Mid-Coast Trolley Project On Time and On Budget

Ramon Ruelas, MidCoast Trolley project director, led a presentation at the May UCCA meeting. He reviewed the elements of the final construction, the tentative schedule of stops and time allotments for various destinations, as well as proposed MTS security provisions. The actual train cars have arrived. He also mentioned this summer’s proposed future rail line “testing.” The overall project did NOT have any cost overruns and is scheduled to be running with passengers this Fall. The project is an 11-mile extension of the UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley, includes nine new stations (five with parking), and brings in 36 new trolley cars. The $2.1 billion project is funded by TransNet and the Federal Transit Administration. The project will connect the region with anticipated rides from UC of: 22 minutes to Old Town, 31 minutes to downtown, 60 minutes to Chula Vista, and 70 minutes to the Mexico border. To view the presentation, go to universitycitynews.org.

UCHS Principal
Jeff Olivero to Retire

Where is Jeff “Mr O” Olivero running to? After 11 years as principal at University City High School, and 35 years as an educator, Mr O is running into retirement. The end of this school year marks his official retirement from SDUSD. What will he miss? – “the pep rallies, athletic competitions, band performances, and any and all activities students are involved.” In fact, the photo above is of Mr O running up and down the jogging track while he cheers on the soccer team. Go to page 10 for the full Q&A with Mr O, with photos of him supporting students at a music competition and on a homecoming float.
University City Community Association

May 12 Meeting Recap
by Barry Bernstein, UCCA President

The May 12 UCCA ZOOM meeting was called to order by UCCA President Barry Bernstein at 6:05. Diane Ahern served as the ZOOM host.

Barry mentioned that at our June meeting a representative from the Pure Water project would be our guest speaker. Also, Barry wanted everyone to know that current UC High principal, Jeff Olivero, will be retiring this summer and that our June newsletter will be doing a feature article on Mr. Olivero.

*Georgia Kayser was introduced as the new South UC elected representative to UCPG replacing Andy Wiese, who was termed out. Mr. Wiese will remain as the CPUS chair.

*Officer Bogner was not able to attend, but left a message indicating there had been an arrest involving the recent rash of criminal activity in the Renaissance neighborhood.

*Guest speaker Raul Ruelas, MidCoast Trolley Project Dir. was introduced and he provided a power point presentation of the current construction status and planned dates for completion of the Trolley for passengers.

Public Comments:

*Diane Ahern, Fire Safe Council of UC President, reviewed the plans for submitting the CWPP, (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) and how to provide input.

*John Lee Evans spoke briefly on the need and concept of developing a traffic “calming” plan for Governor Dr.

*Jeff Dosick reiterated his concern related to safe/marked bicycle lanes in UC as well as the importance of connecting to the SD County north/south bicycle lanes from Oceanside to Pacific Beach.

*Chris Nielsen stated that was NO UCPG meeting was held on May 11, but CPUS would be meeting on Tuesday, May 18.

*Diane Ahern reported that the Standley Park advisory community groups are trying to gain approval for painting the trash enclosure at the east end of the parking lot. Still no news on Park and Rec. permits for large outdoor activities. (Celebration and Summer Concerts)

*New Business: The UCCA Board approved an amount, not to exceed $2,000.00 for median clean-up.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40.

The next UCCA meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, June, starting at 6:00pm – the regular monthly meeting time. To participate, join at us02web.zoom.us/j/88262644959

You may also go to zoom.com, and join meeting ID: 88262644959. And you can also call in at: 408.638.0968, 88262644959#
Hi..."June is busting out, (of our masks), all over...and feel welcome to sing any other praises that might bring happiness and joy to you and others.

We are still awaiting some additional clarification on the abandonment of the COVID tiers, but things are starting to look positive for the resumption of our Standley Park Summer Concerts. Stay tuned!

At this moment the CDC has recently stated that fully vaccinated individuals...12 years and older are safe not wearing masks. However our State/County health officials have yet to make any public announcement to support that conclusion. We believe that will happen on June 15.

And for some this summer's planned re-starting/re-opening of our local Rec. Centers means pickleball, basketball, Karate, and the many other "in-person" activities can once again begin. Our libraries will be welcoming you back with open arms...and our local restaurants will surely be happy to have you as their guests indoors and al fresco. We certainly are aware of the many at-home/in-person activities which were put on hold because of the pandemic can now be re-started...so play bridge or open your new mahjong cards and enjoy the chatting and kibbitzing once again.

I do want to acknowledge and offer my kudos to Mr. Jeff Olivero, UC High School principal, who will be retiring this month after 11 years of dedicated service to our students. His leadership and accomplishments will long be remembered by those Centurions of the past, present, and revered by those to come. Good luck Jeff. See page 10 for additional info.

At our May UCCA meeting, Mr. Ramon Ruelas, the MidCoast Trolley Project director, gave us a brief update on the final construction plans and the proposed trolley completion and schedule. At our June 9 UCCA meeting, Mr. John Stufflebean, from the City's "Pure Water" project, will be providing the most current information related to construction plans and schedules. You won't want to miss this meeting. Last month I mentioned that a community online survey would be coming your way to help with our new community plan development. The survey has been postponed by the City Development Services Division until the Fall.

It's not too late to join UCCA...we're still below our membership goal. If you enjoy our free monthly newsletter and our efforts to support community organizations and events, you can help by joining. It costs as little as $20. UC is your community, and we're your community advocate in making and keeping University City, "more than just a neighborhood".

Stay well, stay safe. ~ Barry

(*Answers to UC Quiz #5: 1) C, 2) B, 3) B, 4) C, 5) B, Bonus: Barbara Gellman)

VIRTUAL UCCA MEETING
Wednesday, June 9
Special Topic: Pure Water Project

The next UCCA meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, June 9, starting at 6:00pm – the regular monthly meeting time. Since libraries are still closed, the meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. To participate, join us at us02web.zoom.us/j/88262644959

You may also go to zoom.com, and join meeting
ID: 882 626 44959
And you can also call in at: 408.638.0968, 88262644959#

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
Tuesday, June 8
5:30 – 7:30pm
Agendas and meeting info: planuniversity.org

UCCA MEETING
Wednesday, June 9, 6:00pm
Zoom.us, meeting ID#88262644959

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY
Sunday, June 13

FLAG DAY
Monday, June 14

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - SDUSD
Tuesday, June 15

COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, June 15
5:30 – 7:30pm
Agendas and meeting info: planuniversity.org

FATHER'S DAY
Sunday, June 20

FIRST DAY OF SUMMER
Sunday, June 20

PEOPLE FOR A CLEAN UC
Sunday, June 20
7:30-9:00am
Cleanup volunteers meet at Starbucks
3202 Governor Drive, supplies provided

UNIVERSITY CITY PARKS COUNCIL
STANDELEY PARK COMMUNITY REC GROUP
Thursday, June 24
Contact Rec Center for meeting info:
858.552.1652

SUMMERSGIVING
Saturday, June 26

DON'T FORGET!
RENEW YOUR UCCA MEMBERSHIP
GO TO PAGE 13 AND SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORM TODAY, OR GO TO UNIVERSITYCITYNEWS.ORG
The Following Tips are Provided by the San Diego Police Department’s Elder Abuse Unit

Mortgage Fraud Warning Signs

✓ You’ve fallen behind in your mortgage payments or you are already in foreclosure.
✓ You’re getting phone calls and visits from companies offering to help you pay off your debt.
✓ You’re receiving numerous fliers in the mail or on your door offering low interest cash loans.

Preventive Steps:

- Beware of companies who contact you in person or by fliers offering a foreclosure relief service.
- Don’t sign any documents without reading and understanding what you are signing. If you are uneasy or feeling pressured, get advice from an attorney or other knowledgeable advisor.
- Don’t deed your property to anyone. First consult an attorney, a knowledgeable family member, or someone else you trust completely. Once you sign legal papers, it can be difficult, or even impossible in some cases, to reverse the action.

Investment Fraud Warning Signs

✓ High pressure sales tactics with an insistence on an immediate decision.
✓ Unwillingness to let you discuss the deal with a trusted advisor or to get a second opinion.
✓ Unwillingness to provide written information, including state securities registrations and verifiable references.
✓ A guaranteed investment with high returns and “no-risk”.
✓ A suggestion you invest on a basis of “trust” or “faith”.

Preventive Steps:

- Surround yourself with several trusted advisors.
- Don’t become solely dependent on one financial advisor or consultant.
- Thoroughly check any investment offer.
- Don’t rush into making a hasty decision.

How to Remove Your Information from Marketing Lists:

✓ Do not play direct mail sweepstakes or talk to telemarketers.
✓ Sign-up for the National Do Not Call Registry for both your home and cell phone at 1.888.382.1222 or www.donotcall.gov
✓ Ask companies with whom you do business with to put you on their “Do Not Call Lists.”
✓ “OPT OUT” of credit reporting agencies’ credit card solicitation marketing list to stop pre-approved notices from being mailed to you. 1.888.567.8688 or www.optoutprescreen.com
✓ “OPT OUT” of financial institution and insurance companies’ marketing programs through which your name may be shared.
✓ Call your credit card’s customer service number(s) to “OPT OUT” or marketing programs, including “convenience checks”.
✓ Reduce mail/email through the Direct Marketing Association: www.dmachoice.org

Helpful Information:

To report theft or unauthorized use of your credit or Social Security number, AFTER MAKING A POLICE REPORT:

Equifax: 800.525.6265
Experian: 800.397.3742
Trans Union: 800.680.7289

If you or someone you know has been the victim of Elder Abuse, please call the San Diego Police: 619.531.2000 and/or the Aging and Independent Services for the County of San Diego: 800.510.2020.

Mental Health Resources

San Diego Access & Crisis Line (ACL): Confidential and free of charge, they offer immediate support and resources from an experienced counselor 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on all behavioral health topics including: suicide prevention, crisis intervention, community resources, mental health referrals, alcohol and drug support services and more. Language interpreter services available. Call 888.724.7240

National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI): The community’s voice on mental illness, NAMI offers a Helpline, support groups, educational meetings, newsletters, a lending library and a number of classes on mental illness. Call 800.523.4833 or visit http://www.namisandiego.org. You can also connect with a trained crisis counselor to receive free crisis support via text 24 hours a day by texting NAMI to 741-741.

Optum Emotional Support Help Line is free and available to anyone, so you can share it with family and friends. Caring professionals connect callers to resources 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call 866.342.6892.

Compiled by Barbara Gellman, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
Keeping Our Libraries Safe and Accessible

by Mara W. Elliott

Whether we were chasing Curious George, discovering Where the Wild Things Are, or devouring Green Eggs and Ham, trips to the library with my two boys were always an adventure. I can hardly wait until our libraries are wide open again, buzzing with patrons.

Families throughout San Diego have their own treasured library routines. With millions of books available at no charge, and limitless educational programming, our 36 City libraries are the true gems of our neighborhoods.

Throughout the pandemic, employees have devised creative solutions to ensure our libraries remain hubs for enrichment and education. From setting up outdoor computer labs to developing dynamic digital programming for kids, libraries have played a critical role in keeping communities connected during COVID.

I'm proud of the behind-the-scenes work the City Attorney's Office does to support our libraries and keep them accessible and safe. Attorneys in our office provide legal advice for day-to-day operations, and also intervene in unsafe situations to obtain restraining orders that protect library employees from abusive patrons.

Prior to pandemic closures, one courageous library employee went above and beyond to protect her branch. She noticed a man lingering in the children's section, and caught him secretly filming up the skirt of an unsuspecting pregnant woman.

As it turned out, this was not the man's first time committing a crime like this. Because of this employee's quick actions, our Office was able to successfully prosecute the individual, leading to his conviction and sex offender registration.

While incidents such as this are troubling, the vast majority of library patrons are there to read, learn, and connect with their neighbors.

As we return to the activities we enjoy, we want to thank our library employees for continuing to provide free, safe, and accessible services despite pandemic challenges.

Mara W. Elliott is the San Diego City Attorney and the President of the Law Library Board of Trustees.

Monthly Message from District 1 Councilmember Joe LaCava

City Budget
City Council is in the midst of completing our most important annual task - the budget.

With a thoughtful budget, San Diego can elevate our quality of life and ensure efficient use of our tax dollars. We can protect and conserve our environment and increase equity and resources in areas in which both are scarce.

A reckless budget creates structural deficits and threatens the core neighborhood services that District 1 residents and businesses need.

Over the last month, I engaged with every City Department as a member of the Budget Review Committee. My office compiled feedback from residents, input from staff, and data to inform my revised Budget Priorities Memo. On June 14, Council will formally vote on the final Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget.

In my revised budget priorities memo, I advocated for:

- Continued Support for the City’s Core Services including libraries, graffiti abatement, sidewalk repair, and tree planting among others;
- Mobile Crisis Response Teams to provide a non-law enforcement response when needed to de-escalate situations and safely connect individuals with care and mental health resources;
- Public Power Feasibility Study and Business Plan to outline City options to provide a public power utility alternative that best serves ratepayers, determines costs and challenges for a potential public power utility for San Diego, and meets our climate, clean energy, and equity goals;
- Penny for the Arts to achieve the City’s promised allocation of funds to the arts and culture over the next five years;
- Support for the City’s Small Businesses and Investing in the City’s Human Capital, our people are our City’s most valuable resources, we must ensure individuals have the resources they need to professionally thrive in San Diego;
- Preservation of Open Spaces with funding for park staffing, including additional park rangers.

If you have any questions about the budget or budget process, please reach out to my University City Representative at KWillaughby@sandiego.gov.

Fire Protection Plan
University City’s own Diane Ahern, taking over from Jemma Samala, has spearheaded the completion of the first draft of our Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which was approved by the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department after circulating the community for a few weeks.

With climate change affecting our environment more and more and fire season now a year-round possibility, it is critical that you review these protection plans and implement them within your property. With fire season rapidly approaching, it is critical to take preventative measures. For properties adjacent to our natural canyons removing combustible material and dried brush on your property are a great first step. Reach out to my community rep, Kaitlyn, for more information or questions at KWillaughby@sandiego.gov.

Thank you in advance for your time and input! Additionally, Kaitlyn Willoughby, our University City representative holds weekly office hours on Fridays from 10:00-11:00am at the following zoom link: https://bit.ly/kwilloughby
San Diego Public Library News and Events from University Community Branch Library Manager Melissa Martin.
To find out the most current information about these programs and other events at the San Diego Public Library, follow us on Facebook or check our website: www.sandiego.gov/public-library.

We are so glad to finally see our neighbors face-to-face at the 12 libraries that have opened for limited in-person services. If you want to try it out, the nearest libraries are the La Jolla/Riford Library, Carmel Valley Library and Mira Mesa Library. At the University Community Library, 4155 Governor Drive, we continue to provide contactless pickup service, but look forward to the day when we can open for basic services. In the meantime, check out the programs highlighted below.

What’s New this Month at the Library?

Check out our featured programs and activities at the library this month. You can call the University Community Library at 4155 Governor Dr. with questions at 858.552.1655. Our operating hours are Monday-Saturday 9:30am to 1:00pm and 2:00 to 5:30pm. We know you have many questions but with everything changing so quickly at the time the UCCA newsletter goes to print, we recommend checking the Library and City of San Diego web pages for the most up-to-date information related to COVID-19 guidelines, hours and more: sandiego.gov/ and sandiego.gov/public-library.

Summer Reading Program: Reading Colors Your World
June 1, 2021 – August 31, 2021; registration begins June 1. www.sandiego.gov/publiclibrary/kidsandteens/summerreading

Join us for a summer of reading and fun – earn a badge each time you read one (1) book, read for one (1) hour or complete an activity. You can mix and match the type of badges as you see fit! Collect 10 badges to redeem prizes; prizes are available beginning June 8. Check the Summer Reading Program web page for a complete list of eligible activities, reading lists and resources, plus a schedule for weekly virtual programs.

Matchbook, Personalized Recommendations Just for You
www.sandiego.gov/public-library/matchbook

Ignite your love of reading with personalized recommendations just for you! Did you just finish reading a book and are not sure what to read next? No problem! Take a few minutes to fill out the online form and let the library help you. You will receive a personalized list of authors and titles recommended just for you. Unlike Amazon or Goodreads, your recommended list will be prepared by people and not by machine algorithms. Be forewarned that some of the choices may be quirky, adventurous, whimsical, or all the above. The more information you give us, the more we can match your tastes with books curated just for you. For more information, check out the web page or contact us at MatchBook@sandiego.gov.

Do Your Homework @ the Library:
VIRTUAL HOMEWORK HELP
www.sandiego.gov/public-library/kidsandteens/homework

The San Diego Public Library offers FREE homework assistance for students 6 days a week and serves K-8th grade students. Math, English, and science help is provided and includes sessions for Spanish speakers. The program includes free access to learning materials as well as free access to computers, online research tools, and other digital resources available through the library. Email registration is required to connect with the DYHAL Virtual Homework Help program. Check the website to select a session that fits your schedule then email DYHAL@SanDiego.gov with your student’s name, grade, school, closest library, and which session they would like to attend. **Information regarding summer camps will be available on the website starting June 1 or email DYHAL@san-diego.gov for more information.

Listener’s Advisory: The San Diego Public Library Podcast
https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/podcast

Listener’s Advisory is the San Diego Public Library podcast and audio access point that connects users with SDPL services, facilities, and staff. Patrons can learn about upcoming programs and periodically enjoy stand-alone episodes that feature unique content tailored for the audio experience. Enjoy a mixture of narrative-driven segments, in-depth interviews, and roundtable discussions about timely services, community-centric matters, along with professional recommendations. Check out special bonus podcasts on the Book Coven and the How-To Festival. This podcast is made possible through a partnership with the San Diego Public Library Foundation.

Snapshot: a photojournal of life during the pandemic
A project to collect, archive and share photographs that capture the pandemic experience. Submission deadline: June 30, 2021. www.sandiego.gov/public-library/snapshot

The COVID-19 pandemic has swept us all unwittingly into an historical time; a time filled with insecurity, frustration, and anxiety, but also a time filled with introspection, compassion, and hope. Historically, how are you going to look back on this time? How will you remember it? To answer these questions San Diego Public Library’s Special Collections Department wants your help.

We are asking the public to help us create an historical record for our archives; a record that provides us and future generations with images of our lives during this pandemic. In order to help, please simply gather together and submit photographs taken since March 2020 that capture and reflect just a moment of time, or images that express or summarize the entire experience. See the web page for more details.
By Popular Demand: Standley Middle School Continues Farm Fresh Fundraiser

Standley Middle School PTSA has again partnered with Yasukochi Family Farms for another Farm Fresh Fundraiser because they have been enjoyed and appreciated by the UC community. We appreciate your support of Standley Middle School!

For those that have not tried it, CSA is “Community Supported Agriculture” and are boxes of local farm fresh fruits and vegetables. Boxes are sold for a reduced price keeping the supply chain between local farms and consumers open (also much fresher than typical grocery store produce). Boxes are $25 or $35 depending upon the size. Flower bunches, berry boxes and fresh eggs will also be available to order and were extremely popular in the last order!

Details and to place an order, please visit the Standley PTSA website at: www.standleyptsa.org. Click on the green “Shop and Earn” button on the right.

Orders must be received by May 31. Delivery is Tuesday, June 8th from noon to 1:00pm in the Swanson Pool parking lot, located at 3688 Governor Drive.

Free Seeds & Seed Libraries
www.sandiego.gov/sdpl/seedlibraries

We’ve got more than books at the library! Take a look at the seed libraries we have opened at multiple City libraries, including Ocean Beach, Scripps Ranch, College-Rolando and Rancho Penasquitos. These seed libraries are free to use and can be picked up onsite or even mailed out! Seed varieties, pickup options and requirements vary by location. Check each seed library location for more details on what is available. By borrowing seeds, growing a plant and sending seeds back to our seed libraries, you’ll be helping us keep our seed library programs going. In addition, many of these seed libraries have related workshops and events on gardening, composting and more. You can also find resources for growing and harvesting food at sandiego.gov/urban-farming.

In addition to seed libraries, all open Library locations have free seeds available to pick up. Seeds include melons, carrots, squash, and more! Helpful tips for starting your plants from seed included in each package. Thank you to Viada’s Seeds for Life and the Ahern Seed Company for their generous donation. Visit your local library today to get your free seeds and to check out books on vegetable gardening. One package of each type of seed available per visit while supplies last.

Student Cleans Up Rose Canyon

My name is Jonah Thygerson and I am 12 years old. As a community service project for my school, I picked up trash in Rose Canyon and San Clemente Canyon. I did this on the weekends before and after Earth Day, which was April 22. With help from my parents, I collected five bucketfuls of trash. There were a lot of plastic water bottles, candy wrappers, and chip bags. I’m glad I could do this for my neighborhood, and I hope others will be inspired to pitch in and keep our neighborhood clean.
COMMUNITY SHORTS

GARAGE SALE

Start getting ready now for the Coldwell Banker UC garage sale on Saturday, July 10. Call your CB agent or email ColdwellBankerUC@gmail.com to join. The deadline is July 7 to sign up. Coldwell Banker UC will provide free advertising, signs and maps. Please be prepared to follow CDC Covid precautions and have a wonderful day of buying and selling!

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Front Porch Pandemic Band Continues Weekly

Band members Greg Pardue, Jack Hoffman, Roy Jenkins, Phil Marcus, and Albert Rubidoux (plus occasional guests or subs), aka the Front Porch Pandemic Band will continue their jam sessions every Thursday starting at 4:00 to 6:00pm (subject to weather). Perfect for a jazzy happy hour. Find them at the 5600 block of Bloch Street.

Seating is on the sidewalks, some driveways and edge of the street or in your parked car. Bring your own chair or just stand or walk around. Feel free to dance. Others bring their bike and go for a ride or walk their dog around the neighborhood. It’s pandemic jazz and we’re all improvising here. This event is very safe. It’s outside, social distancing between groups is observed and masks are widely used.

Driveway Concert

Greg Zinser will host his next Concert in the Driveway on Saturday, June 26, starting at 2:00pm. His driveway is located at the corner of Hurd St. and Willard St. Zinser and his musical guests will perform a combination of familiar favorites and songs you may not have heard in a long time. Bring a lawn chair, or listen from your car.

Weekly Dog Rescue at Marcy Park

Every Saturday, from 1:00 to 4:00pm at Marcy Park (next to Mission Bay Montessori on Stresemann Ave. in West UC), the Tragic to Magic nonprofit dog adoption group brings dogs available for adoption. For more info: tragictomagic.org, or follow on Facebook @TragicToMagic.

Parks & Rec

Status of City Services: What’s Open? What’s Closed?

By Diane Ahern, UC Parks Council Member

Everything is subject to change, of course. At the time our newsletter went to print, the Status of Parks and Recreation Services included:

- Recreation centers, including those in University City, are CLOSED.

- Community, Neighborhood and Open Space parks are OPEN for passive purposes only (walking, jogging, or hiking) or for members of the same household to congregate in small groups.

- Beaches are open. Enforcement of beaches will remain as directed by the County Health Order: Park visitors may sit, lie down, picnic if they practice social distancing. All persons on the beach shall practice social distancing other than members of the same household. The public shall not congregate or participate in active sporting activities on beaches.

- Golf courses are OPEN with restrictions.

- Parking lots are fully open to their original capacity throughout the city.

- Select Pools are OPEN on limited days and by reservation only.

- All reservoirs and lakes are OPEN during regular business hours. The concessions are CLOSED at all reservoirs due to the Stay-at-Home Order. No rental boats are available during this time. All other recreational activities are allowed during operating hours.

- Skate parks are OPEN.

For current Status of City Services & Facilities, visit sandiego.gov/status.
Traffic calming on Governor Drive: Imagine UC 2020 Plus

by John Lee Evans

Now that the Imagine UC 2020 project at Standley Park is nearing its completion in this fall the next logical step is to consider traffic calming measures on Governor Drive. We will see increased use of this public space with the new facilities between the two schools. It needs to be safe for cars, cyclists and pedestrians.

We will have a new aquatic center as the centerpiece of this public space. There will be a jogging path around most of the perimeter of the park, as well as a permanent stage/pavilion for school and community events. There will also be a new green field at Spreckels to add to the park. All of this is due to a joint use agreement between the school district and the city.

The Community Plan Update Sub-committee of the UCPG is working on long term plans for our community. Public comments about mobility in this specific area have already been made by residents. Through the years ideas for the park have ranged from new colorful walkways and bike lanes to landscaped medians and even roundabouts. Of course, funding for such projects is a big issue.

In the meantime we can take a fairly simple step, which is not a major capital improvement. This step would involve narrowing the traffic on Governor Drive to one lane in each direction just for the few blocks between Spreckels and Standley Middle School, which is Stadium Street to Radcliffe Street.

A narrower street automatically makes drivers slow down. It would allow for a clearly separated bike lane (above) and would maintain the current street parking. This is essentially a “restriping” of those few blocks.

Ideally we should implement the traffic calming at the same time that the park projects are completed. It will make the entire area safer for school children and for park users who play baseball and soccer and run and swim and ride bikes.

We began working on Imagine UC 2020 with community meetings in 2014. Traffic calming, UC 2020 Plus, will require the support of our community and our Councilmember Joe LaCava. So far the feedback has been very positive. Stay tuned.

So You Think You Know UC Part 5

take this informal quiz for UC nerds

1. Who is the current San Diego County Supervisor representing University City?
   A. Kaitlyn Jenner
   B. Scott Peters
   C. Terra Lawson-Remer

2. Who is the current San Diego City Schools principal in University City that is retiring this month?
   A. Bill Pearson
   B. Jeff Olivero
   C. Michel Cazary

3. Who is the current editor of the UCCA Newsletter?
   A. Jim Beshears
   B. Jemma Samala
   C. Glen D’Abreo

4. What is the approximate increase of home values in University City during the first quarter of 2021?
   A. 5.75%
   B. 10.5%
   C. 15.25%

5. Which of these important (non-realized) local issues has been publicized as the great “community compromise” for all University City residents?
   A. A recent MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Miramar, MCAS, and CASA to minimize noise and safety concerns.
   B. A safe bicycle/pedestrian lane (emergency vehicle bridge), over the railroad tracks in Rose Canyon.
   C. A proposal with the Pure Water project to provide landscaped / maintained medians on Genesee Ave.
   D. An agreement that the City’s Planning Dept. purchase one or more of the four service stations at Governor and Genesee and build low cost housing/apartments to support the City’s housing efforts.

*Bonus question...Who is UCCA’s coordinator of the University City Neighborhood Watch program?

UC Quiz prepared by UCCA President Barry Bernstein. Answers on page 3, or go to universitycitynews.org.
Goodbye Mr “O”

Jeff Olvera, aka “Mr O”, principal of University City High School the past 11 years, is retiring after 35 years as a principal, teacher and coach. Following is a short Q&A with Mr O:

Why did you decide to go into education?
I started out coaching and found that I was able to connect with students. While working with young people, it did not feel like a job but a joy to be around them. This caused me to move to San Diego where I started in the student teaching program at SDSU. In the 35 years I have served as a coach, teacher, and administrator, it never felt like a job. I feel incredibly blessed to have found an occupation that allowed me to wake up each morning excited about serving students, staff, and the communities. The hours put in were always rewarded by the gratitude expressed by those we served. The enthusiasm was always reciprocal.

What are you most proud of during your years at UCHS? While I was just a steward, the facility improvements at UCHS have been impressive: stadium lights, rubberized track, turf field, new stadium entrance-tower, and the entire upper field athletic facilities. They are now second to none in the district. Via the tax payers, all students have been given an electronic computer and in most all classrooms have working digital smart boards for instruction. The front office was also designed to provide students and counselors more autonomy. Over the years we were able to develop the largest volunteer support group out of any school in the district. Each year we had over 200 volunteers supporting booster clubs and on campus activities.

Instructionally, we made major head way in terms of ratcheting up our academic intensity. Part of this was to encourage and push more students into Advanced Placement (AP) classes. If 90% of students say they want to attend a four-year school, we felt they should experience at least one AP class before graduating. By 2018, we had increased the percentage of seniors taking at least one AP class from 52% to 83%. Again, seeking to bring more college like experiences to our students, we went and brought in the largest number of community college offerings in the district. The results of these moves allowed graduating students to be highly competitive to gain admittance to colleges and universities across the nation.

The school was also able to expand its number of career pathway course offerings: Engineering and Information and Communication Technology. While working to improve our academic intensity, I have enjoyed immensely the school spirit shown over the last ten years. I have always wanted to be part of an organization that values working incredibly hard and at the same time having fun while doing it!

What has surprised you about being a principal at UCHS? Having been a principal of Mira Mesa High School prior to UCHS, I came from a school environment where kids and staff loved being at their school. At Mira Mesa High School, each afternoon there are hundreds of kids participating in various extracurricular activities. When I arrived at UCHS, it was such a ghost town minus the athletes playing sports. Fortunately, we were able to change this culture at UCHS. Within a few years, the number of students and staff doing activities after school tripled. We knew this because we had to order three extra after school buses because more students were staying at school and enjoying their afternoons at UCHS.

Compared to when you were in high school, what do you think is being done better, what do you wish was still around?
I think the instruction is far better now than when I was in high school. The level of professional growth opportunities for educators is far more organized and sought after by those in the profession. What I think has been lost is the independence students once had years ago. Years ago students had to problem solve on their own for how to deal with adversity. This caused many students to mature faster as a result in my opinion. And while we want our parents to be educational partners today, I think it could help more students today if they were allowed to fail and learn from it. I think this could better prepare young adults for real life. Colleges are finding increasing numbers of students who are failing apart once they start facing adversity.

What were the biggest challenges during 2020/21, and were there any positive highlights?
I think education will forever be changed for the better. Whether it was desired or not, it forced the system to seek out how best to use technology to allow student access to learning 24 hours a day. The paradigm that students and staff need to be at a particular location on campus at a certain time will shift. Malcolm Gladwell wrote a book claiming “The World if Flat”. His title was a metaphor for viewing the world as a level playing field now that most of the world has access to technology. No longer do American schools have a premium on having the best teaching instruction – access to the very best can be gained virtually from anywhere. The pandemic has resulted in realizing that the world really is flat.

What’s next in your journey?
My plan is not to have a plan. I’ve always had a list of many goals to obtain and have checked them off along the way. With a new start, my plan will come together as life comes my way.

Thanks to Mr O for his years of service to education and our communities. And well wishes as he conducts his new start.
Standley Park Improvements Nearing Completion

Greg Zinser, Sandy Lippo, Barry Bernstein, and John Lee Evans, pictured above, are the Imagine UC 2020 Four who started working on the Standley Park improvement plans in 2014.

It was 2014 when Dr. John Lee Evans’ vision of a major improvement in Standley Park began. Realizing the need for a high school competitive pool for University City, he found a way to use previously approved School Bonds to support the concept of an expanded educational campus between Standley Middle and Spreckels Elementary. The new pool, a performance and outdoor activity pavilion, along with a jogging path to enhance physical education classes all seemed to fit together.

Working with City Park and Recreation and San Diego City Schools in expanding the already existing joint use fields between the two schools seemed to be the most effective strategy...and it worked. The project is expected to be completed this Fall.

Next portion of the improvements will be the long-awaited changes at Spreckels Elementary, followed with some additional modifications at Standley Middle School. Thank you John...for making University City "more than just a neighborhood."

Movie Night at Marcy Park

Save the date of Saturday, June 5, 8:00pm for movie night at Marcy Park, located at 5504 Stresemann Street. The UCFF (University City Community Foundation) will be hosting the Movie Night featuring Narnia The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe (movie subject to change). Please bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Portable restroom will be available.

For information about the UCFF, go to ucffsd.org, or contact UCFF President Ruth DeSantis at rgd@san.rr.com.

UC Residents Urge Petition Signing

Local residents held a petition signing event at Sprouts Marketplace to demand an immediate moratorium on unlimited ADU's (Accessory Dwelling Units) in backyards. The moratorium will allow San Diego to revise its ADU development regulations which will benefit both renters and homeowners alike.

To sign the petition, please email Better4SD@gmail.com.
Make your Home Fire Resistant: It’s What you do When You Don’t have 100 feet of Defensible Space

Construction materials and the quality of the defensible space surrounding the structure are what increases the chance of survival in a wildland fire. Embers from a wildland fire will find the weak spot in your home’s fire protection scheme and can easily catch because of a small, overlooked or seemingly inconsequential factor. Adapted from the San Diego Fire Department’s Ready, Set, Go! Wildland Fire Action Guide, here are some measures you can take to safeguard your home.

ROOFS: Roofs are the most vulnerable surface where embers land because they can become lodged and start a fire. Roof valleys, open ends of barrel tiles and rain gutters are all points of entry. Block off all open spaces, and regularly inspect these areas.

EAVES: Embers can gather under open eaves and ignite combustible material. Enclose your eaves to prevent ember intrusion, and regularly clear away debris that collects there.

VENTS: Embers can enter the attic or other concealed spaces and ignite combustible materials. Vents in eaves and cornices are particularly vulnerable, as are any unscreened vents. Use corrosion resistant metal mesh to screen all vents, and check them regularly to remove any debris that collects in front of the screen.

WALLS and FENCING: Combustible siding or other combustible/overlapping materials provide surfaces or crevices for embers to nestle and ignite. Build or remodel with noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials whenever possible. Regularly clear away debris from any crevices and perform annual upkeep.

WINDOWS and DOORS: Embers can enter gaps in doors, including garage doors. Install weatherproofing around your garage door, and if your garage is attached to your home make sure the interior door is solid and on self-closing hinges. Plants or combustible storage near windows can be ignited from embers and generate heat that can break windows and/or melt combustible frames. Wherever possible, use dual-paned windows with tempered glass, as they are less likely to shatter from radiant heat.

BALCONIES and DECKS: Construct your balconies or decks with noncombustible materials, and do not store combustible items underneath them. If there is a fire threat, bring any furniture into your home. Embers can collect in or on combustible surfaces, or beneath decks and balconies, igniting the material and entering the home through walls or windows.

To harden your home even further, consider protecting your homes with a residential fire sprinkler system. In addition to extinguishing a fire started by an ember that enters your home, it also can help protect you and your family year-round from any home fire.

For more Fire Safe projects to protect your home and family, visit the Fire Department website at sandiego.gov/fire

Boot Drive is Back
Thursday, June 17, 2021

Mark your calendars for the 22nd annual Firefighter Boot Drive to support the Burn Institute’s prevention programs and burn survivors services. Firefighters across San Diego County will be at intersections on June 17 to collect money to help fill the boot for this annual fundraiser. The Burn Institute is also expanding ways to give during the Boot Drive to include contactless payment options! Follow the Burn Institute on social media and continue to read the newsletters to find out all the ways you can give during the Boot Drive!

San Diego To Host US Police & Fire Championships in June - Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed for the United States Police & Fire Championships in San Diego. USPFC is an Olympic-style sports competition for first responders, which will take place June 10-19, 2021 throughout San Diego County. Volunteers are the key to the success of the Championships! There are over 500 volunteer shifts to be filled over the course of the competition.

USPFC will welcome 1500+ athletes representing law enforcement, firefighters, and officers from corrections, probation, border protection, immigration, and customs to compete in 50 Olympic-style sports in 35 venues throughout San Diego County. Sports range from archery to wrestling and every sport in between, including baseball, softball, tennis, bean bag toss, swim, and 40 more sports. Volunteers can help individually or work together in teams. Participating in the Championships is a great way for volunteers to engage with and support public safety officers while enjoying an Olympic-style competition. Volunteers receive lunch daily, as well as a t-shirt and swag bag. Shifts are available from 7:00am through 6:00pm and are dependent on competition time and venue. Register to volunteer at: https://cpaf.org/uspfc-volunteer. For more information, contact Nicole Matthews, Volunteer Manager at nmatthews@cpaf.org.
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO JOINED UCCA FOR 2021

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Dance Hula Fitness
Ingrid K. Liebscher
Christopher Zibert & Alex Wu

SUPPORTER
Bruce & Lucy Goodwin
Jerry & Verla Jungling

ANGEL
Ines & David Campbell
David S. Bateshansky
Barbara D. Fornes
Bob Howe
Anna Lewis
Mel & Marlese Pinney
Nancy & Don Steele

GOLD
Judy & Harvey Amster
Mark Banham & Sue Wilson
Wendy Beaver-Lee
Janice Hill
Juan & Meg Jacobo
Steve & Mari Kalvelage
Sandy Klipfel
Judith Rosselli & Richard Madsen
Marianne Tutto

Miramar Matters:
Increased Flight Operations in June

From Diane Ahern, representative to the MCAS Miramar Community Leaders Forum, with several short announcements after attending the May meeting:

The easing of COVID related restrictions at federal facilities such as the Miramar National Cemetery mean that funerals and memorials are once again being scheduled. In University City, we may see more tribute formation flyovers. These tribute flyovers are coordinated with the National Cemetery, FAA Air Traffic Control, and Miramar Flight Operations.

Community members may see and hear increased operations in June as visiting pilots and additional aircraft crews train at MCAS Miramar. All visiting pilots are held to the same standards as the pilots who are stationed at Miramar. Pilots all receive briefings on air station course rules for noise abatement and safety that are designed to keep the aircraft east of the 805 upon takeoff. Once the aircraft is outside of the 805 boundary, the pilots are following the directions of the FAA flight controllers.

Councilmember Joe LaCava and Congressman Scott Peters and their community representatives Kaitlyn Willoughby and Jessica Brown have been sharing community concerns with Miramar leadership. On a personal note, I was pleased to learn that both our elected officials and Flight Operations leadership personnel are responding to community concerns about safety. Community members may share concerns with Kaitlyn via email at KWilloughby@san diego.gov.

University City Community Association 2021 UCCA Membership Application*
2021 Members will receive a 2021 membership card and a special thank-you gift for joining.

___ $20 Individual | ___ $40 Supporter | ___ $60 Angel | ___ $100 Gold | ___ Additional donation enclosed $ ______

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

Individual and/or Business members’ names will be listed in the newsletter. Please indicate if you do NOT want your name to be listed.

___ Do NOT list my name. Please make your check payable to UCCA; mail to UCCA, 3298 Governor Drive, #22574, San Diego, CA 92122.

Payment is also accepted through PayPal on our website www.universitycitynews.org.

Your UCCA membership dues (and additional donation) make a big difference in our community. These funds help support many worthwhile organizations (i.e. public schools’ fundraising, Standley Park, EduCatel, Neighborhood Watch, ImproveUC/UCCF, Buy Local).

Plus special projects and activities such as median beautification, painted utility boxes, street banners, 4th of July Celebration, Summer Concerts, Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting, and our monthly newsletter delivered to your home and/or business.

(*UCCA membership dues are not tax deductible.)

*This membership is valid for the 2021 calendar year. Thank you for joining UCCA. If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Chairperson Hallie Burch at UCCAmembership@gmail.com.
Summer School Experiences
by Julie Dennis

The Elementary Summer Experience is our onsite summer school academic program for grades TK – 5. Located at Doyle Elementary School. It brings the San Diego Zoo and Balboa Park to life through an interdisciplinary project focused on the integration of science, math, and literacy throughout the day. Students will also have literacy and numeracy blocks of time built into the schedule.

- One Session: June 21 – July 16
- Open enrollment: May 18 – May 25

Elementary Online Summer Experience will be located at Sprechels. Contact your principal for more information.

The Secondary Summer Experience is our onsite summer school academic program for grades 6-12 and is centered around project-based learning across the four core content areas: science, math, English language arts, and history/social science. Educators will facilitate projects to recontextualize students to learning, advance their depth of knowledge in prioritized standards, and create cross-content connections that provide students with opportunities to engage in hands-on, minds-on learning alongside a community or industry partner. Classes are taught by San Diego Unified educators and Standley is a designated site. Education specialists will be assigned to sites to help support staff in meeting the needs of all learners. ESY services will be provided at Standley Middle School to students who have ESY services as part of their IEP.

Middle school: June 21 - July 18, 4 hours, 20 minutes per day. Students will earn elective/Enrichment credits. In the One Ocean, One Earth, One Me project, students will consider how human actions impact the health of the ocean and how each individual can make a difference. Students will explore marine ecosystems, identify problems impacting the health of the ocean, and design solutions for that will have a positive impact on the ocean. Students will take three excursions to Mission Bay, where representatives from Clear Blue will experience REM (remotely operated boats) collects trash/plastics in the ocean, learn about and do water sampling, and participate in a beach clean-up. Students will demonstrate their learning through the creation of a Public Service Announcement (PSA).

High school, TWO sessions: June 21-July 9 / July 12 -July 30, 4 hours, 20 minutes per day. Students needing to remediate grades may earn up to 2 credits per session in High School. Students who DO NOT need to remediate grades but still want to participate will earn elective credits.

- Session 1 Project: School and Community Improvement Plan – analyze a site (on campus or off-campus) and design a product or space that will improve that site.
- Session 2 Project: Criminal Justice Project – Learn the inner workings of the justice system, hear from police officers, district attorney, public defender, judge, and corrections officer; and will participate in labs to analyze evidence, investigate cases, discuss wrongful convictions, analyze data, participate in a mock trial.

Secondary iHigh – Online

The middle and high school online program will run through iHigh using the Edgenuity curriculum. June 21 - July 30. Hours per day will vary based on course selection. In addition to courses required for grade remediation and credit recovery, middle and high school students will also have access to iHigh online enrichment courses. Classes are self-paced through Edgenuity and learning facilitated and supported by San Diego Unified. Courses include Elective/Enrichment courses: Careers, Sociology, Math, English; and Credit Recovery Course: History, Science, English, Math, Art, Spanish and French.

PrimoTime: For questions, call the Extended Learning Opportunities Department at 858.503.1870 or via email at primetime@sandi.net

Level Up Summer Enrichment: June 21 – July 16. Enrollment begins May 25. Sign up at www.levelupsandiego.org. Occurs each school day after the above curriculum and will vary depending on the site. San Diego Unified and San Diego Foundation have partnered to create a fun and engaging enrichment program.

UC Planning Group Report
by Chris Nielsen, UCPG Chair

The May UCPG meeting was cancelled due to lack of agenda items, generally as a result of project review delays by the City. We do expect the "Campus Point 2 project" and the Torrey Pines State Park utilities and ADA improvements project to present at the UCPG at our June 5 meeting. We do not have a date for the proposed project at 6705 Robbins Way in south UC, a demo of a home and construction of four homes.

In follow-up, Seritage has not indicated what their next step is for their old Sears site at the east end of UTC. The UC San Diego La Jolla Innovation Center project at the old Rock Bottom Brewery location was approved by the UC Regents last week. This seven-story project on the southwest corner of La Jolla Village Drive and Villa La Jolla will begin construction this summer.

BIOMED’s Towne Centre View project draft EIR is being prepared. The UCPG subcommittee reviewing the project plans a site walk-through in the first part of June.

Community Plan Update Meeting
April 20, 2021
by Katie Rodolico

Agenda and supporting documents for this meeting, and previous meetings can be found at: www.planuniversity.org/. The meeting was held as a webinar.

Public Comment:
Diane Ahern, as president of the UC Fire Safe Council, said that May is Fire Awareness Month. She said the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is in final review before being submitted to city, county, and state fire agencies for approval.
Jeff Dostick talked of the soon to open Rose Canyon bike path. He advocated for "sharrows" on Decoro and Cargill to improve safety as bike commuters travel to the new bike path.
Dan Danner of San Diego Cycle Vets bike club advocated for "sharrows" and signage to improve bike safety along Governor Dr.
Abby Reuter, UCSD student representative to the CPUS, advocated for consideration of the lifting of the 30 foot height limit in the University plan area.
Abigail Glatt, UCSD student, also advocated for the removal of the 30 foot height limit in the University plan area.
Saloman Gallo, UCSD student, also advocated for the removal of the 30 foot height limit in the University plan area.
Joann Sellick, CPUS member, advocated for the lifting of the 30 foot height limit.
John Lee Evans spoke of traffic calming measures along Governor from Stadium to Radcliffe by reducing traffic to one lane in either direction and adding bike lanes.
Nancy Groves spoke against the 30 foot height limit being removed.
Melanie Cohn commended the UCSD students for being involved and speaking up.
Cedric Garland spoke against the 30 foot height limit being removed.

Agenda Items:
Katie Witherspoon reviewed the schedule for the plan update process. The community survey that was planned for the June timeframe has been postponed to fall to allow the student population to participate.
Katie Witherspoon gave a detailed presentation on the City’s housing element and issues. The city has met the housing goals and needs to triple housing production. As the city has been updating community plans, identifying more housing potential has been a goal. University’s existing plan limits production of the needed housing. This plan update could allow more housing units. Examples were given from four other recently updated plans where they modified policy and zoning to allow more housing in those areas (see at: sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/ucpss_draft_presentation_5-19-2020.pdf). The subcommittee members were asked to rank artwork submitted from University school students. The art can be found here: https://www.planuniversity.org/content

The next University Community Plan Update meeting will be on June 15, 2021 at 5:30pm
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DOM = Days on Market | COE = Close of Escrow

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3959 Governor Dr. | ColdwellBankerUC@gmail.com | 858.352.6587

Please Adhere to CDC Covid-19 Guidelines & Have Fun!

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