, creativity, memory, and concentration.



**\$20** in advance  
**\$25** at the door

Funds go directly to the 2025 UCHS Grad Party!  
<https://givebutter.com/sgp-pay>



Details: ages 14 and up. No prior experience necessary. Bring yoga mat/ beach towel, eye cover, 2 blankets, 1-2 pillows. Arrive 6:45pm. **NO LATE ENTRY.**

Dayna Thompson RN, CPR, CPT  
Certified Meditation Coach  
Certified Yoga Nidra Instructor  
[Dayna880@earthlink.net](mailto:Dayna880@earthlink.net)

## COMMUNITY SHORTS EARTH DAY EDITION



### CREEK TO BAY CLEANUP

Let's talk trash — literally. Did you know? These are the Top Ten most littered items in San Diego according to *I Love a Clean San Diego*:

- |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Cigarette Butts     | 6. Glass Pieces              |
| 2. Plastic Pieces      | 7. Metal Bottle Caps         |
| 3. Food Wrappers       | 8. Straws & Stirrers         |
| 4. Foam Pieces         | 9. Plastic Lids              |
| 5. Plastic Bottle Caps | 10. Plastic Beverage Bottles |

Every piece counts, and you can help turn the tide. You can sign up to fight back against pollution at the Creek to Bay Cleanup 2025, on April 26 @ 9:00am - 12:00pm. For more information and to register, visit: [cleansd.org/events/23rd-annual-creek-to-bay-cleanup-day/](http://cleansd.org/events/23rd-annual-creek-to-bay-cleanup-day/)

### “OUR POWER, OUR PLANET” ART CONTEST

Sponsored by Assemblymember Tasha Boerner, please mail or drop off art contest submissions to: AD77 Youth Art Contest, 505 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Suite 110, Solana Beach, CA. 92075. Mailing is preferred, however, if submitting in person to the office, please call 858.481.7704 from Monday through Friday, between 9:00am to 5:00pm. For any questions, please email [ana.mladenovic@asm.ca.gov](mailto:ana.mladenovic@asm.ca.gov).

#### Assembly District 77

## 2025 Earth Day Art Contest

In support of local young artists, Assemblymember Tasha Boerner is hosting a youth art contest in celebration of Earth Day. This year's art contest theme is “Our Power, Our Planet” to spotlight renewable energy and sustainability.

#### Submission Deadline

April 7, 2025

Contest winners will receive a California State Assembly Certificate, and have their artwork framed and exhibited in the State Capitol office.



## San Diego French Film Festival 2025: Celebrating Love in All Its Forms



Presented by Alliance Française San Diego, the San Diego French Film Festival (SDFFF) returns for its milestone fifth edition at THE LOT La Jolla from May 4 to 7, 2025. This year's theme, “Love in All Its Forms,” explores the richness of human emotions—friendship, compassion, and resilience—through French and francophone cinema.

Join us for the opening of the festival on May 4, with a red-carpet event featuring En Fanfare (The Marching Band), a César-nominated drama starring Benjamin Lavernhe and Pierre Lottin, followed by an elegant soirée with gourmet delights, live entertainment, and a Club Med 7 days giveaway. A fun and memorable day you won't forget.

On May 5, enjoy the comedy *Neuilly-Poissy*, based on a real story about tolerance and diversity, with actor Max Boublil and filmmaker Gregory Boutboul, and participate to our Q&A with French movie stars.

Two powerful films are available on May 6: *Moto Taxi*, a Cameroon movie by Narcisse Wandji and *Quelques Jours Pas Plus* with Camille Cottin & Benjamin Biolay. The festival concludes on May 7 with *RU*, an award-winning adaptation of Kim Thuy's novel on exile and resilience.

Alongside screenings, SDFFF features two art exhibitions, a student cinephile day, and an outstanding selection of short films. For information and tickets, visit: [afsandiego.org/san-diego-french-film-festival-2025](http://afsandiego.org/san-diego-french-film-festival-2025)



### Swanson to Offer Water Competency Classes for Children

Designed for children ages 6 to 16 years, the Level 1 Water Competency course at Swanson Memorial Pool on Governor Drive is designed to make a safer swimmer. The course will focus on safety skills that students will be able to use in the event of a life-threatening aquatic emergency. To pass the Level 1 Water Competency course students will have to complete the following sequence: jump into deep water and recover at the surface; tread or float for 60 seconds; spin around 360 degrees to orient to their exit; swim 25 yards (at least half front crawl) with rhythmic breathing; and climb out of the pool.

All students who feel confident in their ability to pass the Water Competency Sequence must be assessed by pool staff prior to registering for the course. Staff will advise participants who get assessed as to which level they best belong in. Please call the Swanson pool at 858.552.1653 to speak with pool staff if you have any questions. For more information about aquatic programs, visit: [sandiego.gov/pools/programs](http://sandiego.gov/pools/programs)





### Troop 271 Takes on Coyote Canyon: A Desert Adventure

by *Ton Van Daelen*

Under the soft glow of a desert moon, Troop 271 from University City set off on their annual Coyote Canyon backpacking trip in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Over the course of three days, they covered 24 miles, hiking from Anza in Riverside County to Borrego Springs in San Diego County—an adventure filled with challenges, teamwork, and incredible scenery.

The journey began Friday night with a moonlit hike to Bailey's Cabin, where the Scouts set up camp and rested for the trek ahead. The next morning, they continued along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail through Middle Willows, a surprising green oasis in the heart of the desert. From there, they made their way to Cougar Canyon, where they spent their second night under the stars. Throughout the trip, the Scouts took charge of navigation, cooking, filtering water, and setting up camp—building valuable outdoor skills and confidence along the way. By Sunday, they reached the Borrego Springs trailhead, completing their journey and reflecting on the experience before heading back to San Diego.

Congratulations to Wyatt, Donovan, Andrew, Marco, Luke, Neil, Mark, and Elliott for another successful and memorable trek! Your endurance, teamwork, and adventurous spirit continue to inspire.

Troop 271 has a very active high adventure program. In addition to multi-day backpacking adventures to places that include the Grand Canyon and Catalina Island, the troop offers rock climbing in Joshua Tree, sailing at Florida Seabase, canoeing on the Colorado River and Northern Tier (MN), and various biking activities. If you would like more information about our troop, visit our website to look at our activities calendar and photo library, or stop by at our meetings (usually at Curie Elementary) Tuesdays at 7:00pm. Details available at: [troop271.godaddysites.com/](http://troop271.godaddysites.com/).

### Spring Egg Hunts and Festivals

The Park and Recreation Department will host a variety of spring egg hunt events in University City this year. The events will feature activities, games and fun for the entire family. Children should bring their own basket for collecting eggs. Adults should bring their cameras. Info: [sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation](http://sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation)

- Nobel Recreation Center on Saturday, April 5: Activities begin at 10:00am and include arts & crafts bags, community recourses, food vendors, photo with the Bunny, and an Egg Hunt for children.
- Standley Recreation Center on Saturday, April 12: Activities begin at 10:00am and include arts & crafts, spin art, and an Egg Hunt for children.
- Doyle Recreation Center on Wednesday, April 15: Activities begin at 12:00pm and include family games and a D.J. as well as an Egg Hunt for children.

### Before the Padres: San Diego's Forgotten Baseball Roots

by *Vince Reardon*

For many San Diegans, baseball history began in 1969 with the arrival of the Padres in Major League Baseball. But Carlos Bauer knows better. Few understand, as he does, that San Diego's baseball roots stretch back almost a century before that, a history that includes a young Ted Williams honing his swing, the charismatic Mike Donlin dazzling crowds, and the electrifying barnstorming tours of Satchel Paige.

Bauer's new book, "The Obscure History of Baseball in San Diego: Before the Padres Came to Town, 1870-1936," unearths the city's lost baseball past. With meticulous research, he chronicles forgotten teams, players, and leagues—from dusty sandlots to packed grandstands—revealing how baseball took root in San Diego long before the Padres ever played a game.



"The first reported game in San Diego took place in 1871," Bauer said, citing The San Diego Union's May 4th mention. But San Diego's path to organized baseball was long and arduous, marked by failed attempts before establishing itself as a minor league stronghold and eventually securing a major league franchise.

The biggest challenge? Geography. "We were isolated," Bauer explained. Despite ideal baseball weather, the city was cut off from larger baseball hubs, he said. For much of its history, local city and county leagues dominated, yet San Diego still produced great players and compelling stories. His book, the first to document this history in such detail, includes individual statistics, league standings, and profiles of colorful players and teams. Transportation also hindered San Diego's baseball ambitions. In the late 19th century, travel to Los Angeles required ships or grueling stagecoach rides. "Even after rail service arrived, a promising 1899 Southern California League partnership with L.A. collapsed when the Santa Fe Railroad ended Sunday service," Bauer said.

In 1901, Los Angeles left for the California League, leaving San Diego without a strong regional rival. The city struggled to sustain professional teams, repeatedly forming short-lived leagues with inland towns like Bakersfield, San Bernardino, and Long Beach—efforts that often ended in failure, especially in 1913 and 1929. San Diego's long battle for baseball stability finally ended with the arrival of the Pacific Coast League Padres in 1936, culminating in its major league breakthrough in 1969.

Bauer, who studied history and Spanish at Columbia University and University of Madrid, has an extensive literary background, including translations of Federico García Lorca, Henry Miller and Lawrence Ferlinghetti. He and his wife, Norma, live with their two grandchildren in University City, while he continues work on a five-volume history of baseball in California.





### UC Cars & Coffee Returns

UC Cars and Coffee returned to the UC MarketPlace parking lot, 3202 Governor Drive, last month and plans another meet up on April 26. After a two year hiatus (yes, it's been two years!), event planners David Wright, Nicole Conner, and Ryan Ahearn (pictured above left) plan to keep it going the last Saturday of each month, from 8:00-10:00am – they plan to add donuts to the menu! This is a local car show for families and friends and all are welcome. For more information, visit: [facebook.com/UCcarsandcoffee](https://facebook.com/UCcarsandcoffee)



Above left is Jake and Noel Kappel with their 1927 Chevy 1A; and right is Peter Ziegler with his 1925 Franklin.



It's a family affair with the Owens boys: above left Brady Owens with his 1962 Chevy Nova SS, which he bought and has restored since he was 16; and above right is his brother Max shown with his restored 1956 Chevy pickup. And proud father of Brady and Max, is Chris Owens, pictured right, with his 1955 Chevy Bel Air.



### UCLL Kicks Off 62<sup>nd</sup> Spring Baseball Season with Heart and Community Spirit

by Christine O'Bannon

On March 1, 2025, the UC Little League (UCLL) celebrated the start of its 62<sup>nd</sup> spring baseball season with an opening day of tradition, pride, and unity. The festivities brought together players, families, and supporters to honor the league's history and the community spirit it represents.

A highlight of the opening ceremony was a heartfelt tribute led by Barb Cooke, a representative from the MADRES organization. Barb's late sister, Pat Preston, who served as UCLL president in the late 80s and early 90s, was remembered for her invaluable contributions to the league. The legacy of dedicated volunteers like Pat continues to inspire UCLL's mission today.

In a vibrant display of enthusiasm, teams spanning all ages – from t-ball players as young as three to intermediate athletes up to 13-years-old, proudly paraded through the iconic UCLL arch, showcasing their team banners. The Golden Dragons claimed the honor of Best Banner, with honorable mentions going to the spirited designs of the Camo Crushers and Saucy Cheeseburgers.

UCLL thrives thanks to the unwavering support of its volunteers and the generosity of community donations. From coaching to field maintenance, every aspect of the league depends on the dedication of its members. The snack bar, operated during most games, not only fuels players and fans, but also plays a crucial role in funding equipment upkeep and field improvements.

As the season unfolds, young athletes will take to the fields around Standley Park every Saturday and some weekday evenings from March through early June. Be Sure to come out, cheer on the teams, and enjoy the vibrant community spirit that makes UCLL such a treasured tradition. Here's to a season full of sportsmanship, teamwork, and home runs! For info about UCLL, go to: [www.ucll.org](http://www.ucll.org).



## THANK YOU for Making EdUCate!'s Taste of the Triangle a Tremendous Success!

On behalf of EdUCate!, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this year's *Taste of the Triangle* a resounding success. From our generous sponsors and volunteers to the attendees, restaurant partners, auction donors, and talented musicians, your support helped us raise crucial funds that directly benefit the five University City public schools. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and it's inspiring to see how much our community cares about education, and your involvement demonstrates the collective strength we have when we come together. We hope you had a wonderful time tasting the delicious offerings from 16 local restaurants and engaging in our first online only auction. Your continued support is vital to our efforts, and we are so appreciative of your commitment to our schools, our students and teachers. This collective effort helps to build a brighter future for our UC community. - Kendra Cole, President

## THE PEOPLE



## THE ENTERTAINMENT



## THE AUCTION



## THE PURPOSE

**SUPPORT EDUCATE! AND WELLNESS TOGETHER**  
in delivering mental health services to our students

"The school's mental health services have made a world of difference for me...[before] I didn't have a safe place at school to turn to when needed."  
-Junior from UC High School

"The school provided a therapist, which had a great effect on my well-being...helping me navigate difficult instances and situations with my interpersonal relationships, and improve my mental state."  
-University City Student

"[this Wellness Together therapist] has been a huge relief for us on campus. We have had therapists available when students have been in crisis and needed that extra support...it allows students to get support and learn coping skills...allowing them to be more engaged in their learning."  
-University City Student



**DONATE TODAY!**

An additional counselor would be amazing...We have 1,500 students at our school...having an additional counselor would mean more students getting support and faster, which is essential when a student is in need."  
-UC High School Student



## THE FOOD



## Summary of University City Planning Group Meeting – March 11, 2025

by Chris Nielsen, UCPG Chair

**UCPG ELECTION – RESULTS:** Andy Wiese, Daren Esposito, Neil DeRamos, Josh Kenchel, Sasha Treadup, Jon Arenz, Anna Bryan, and Apolo Madrigal. (All were unopposed, some positions remain vacant.) Thanks to Kerry Santoro for running the UCPG election this year.

### Agenda

First on the agenda was the monthly Pure Water construction report. The surprise in their report was the projected complete closure of Genesee Ave. in late April from a Friday to a Monday. Southbound lanes will be shut for the initial 12 hours with northbound lanes shut for 72 hours. There will be detours in place while the closures are active.

We were scheduled for the Alexandria Campus Point project action item, followed by an information item presented by a group from SANDAG on the Sorrento to Miramar double tracking project. Due to the length of the Alexandria item, the Sorrento to Miramar project has been postponed until the April UCPG meeting. The UCPG apologizes to SANDAG for the postponement and will reschedule this item as the first, and hopefully only, agenda item in April.

Alexandria presented the 10210 Campus Point project and includes mobility initiatives. The project includes the potential for up to 2200 units of housing on site. The mobility initiative includes two new "road cuts" from Campus Point to Genesee for better access to and from of Genesee, and better fire safety. It also includes adaptive ("smart") signal technology from the I-5 along Genesee to Nobel Drive that will integrate with a UC San Diego adaptive signal project for La Jolla Village Drive, North Torrey Pines Rd., and Regents Road. Implementation of the adaptive signal project for UC San Diego and Alexandria should be a few months.

Alexandria needs three discretionary permits for their project: A new subdivision map changing the number of parcels from 11 to 15 that aligns the parcel boundary lines to correspond to actual and proposed buildings, a Site Development Permit to change the number of allowed dwelling units in the transition zone part of the 100-acre site to 60 dwelling units per acre, and a deviation to raise the height limit from 120' allowed in the EMX-1 zoning to 180'. With these actions by the City Council, Alexandria will be permitted buildout of the site ministerially, e.g., by conforming to the new University Community Plan.

The UCPG recommended approval of the new map and the increase in dwelling units to 60 per acre in the Miramar transition zone but recommended that the lots on the northern side of the site and eastern side facing Campus Point Drive have a height of 140'. We recommended approval of a 180' height limit for the remainder of the site. In support for our recommendation, the UCPG made the following findings.

The UCPG believes that our recommended height deviation balances important goals related to the project site. Lot 1 is on the north side of Campus Point, and 2, 7, 8, 17, and 18 are on the eastern side.

- a. A height deviation to 140' is warranted on lots 1,2,7,8,17, and 18, which adjoin or face Roselle Canyon and Sorrento Valley headlands, to achieve the building design and leasing goals of the applicant, while a 140' limit will minimize impacts to open space recreation, natural resource, the MHPA, including visual impacts to canyon users and light, noise, and physical impacts to wildlife due to night lighting and bird strikes.
- b. The UCPG recommends that a height deviation to 180' is appropriate on the remainder of the site lots which do not face sensitive open space and natural resources to enhance flexibility of site design for the applicant, including maximizing tenant amenities and open space at ground level.

The UCPG will hear the Sorrento to Miramar information item in April. We will also seat new and returning board members. The meeting location is 9880 Campus Point Drive, Alexandria's GradLabs, third floor Terra Nova room, at 6PM. The meeting is hybrid, with full board and public participation allowed via zoom and in person. Zoom details will be in the agenda.

## Safe Parking Proposal for UC San Diego Students

by Chris Nielsen, UCPG Chair

At the March 11 UCPG meeting, Emma Johnson, a community member and recent alumnus of UC San Diego, gave a public comment to introduce a Safe Parking proposal to provide a secure campus location for UC San Diego students to park overnight who are experiencing homelessness and sleeping in their cars in the community. This proposal would provide 16 parking spaces near the UC San Diego police station, providing essential amenities such as restrooms, showers, and wi-fi to support them in their academics while they go through housing insecurity.

UC San Diego currently has 16 beds supporting emergency housing needs, but this is a small number given the roughly 25,000 beds on campus. The safe parking proposal primarily addresses students who live off campus and are subject to the same kinds of housing crises that other community members experience, such as losing a lease, disputes with other housemates, or domestic violence, and who lack financial resources.

Emma Johnson proposed a pilot program, initially small, to begin to address this problem and study the ways and means of implementation. Three members of the UCPG board met with her to make suggestions for obtaining additional data and moving the proposal forward. The UCPG plans a May agenda item to discuss the proposal and write a letter of support for it.

## Water and Sewer Main Work Continues West of Genesee

A City of San Diego Capital Improvements Program (CIP) project is underway to improve the water and sewer infrastructure in the University City area. The University City Improv. 1 project will replace approximately 10,170 linear feet (1.93 miles) of existing water mains and install approximately 8,896 linear feet (1.68 miles) of new sewer mains.

Governor Dr. and Stadium St. and adjacent streets: The City of San Diego's University City Improv. 1 project is progressing in its current phase on Stadium Street and Stadium Court. The sewer main work along Stadium Street will extend into Governor Drive during the last week of March/beginning of April. The project will fall back to Eton Ave and Eton Court after sewer main work at Stadium Street and Governor Drive intersection is completed. Sewer pipeline installation along Governor Drive is anticipated to commence late Spring 2025/early Summer 2025. As work progresses through this main thoroughfare, there will be impacts to traffic and noise from construction.

Pennant and Stresemann and adjacent streets: Water pipeline installation is completed on Pennant Way between Stresemann Street and Regents Road. The project is now progressing on Stresemann Street between Pennant Way and Gobat Avenue and will continue on Stresemann Street into Governor Drive in April 2025. Construction work will include installation of new water main and water services, installation of temporary potable water, new fire hydrants, potholing to identify existing utilities, and pavement restoration.

During the time of watermain installation, residences will be supplied with potable water via temporary water lines also-known-as highlines. For temporary water outages the contractor will distribute outage notices to impacted residences. Residents can also expect traffic delays during working hours and No Parking signs in and around their neighborhood as well as noise generated by construction equipment during working hours. Through traffic will be directed to detour during this time, as construction equipment, excavations, and material will be in the streets. Please note all schedules and construction are subject to change: Residents are encouraged to scrutinize "No Parking" signage once it is installed – they will have specific details of dates and times of work happening on their street(s).

- Project status: [cipapp.sandiego.gov/cipdistrictnav.aspx](http://cipapp.sandiego.gov/cipdistrictnav.aspx)
- For questions, email: [Reema@TwoRiversPR.com](mailto:Reema@TwoRiversPR.com)



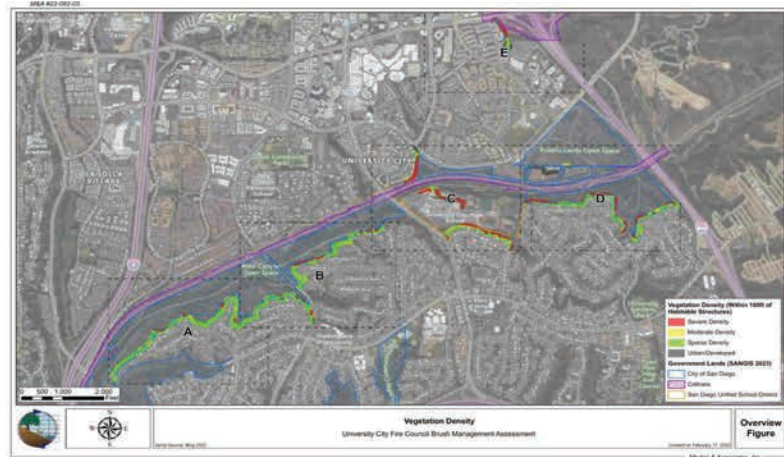
## Home Hardening and Defensible Space Tips from the Office of the State Fire Marshal

### Low-Cost Ways to Harden Your Home to Make It More Resistant to Wildfire

- When it is time to replace your roof, replace it with a Class A fire-rated roof.
- Block any spaces between your roof covering and sheathing with noncombustible materials.
- Install a noncombustible gutter cover on gutters to prevent the accumulation of leaves and debris in the gutter.
- Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with a noncombustible corrosion-resistant metal mesh screen (spark arrestor), with 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch openings.
- Install ember and flame-resistant vents. Consult your local building official and hire a licensed contractor for this project as these modifications may reduce airflow.
- Caulk and plug gaps greater than 1/8-inch around exposed rafters and blocking to prevent ember intrusion into the attic or other enclosed spaces.
- Inspect exterior siding for dry rot, gaps, cracks, and warping. Caulk or plug gaps greater than 1/8-inch in siding and replace any damaged boards, and those with dry rot.
- Install weather-stripping to gaps greater than 1/8-inch between garage doors and door frames to prevent ember intrusion. The weather-stripping must be compliant with UL Standard 10C.
- When it's time to replace your windows, replace them with multi-paned windows that have at least one pane of tempered glass.
- When it's time to replace your siding or deck, use compliant noncombustible, ignition-resistant, or other OSFM Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Products.
- Cover openings to operable skylights with a noncombustible metal mesh screen with openings in the screen not to exceed 1/8 inch.
- Install a minimum 6-inch metal flashing, applied vertically on the exterior of the wall at the deck-to-wall intersection to protect the combustible siding material.

### Low-Cost Ways to Create Defensible Space and Enhance the Effects of a Hardened Home

- Regularly clean your roof, gutters, decks, and the base of walls to avoid the accumulation of fallen leaves, needles, and other flammable materials.
- Ensure that all combustible materials are removed from underneath, on top of, or within five feet of a deck.
- Remove vegetation or other combustible materials that are within five feet of windows and glass doors.
- Replace wood mulch products within 5-feet of all structures with noncombustible products such as dirt, stone, or gravel.
- Remove all dead or dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds, and pine needles within 30 feet of all structures or to the property line.
- Ensure exposed firewood is stored at least 30 feet away from structures or completely covered in a fire-resistant material that will not allow embers to penetrate. Additionally, make sure you have 10 feet of clearance around your wood piles.
- Be sure to store combustible outdoor furnishings away from your home when not in use.
- Remember to properly store retractable awnings and umbrellas when not in use so they do not collect leaves and embers.



## Vegetation Density Study

For the third year in a row, the University City Fire Safe Council (UCFSC) has hired a biological consultant, Merkel & Associates, to assess brush density and growth in the University City area, particularly in government-managed areas that abut private property, to assist in meeting the requirements of the City of San Diego Brush Management Requirements.

Each Fire Safe Council takes different strategies to fulfill the mission of making communities more prepared for wildfires. The University City Fire Safe Council (UCFSC) has put a priority on identifying areas of higher risk of brush overgrowth (particularly along Rose Canyon) so that those agencies responsible for brush management in these specific areas can have a starting point for mitigation.

More information and links to the current 2025 Vegetation Survey as well the 2023 and 2024 vegetation density surveys are available on the Fire Safe Council page on UCCA's University City News site at: [universitycitynews.org/fire-safe-council-university-city/](http://universitycitynews.org/fire-safe-council-university-city/)



## Defensible Space and the updated Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps and recent wildfires have prompted many of us to learn more about how to prevent and prepare for fire at our homes, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities. Please note that in the City of San Diego, owners of properties which are within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and subject to local ordinances and regulations, are responsible for creating defensible space up to 100 feet around the home or to the property line, whichever comes first.

- Maps: [sandiego.gov/fire/services/brush/severityzones](http://sandiego.gov/fire/services/brush/severityzones)
- Info: [firesafesdcounty.org/resources/preparing-for-wildfire](http://firesafesdcounty.org/resources/preparing-for-wildfire)

## Thank You to Renewing and New UCCA Members for 2025

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Your Membership dollars help us fund this newsletter and community projects and events. Please consider becoming a paid member of the University City Community Association or making a donation. Thank You!



## UC CELEBRATION 2025 Returns to Standley Park on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July

by Diane Ahern

Have you heard? It's back! The Run, the Food, the Parade, the Kids Games, the Vendor Booths, the Opportunity Draw Gift Baskets, the Book Barn, the Pancake Breakfast, the Music and Concerts, the Beer Garden ... and so Much More!

To join our mailing list for updates, fill out the Contact Form on the UC Celebration website at: <https://uccelebration.com/>

Each month in preparation for the event we have a committed group of local volunteers who help to organize the UC Celebration. The 2025 UC Celebration committee meets at Standley Park Recreation Center on the following dates: April 30, May 28, and June 25.

Want to join in the planning? Contact the UC Celebration Chair, Randall Tonini at [randalltonini@icloud.com](mailto:randalltonini@icloud.com).

*UCCA is a proud sponsor of the UC Celebration.*

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Come Celebrate 5 Years in the University City Community!

Enjoy light refreshments and meet our dedicated team.

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**University City Branch**

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