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UC's Holiday Lights in Photos

Wildfire Preparedness Home Assessments

Staging Your Home

Play Ball – UC Del Sol Starts Season

Les High to Turn 100 Years Young

universitycitynews.org



UNIVERSITY CITY... more than just a neighborhood!

University City

NEWS



One & One: PURE WATER

University City Community Association
presents the first in a series of One & One talks
– one subject or speaker for one hour.

SAVE THE DATE

UCCA MEETING:

PURE WATER SAN DIEGO

Hear about the latest Pure Water construction updates in the University City area, including ADA ramp upgrades, crosswalk markings, and bike lane striping from the City of San Diego's construction management team and Transportation Department.

FEB 12 2024

AT 5:30 P.M.

NOBEL RECREATION CENTER, 8810 JUDICIAL DRIVE,
SAN DIEGO, CA 92122

For more information, and to see a map of the full alignment, please visit the Morena Northern Pipelines & Tunnels project webpage. For any questions, email purewatersd@sandiego.gov or call 833-UTC-PWSD.

In the Meantime:

Pure Water Update

Construction continues in the University City area for the Morena Northern Pipelines & Tunnels project, part of Pure Water San Diego Phase 1 construction. As of January 2024, more than 50% of the pipelines have been installed.

Genesee Ave., south of Governor Drive

On Genesee Avenue, south of the Governor Drive intersection, all pipes have been installed. The contractor has continued restoration in the area. In the SR-52 area, the contractor is currently working on work plan for the steel casing and pipeline installation.

Genesee Ave., north of Governor Drive

Construction at the Genesee Avenue and Governor Drive intersection was completed in late 2023 and crews have since moved onto northbound Genesee Avenue between Governor Drive and Centurion Square. For this section, the contractor switched all traffic to the northbound lanes of Genesee Avenue. Crews work during the day, primarily Monday to Friday, 7:00am to 5:30pm. The construction team has coordinated with UC High School in advance of this work. Due to the traffic control plan, the student gate will be closed in the morning and all student traffic is being diverted to Centurion Court. The student gate reopens in the afternoon for school departures.

Looking ahead on Genesee Avenue:

Once the base pave has settled, crews will finish trench paving then the road will be striped according to standards by the City of San Diego Transportation Department.

Towne Centre Dr. near Excalibur Way (see photo top right)

The pipes in the corridor of Towne Centre Drive and La Jolla Village Drive to Excalibur Way have been installed. The next phase of construction in this area is from Excalibur Way to Renaissance Avenue.

Additional Construction

Ongoing construction in other areas of the alignment include the tunneling work at the I-805 shaft on Executive Drive and work for the San Clemente Tunnel located at the Genesee Avenue lot at Marian Bear Memorial Park. This parking lot is closed for construction – alternate parking can be located at 5233 Regents Road.

*Information provided by Sarah Bowles,
Community Outreach Specialist, Pure Water*

UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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

Advertising Terri Day, uccaADS@gmail.com

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

Guidelines:

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

Deadline for the MARCH 2024 issue: FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Please send your submission as early as possible. The deadline for the March issue is **February 15, 2024**, but the newsletter can fill up before the deadline. Articles and news items are reviewed as they are received. Priority may be given to UCCA members and time sensitive material. Articles may also be edited for allowed space. UCCA does not discriminate against nor endorse all information in the monthly newsletter. The UCCA Newsletter receives information and advertising from a variety of sources. UCCA cannot and does not guarantee the accuracy of the information or the complete absence of errors and/or omissions, nor does UCCA assume responsibility for the same. Publication does not constitute an endorsement.

2024 UCCA Board Members

Executive Board

President: Jemma Samala, jemmasamala@gmail.com
Vice-President: Jim Beshears, jbeshears53@gmail.com
Secretary: Katie Rodolico, ktnelson@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Phil Fowler, philfowler2018@gmail.com

Appointed Positions

Beautification Chair: Merle Langston, merlelangston1@gmail.com
CASA Liaison/Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Chair/Publicity & Promotion/Webmaster: Diane Ahern, ahern.diane@gmail.com
*Holiday Lighting: Darlene Ventimiglia, darleneven2@gmail.com
Membership: Julie Nydam, jnydam@gmail.com
Neighborhood Watch: Barbara Gellman, bggellman@yahoo.com
*Newsletter Distribution: Don Hotz, don.hotz@yahoo.com
*Newsletter Ads: Terri Day, uccaADS@gmail.com
*Newsletter Editor: Jemma Samala, UCCAeditor@gmail.com
North UC Liaison: Bill Beck, itsaok@aol.com
Parliamentarian/SD Network of Town Councils: Mack Langston, langstonmack@gmail.com
Past-President: Diane Ahern, ahern.diane@gmail.com
*Special Events: Barry Bernstein, apdrfn@aol.com
*UCPG Liaison: Katie Rodolico, ktnelson@yahoo.com
*Non-Voting Position

SUMMARY OF UCCA MEETING

January 10, 2024, in-person at UC Library
by Katie Rodolico, UCCA Secretary

President's remarks: Thanks to the volunteers for the holiday lighting, with special thanks to Darlene Ventimiglia's 20 years of organizing this event. Jemma will have office hours to hear from the community. UCCA meetings will be in person every other month, 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm at the University Community library on Governor Drive. Special UCCA One & One events during alternate months.

Public Safety: Officer Brown reported a grant was received to fund police presence at local religious institutions. Traffic violations due to traffic detours for Pure Water construction. The police are citing violators. He discussed some of the metrics of what type of calls come in. Kent Lee's office donated six new neighborhood watch signs. There was discussion about the homeless at All Saints church. The police and church are engaged to find a solution.

Pure Water Update: Sarah Bowles, Clem Wassengerg presented current status. Current work is happening north of Governor Dr. towards UCHS and on Towne Centre, south of LJ Village moving towards Nobel. Work on Towne Center should wrap up in February. Base paving on Genesee south of Governor has been installed. It is bumpy or wavy, but cars will compact it. Eventually the final coat of paving will smooth it out. The tunneling portion of projects are behind schedule. A second tunneling contractor is being brought on to work on the tunnel at SR 52 and Genesee. When complete they will move to the Rose Canyon Creek tunnel. The contractor working on pipes at Genesee under SR52 is developing a plan to address quality issues. Construction along Nobel, between La Jolla Village and Towne Centre is expected this summer and fall. The total project should be complete in 2025. [Special Pure Water One & One meeting – see page one.]

Alison Apfeld from Congressman **Scott Peters'** office. Rep. Peters was working in the district during December. As part of the San Diego caucus he is working to fund fixing the cross border sewage treatment.

Zach Burton from councilmember **Kent Lee's** office: thanks to Officer Brown & Barbara Gellman about neighborhood watch. Lee now chairs the Budgeting committee as well as the Land Use and Housing subcommittee. CM Lee's office is hosting a forum on the search for a new police chief. Question from audience regarding the proposed high rise towers at Nobel and Genesee. ZB: they will be presenting to UCPG as things move forward. This project will only require ministerial approval because it falls under the Complete Communities program. However, since the towers are more than 100 feet tall, a public hearing will be required. The developer is Wilmark, who manages some of the senior housing on the east end of Governor Drive.

Mariah Kallhoff: from Assemblymember **Tasha Boerner** office: AM Boerner's current focus on getting the two-year bills through. She will continue to chair the Communications and Conveyance committee as well as continuing to chair the select committee on sea level rise. She is also on the committee that deals with CPUC.

UCPG Chris Nielsen: UCPG submitted new governance documents to the city in December. The planning dept confirmed that there are no competing planning group applications for the University community. UCPG will operate under the existing bylaws until new 'operational procedures' are approved. Elections for UCPG board positions will take place in March. There are seven seats for up for election. Three residential seats, one for each district, and three business seats, one for each district. Additionally, the representative for one of the northwest UTC district is termed out. The non-termed out incumbents for the residential seats are running for re-election. Deadline to announce candidacy is February 13. Candidates can give a two-minute presentation at the February meeting. Ballots and instructions will be on the city website. In person voting at 9880 Campus Point Drive, 3rd floor patio, at the March meeting.

UC Library: Melissa Martin: The library will be hosting a FAFSA blitz on 1/20, 9:00am-1:00pm. There is a flyer by the door. Make a reservation if you are interested. The library received funds from CM Lee's office. The library is hoping to start Ma-Jong and Oasis programming. The library will be an in-person site for early voting for the primary elections in March.

North UC Library: Azalea: Library is running a reading challenge open to those ages 0-infinity. Kids get a backpack. Also giving away museum tickets.



UCCA President Jemma Samala

Let's get to work! We've survived another holiday season, and now we look ahead towards a busy and productive year. For my first official duty as president, I was honored to introduce the 2024 UCCA board (left) and present outgoing president Diane Ahern with a service award.

Diane was also presented an award by Councilmember Kent Lee, pictured right. Alongside Diane is past president Barry Bernstein. I have big shoes to fill following those two as president.

I believe one thing that we all have in common, as with so many of UC residents, is our love of community. Diane told me that my column last month was like a love letter to University City. And yes, I ♥ UC!

I hear about so many residents who have lived in UC for decades, whose kids also live in UC, no wonder 92122 is a hot real estate and rental market – none of us want to leave!

I think of February as Valentine's Day month – and love comes in many forms. Yes, of course your love of your partner, your children, your family, your friends, your pets, and your community. I know many of you love UC as I do, otherwise we wouldn't have so many volunteers in our community groups, our schools, our social clubs. Our love of community helps keep all your neighbors informed about issues that affect our neighborhood and what we can do about it. We may not always agree, but we all care.

UCCA cares. That's why UCCA uses funds to support local events, paint utility boxes, maintain street medians, purchase neighborhood banners, organize Neighborhood Watch groups, bring you topical speakers, and prepare this informative newsletter. By the way, the *University City News* is delivered by over 100 volunteers, now that is love of community!

My ask to you is, if you love UC, show your love. Get involved, help your neighbors in need (whether they need help putting holiday lights away or could use a lift to go shopping), and support those who are already giving back. Like UCCA. Help us help you. Become a dues paying member (\$25 is the minimum) or make a donation to support our programs and newsletter. If you have a business, buy an ad. If you have time, volunteer. We are looking for folks to join our new legislative committee (local, city, county, state, and national issues that affect our community), write grants, monitor banners, become Neighborhood Watch captains, solicit new members, and help plan special events. Let's get to work UC!

I enjoyed my first open office hours and chatted with some folks I haven't seen in a while. My next is Saturday, February 10 at Starbucks on Governor Drive, from 9:00-11:00am. Hope to see you there, and we can always chat about our love of community.



Jemma
Thinking Locally, Acting Neighborly

BEHIND THE SCENES – VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT JIM SIMON

Jim Simon is a longtime resident of University City and has been a loyal and dedicated member of UCCA. He has been the Holiday Lights Christmas Tree "engineer" for 20 years and has been a newsletter volunteer delivery person since its inception. Jim was nominated for the volunteer spotlight by Darlene Ventimiglia (a longtime volunteer herself and co-chair of UCCA's Holiday Lights). University City thanks Jim Simon for his service to the community!

If you know of a longtime, behind the scenes volunteer, contact jemmasamala@gmail.com.

Calendar

February 2024

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Saturday, February 10

JEMMA at STARBUCKS on SATURDAY

UCCA's President Open Hours

Stop by to discuss UCCA and University City

Saturday, February 10, 9:00 to 11:00am

Starbucks on Governor Drive

PEOPLE FOR A CLEAN UC

Sunday, February 11

7:15-7:30am – meet & greet

7:30-9:00am – work

Cleanup volunteers meet at Starbucks
3203 Governor Drive, supplies provided

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Sunday, February 11

Halftime Performer: Usher

CBS coverage begins at 3:00pm

Kickoff at 3:30pm

UCCA ONE & ONE MEETING

Topic: PURE WATER

Monday, February 12, 5:30pm

Nobel Recreation Center

8810 Judicial Drive

See page 1 for more information

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Tuesday, February 13, 6:00pm

Info: planuniversity.org

VALENTINE'S DAY

Wednesday, February 14

PRESIDENTS' DAY

Monday, February 19

STANDLEY PARK COMMUNITY REC GROUP

Thursday, February 22

For meeting details, call: 858.552.1651

**UC CELEBRATION 4th of JULY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Contact: Randall Tonini, randalltonini@icloud.com

Info: uccelebration.com

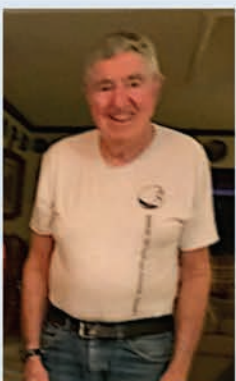
UC DUMPSTER DAY

March 2 – More Details to Come

RENEW YOUR UCCA

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024

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





COLD FEET Solution: Socks

by Barbara Gellman

Make a statement by putting your best foot forward with socks. Men, women and children can express their style and make everyday a foot party.

Check out all the styles on the sock flyer, list the style #, color and description and email me at bggellman@yahoo.com for a fast and easy delivery. Go to universitycitynews.org, then click on Neighborhood Watch/socks or email me for the flyer.

For every \$5.00 donation, you will receive a pair of socks of your choice and the funds will be reinvested in Neighborhood Watch for signs, programs, opportunity drawings and appreciation gifts to those who support and protect us.



The Ballot is in the Mail

by Diane Ahern

The date of the Presidential Primary Election is not until March 5, 2024. However, under the California Voter's Choice Act, every active registered voter in San Diego County will receive a ballot in the mail the week of February 4, 2024. According to the San Diego Registrar of Voters, here are your voting options:

- **MAIL IT:** You can complete your ballot in the comfort of your home and return it through the U.S. Postal Service. Your signature is required on your return envelope for your vote to count.
- **DROP IT:** Starting Tuesday, February 6, voters have the additional option of dropping off your ballot at any official ballot drop box located around the county.
- **VISIT:** If you would rather vote in person, that option is available too. Avoid long lines by taking advantage of early in-person voting.
- **UC LIBRARY:** will serve as an early voting center March 2-4 for the Presidential Primary Election in March and will serve as a Polling Place on Election Day, March 5, 2024. Ballots may be dropped off inside the community room on these dates. A permanent ballot box, located outside the public entrance near the parking lot, will be available for ballot drop-off in the weeks leading up to Election Day.

More information from the Registrar of Voters at: sdvote.com
More information about City elections at: sandiego.gov/city-clerk/elections/city/2024elections



Officer Sal Castro of the CA Highway Patrol, led a Safe Driving Class for Seniors at the University Community Library last month. Over 30 seniors took advantage of the informative service.

Photos courtesy Bill Beck

Vehicle Theft - A Crime of Opportunity

by District Attorney Summer Stephan

Auto theft is a common crime in San Diego County that affects victims in many ways. Across the county, there were more than 11,300 auto thefts last year, representing about \$140 million in losses, according to statistics from the San Diego Association of Governments. In fact, last year our office filed more than 850 cases against 900 defendants for auto theft-related charges.

Thankfully, our region has a Regional Auto Theft Taskforce (RATT), that works to reduce vehicle theft in San Diego County. They have taken down many criminal auto theft rings that have led to prosecutions and ultimately jail time for criminals.

Auto theft uniquely disrupts the victim's life, especially in a vehicle-centered city like San Diego where almost every aspect of your daily living revolves around your vehicle. From being unable to get to work, school and doctor's appointments to buying food, the theft of your vehicle can be devastating. But there are ways to be proactive, so you do not become a victim of auto theft. Here are some simple tips that can reduce your probability of becoming a victim of auto theft:

- Do not leave your vehicle doors unlocked. Criminals are opportunists and they will find their way into an unlocked vehicle sooner or later.
- Do not leave items of any value in plain sight in a parked vehicle.
- Do not leave your keys in your vehicle.
- Do not leave keys hanging on a hook in your garage.
- Do not leave your garage door open.
- Do not store a spare key in your garage or second vehicle.
- Do not leave your vehicle unattended while it is running.
- Do not assume your vehicle is safe to be left unlocked because you live in a gated area or have an enclosed parking garage.
- Do not leave car keys in a lockbox attached to your vehicle while at the beach or on a hike.
- To avoid becoming a victim of identity theft in addition to auto theft, do not leave valuable items in your vehicle.

The harm to victims is compounded when valuables, wallets, checkbooks, or phones are left in a vehicle, and it is stolen. If a thief gains access to the personal identifying information such as your driver's license or credit card, they can illegally use your personal information to make purchases and steal your identity. Some thieves may try to re-sell your vehicle, and if you leave the vehicle title in the vehicle, the bad actor can attempt to transfer title or sell your vehicle to an unsuspecting innocent buyer.

Earlier this Summer, RATT completed a two-year investigation involving 50 defendants. The undercover operation recovered 172 stolen vehicles, drugs, and firearms. RATT's mission cannot be fulfilled without the help of the public. If you have tips or information on vehicle thefts, please let RATT know on the anonymous tip line: 1-888-TELLRAT (888-835-5728). As your District Attorney, I'm committed to increasing communication and accessibility between the DA's Office and the public in order to keep you safe. I hope these consumer and public safety tips have been helpful.

For more info, visit the DA website at sdcca.org.



Mayor's Office Reports

Selected Excerpt: Outreach Workers Guide People Out of Homelessness



Outreach is a critical tool for ending people's homelessness. Outreach teams work to build relationships with people experiencing homelessness. The teams use a person-centered approach to resolve their homelessness through the offer of services tailored to the specific needs of individuals.

One of those teams is operated by the City's nonprofit partner, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH). In San Diego, PATH provides a variety of services for neighbors experiencing homelessness that include outreach, housing navigation, interim housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing. For more information about services and volunteer opportunities, visit: epath.org/regions/greater-san-diego/



Office of
Assemblymember
Tasha Boerner

As the popularity of electric bikes (e-bike) continues to skyrocket, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) has launched an online e-bike safety and training program to help keep commuters and recreational cyclists safe.

The CHP's official *E-Bike Safety and Training* program features tutorials, videos, and interactive elements to keep participants engaged. It is free and designed to be used by riders of all ages. Take a look at: chp.ca.gov



For more information about pending e-bike legislation, refer to the statement from Assemblymember Tasha Boerner available at: a77.asmdc.org/press-releases/20230714-statement-bill-ensure-traffic-safety-and-protect-e-bike-riders

District 6 Councilmember Kent Lee

Greetings University City,

Happy New Year! On behalf of our District 6 team, I hope your celebrations were fantastic and safe! This past year has been an honor, working alongside our dedicated District 6 team, to serve our community. Our office's efforts in the last year have resulted in tangible improvements: 300+ fixed streetlights, 14,000+ patched potholes, 20+ miles of road repair, and collecting 160+ tons of excess trash at no cost for D6 residents. We've also addressed 1,200+ constituent issues and attended 180+ public events to stay connected.

As we begin 2024, I am ready to continue working on the many issues District 6 residents care about – such as the high cost of housing, running an efficient and fiscally prudent City government that prioritizes critical neighborhood services and infrastructure, and addressing the homelessness crisis that touches every community.

To start off the year, I was honored to be appointed by my Council colleagues to serve as the Chair of the Land Use and Housing Committee as well as the Chair of the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee. Both committees play an important role in determining important City policy. I will continue to serve as Vice Chair of the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee and will remain a member of the Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Rules Committee.

Last month, I had the pleasure of attending the unveiling of the newly remodeled Vons in University City. Thank you to the entire Vons team for their hard work in the community, and congratulations on the beautiful new store.



Looking ahead, mark your calendars for March 2. Our office is hosting a No-Cost Dumpster Day in University City – stay tuned for more details!

As the Lunar New Year approaches, San Diego gears up for some incredible celebrations. Join in the festivities, and let's make the Year of the Dragon one for the books – happy, healthy, and prosperous! I hope to see you in the community as we celebrate another year!

All the best,

Councilmember Kent Lee

As always, if you have any concerns our office can help you with, please feel free to contact me or my University City representative, Zach Burton, at ZBurton@sandiego.gov

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

sandiego.gov/public-library/locations/university-community-library

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

sandiego.gov/public-library/locations/north-university-community-library

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

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

Libraries will be closed on Monday, February 19, in observance of President's Day.

What's Happening at the Libraries?

North University Community Library

Program Highlights



****New Reoccurring Program** English Corner:** Wednesdays at 4:45-5:45pm. Community members with a basic grasp of English language can have fun themed conversations and build relationships with one another. *Pictured above led by community leaders Bahar and Angela.*

The Sum of Us: One Book, One San Diego Book Discussion: Saturday, February 3 at 2:00-3:30pm

Works in Progress: Mysticism and Art: Thursday, February 15 at 1:00-2:30pm

Memory Evaluation Screenings provided by the Sharp Neurocognitive Research Center: Tuesday, February 20 at 12:00-3:00pm: Please call library staff at 858.581.9637 to schedule a private 30-minute appointment.

Art History at the Library: Botticelli and Florence, 1434-94: Politics, Patronage, and Paranoia: February 24 at 11:00am

All Ages

Chess Club: Every Thursday at 3:30-5:30pm

Children's Programs

Baby/Toddler variety program: Mondays, 11:45am-12:15pm

Toddler Storytime: Wednesdays at 10:00-10:30am

Lego Club: Mondays at 6:00-7:00pm

Local Author Storytime: Little Yellow Jeepney: Saturday, February 24 at 10:00-10:30am. Dr. Joy Francisco will read her latest book *Damdaman*, which is feelings in Filipino

Adult Programs

Fiction Lovers Book Club: Saturday, February 10 at 10:00-11:00am: *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict.

Amantes de la Lectura, Novelas Hispano-americanas en Espanol: Saturday, February 17 at 2:00-4:30pm. RSVP to tlampell21@gmail.com

Friends of the North University Community Library Meeting: Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00-7:00pm

Celebrity Memoir Book Club: Tuesday, February 27 at 6:00 to 7:30pm. Title to be announced.

Page Turners' Book Club: Saturday, February 24 at 1:00-2:30pm. *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict.

Bridge: Learn the Game from a Master: Alternating Saturdays starting February 10. The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL Bridge Unit 539) will provide free instruction in this "Basic Bridge Course." Space limited to 24, pre-registration required. To register, get on the waitlist, or receive more info, please contact Bridget Poizner at BridgeFun1430@gmail.com.

University Community Library (Governor Drive)

ADULT PROGRAMS

Qi Gong (adults) – Thursdays, 9:30-11:30am

Lectures at the Library: Presidential Trivia with Richard Lederer (San Diego OASIS) Tuesday, February 6 at 12:30pm. Who was our youngest American president? Who was our oldest? Who was our tallest and shortest president? Union-Tribune language columnist and American history quizmaster Richard Lederer will illuminate the feats, fates, families, foibles, and firsts of our American presidents.

Advanced Care Planning and End of Life Options:

Tuesday, February 20 at 12:30pm. Learn how to make plans for your future health care which applies to adults at all stages of life. Learn about tools designed to help you talk with family, friends, and medical providers about your wishes. End of Life options will be described, including declining medical treatments, palliative/hospice care, voluntarily stopping eating and drinking (VSED) as well as California's End of Life Option Act (2016), also called Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD).

CHILDREN/TEEN PROGRAMS

Children's Valentine-themed Craft Tuesday, February 6 at 2:30pm, Make a holiday card for your favorite person!

Homework Help for Reading and Writing – Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-4:00pm.

Toddler Storytime & Craft – Wednesdays at 10:30am

Kids' crafts at 2:30pm – 2nd Tuesdays at 2:30pm

Exhibit: January - March: Associated Fine Artists. An exhibit of works by San Diego artists in a broad range of styles and mediums: oils, pastels, watercolors, colored pencils and collage (Community Room).

Thank You from the Friends of the UC Library

by Helen Lebowitz

The Friends of the UC Branch Library would like to thank the University City community for a most successful membership drive for the year ending 2023. We have been very gratified by the generosity of the donations we have received and the income from daily sales of books, puzzles, bookmarks and other items in our display case. Please remember that all money donated to this branch stays right here to support programs, materials and equipment. Also, the City Library Matching Fund program will add 50% to every donation, all of which goes to the UC Branch.

This year the Friends and our manager Melissa Martin and her staff will be working on using our funds to enhance the branch and the services it offers the community. We anticipate some belt tightening from both the City and the State in the upcoming budget season so your contributions are more important than ever. Now is the time to let our elected officials, City County and State, know how much the library means to you and our community. We are always looking for members of the community to become active members of the Friends. Our monthly meetings are open to all and usually take place on the third Wednesday of the month from 4:00 to 5:00pm in the Community Room. Please check for the meeting dates as they are subject to change. Thank you again and see you at the library!

UCHS Receives EdUCate! Grant Focus is on Mental Health

by Tara Djordjevic, UCHS Features Editor

University City High School was awarded a \$50,000 grant to support mental health needs in the form of free therapy for UCHS students, by EdUCate!, non-profit organization dedicated to providing additional funds to University City public schools.

UCHS Principal Mike Paredes explained, "\$25,000 of it was a grant that they applied for, and received from Google with the intention of supporting mental health at our UC schools. Additionally, they raised more than \$5,000 at last year's Taste of the Triangle event for the sole purpose of supporting mental health." In addition, \$3,000 came from a private donor, Dr. June Kubli, and \$2,000 was from a San Diego County grant. A little more than \$14,000 is part of the annual EdUCate! Principal's grant that is based on enrollment numbers at UCHS.

EdUCate! President Kendra Cole said, "We received an invitation from Google Foundation to apply for the \$25,000 Google Grant. We believe EdUCate! came onto Google Foundation's radar because we received the 2023 California Non-Profit of the Year award."

The funds will be used to "...add three additional days of clinical therapist support on campus through Wellness Together," according to Paredes. Wellness Together is a non-profit organization that offers a school-based therapy program that provides support both on-campus and online.

The Wellness Together organization utilizes an evidence-based approach to provide intervention "...for students facing social and emotional challenges impacting academic performance, attendance, and behavior at school." Clinically-trained therapists meet with students to provide individual or group counseling weekly for 40 minutes to provide care, without the need for insurance papers, allowing for immediate mental health needs to be met (wellnesstogether.org).

Cole said, "We [EdUCate!] hope by supplementing funds for the mental health program at UC High and providing more availability for therapeutic services, students will reach out when they need help working through their difficult issues. And, most importantly, we [EdUCate!] want our kids to know they are not alone; they have a safe place to go; they can find support at school for free. There are tools, skills and resources that can help reduce stress and can make decisions more manageable."

Paredes explained that the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) provides funding for one full-time clinician. He said, "Each day of clinical service allows for five students to be seen by a clinician. With three additional days of service, 15 [more] students can be seen per week at any given time. Paredes said, "Essentially, because of the generosity of EdUCate!, as well as our partnership with Wellness Together and School Link, we hope to provide health support to anyone who wants or needs it without delay."

While the grant from Google is a one-time award, Paredes said, "Our amazing community, along with EdUCate!'s committed efforts, will continue to generate funding to support this cause." Cole said there will be an opportunity this year to donate with mental health support in mind. "At this year's Taste of the Triangle event on March 22, EdUCate! will give participants an opportunity to fund-an-item, Wellness Together," said Cole. For tickets to the 2024 Taste of the Triangle event at Farmer & the Seahorse, visit UC EdUCate!'s website (uceducate.org).



Curie Elementary's 60th Anniversary

by Dahun and Frankie, Room B-11

On November 30, 2023, Mr. Elwell and Ms. Wallace came to our 3rd grade classroom, B-11 with Mrs. Rodriguez, at Curie Elementary. They came to tell us how Curie was 60 years ago. Curie, right now, is an enormous school that is protected very securely. It was made for education, fun, and more. But back then a handful of things were very different. The topics we learn are math, science, art, music, writing, reading, social studies, P.E, and more. The grades start at UTK and goes all the way up to 5th grade. Green play structure for UTK and kinder, Blue for second grade, and Red for 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

On the first day Curie opened, a heap of students ran through the front gate. Compared to now, Curie was no more than 30 classrooms and a field of gravel and rocks. To get there, most students walked or cycled. There was an option of cars, but many of the roads were not paved. Some parents did not go to work or they did not know how to drive. Curie opened with 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. One of the surprises was that there were lizards and giant snakes on the field. Boys would often play a game to catch these critters. Another change was that there was a dress code for both girls and boys. For girls, they were not allowed to wear shorts or pants. Girls usually wore a skirt/dress with a shirt or sweater. Boys could not wear shorts either. So, they wore long pants. School started at 9:00am and finished at 2:50pm. At lunch time, they went to the lunch harbor which was located at the garden we know today. There was no free school lunch. But, you could buy a carton of milk and a straw for only 6 cents. There were also children workers that were rewarded with popsicles. After that, it would be play time.

The choices for sports were: baseball, dodgeball, volleyball, and four squares. There wasn't any blue or red equipment. There was only a gray metal structure. Now Curie has four square, wall ball, soccer, basketball, tetherball, pickleball, Gaga ball, and the equipment areas. In class they learned a variety of things. These included: math, music, art, and more. They also had to do a lot of book reports. Math time isn't like it is today. They didn't write in the math work books. They copied the problems and answers onto a piece of paper. The pencils they used were sized 7! They were bright blue and were called the Blue Bird Pencils. They used that for their everyday subjects. Art and music were done in the classrooms. There was no after school program, so usually they would run home. Some of the things they did frequently after school was go to the book mobile. Back then, there was no library in school. So the best resource for books was the book mobile. There was a heap of books in a gigantic van. It came every other week. Those are only some of the differences from back then and now.

Curie was nothing like it is now. As time passed, more classrooms were built and more teachers were hired. The education quality has gone up as well. Curie wasn't the only one changing either. Pip's was a local hangout, and now we have Carl's Jr. The bookmobile is gone, and now there are libraries everywhere you go at Curie. This could have only happened because of the changing world. As the community changed, Curie needed to as well. As our school grew, so did our community. Curie Elementary school has now existed for over 60 years.

COMMUNITY SHORTS

UC GARDEN CLUB LOOKS UP TO THE OWLS

The February UC Garden Club meetup will be at the home of Ruth DeSantis on Saturday, February 17, starting at 3:30pm for a wine-themed event. The featured speaker will be Robert Weigard, UC's owl expert who built the owl box in Ruth's backyard. Owls can be beneficial to gardens as they can devour hundreds garden-munching rodents and other pests. For more info, contact jemmasamala@gmail.com.

UC CELEBRATION NEEDS YOU

Planning is underway for the UC Celebration on the 4th of July at Standley Park. Many volunteers are needed to help make this annual event at Standley Park a huge success. If you and your family plan to attend, please also plan to help out. Upcoming meetings of the UC Celebration committee are scheduled on Wednesday, February 21 at 6:00pm and on Wednesday, March 20 at 6:00pm at Standley Recreation Center at 3585 Governor Drive. This is a public meeting and anyone with suggestions and an interest in the UC Celebration is urged to attend. The UC Celebration is a fundraiser sponsored by the University City Parks Council and supports the Summer Concerts at Standley Park. For the latest information, visit: uccelebration.com

MIRAMAR MATTERS

The MCAS Miramar Community Plans and Liaison Office has announced a community base tour and flight operations brief to take place at the Marine Corps Air Station on the afternoon of Friday, February 23. The tour and brief will be hosted by commanding officer (CO) Colonel Bedell and the flight operations staff. Pre-registration will be required. Please contact Citizens Advocating Safe Aviation (CASA) if you would like to be on the email notification list for more information about this opportunity at: citizensadvocatingsafeaviation@gmail.com.

UC RACQUET CLUB NEWS

New sessions of youth group tennis lessons have started at all levels; register now for prorated pricing. Beginner adult group tennis clinics are forming Tuesday evenings 6:00-7:30pm. Sundays are coming soon! Tennis round robin socials are open to newcomers and non-members for a small fee. For more info and to register for youth group lessons, adult clinics and tennis socials, check us out at ucrtennis.com.



ROTARY CLUB GIVING BACK DURING HOLIDAYS

In December, the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club met to assemble gift baskets with goods donated by club members for needy families in our community. The Community Christian Service Agency, through their Christmas Gift Basket Program, identified the recipients, 11 families which include 59 individuals. The project was led by member Linda Stouffer Wallis. Also in December, members placed wreaths on the graves at Miramar National Cemetery. The club has participated in this project since 2020 and sponsored 180 wreaths this holiday season. For more info or to join us on a future project, email info@lajollagrotary.org or check out lajollagrotary.org.



Rose Canyon Harmonie Performs

On Saturday, March 2, the Rose Canyon Harmonie will return to University City United Church to perform Richard Strauss' Sonatina 1 ("from an Invalid's workshop"). The program, which will begin at 3:30pm, will include a free-will offering benefiting the church. Strauss wrote this piece when he was unable to work and was confined to his home during World War II. Despite the despair and darkness all around him, he was able to infuse this piece with joy and light. This piece for 16 wind instruments is very rarely performed because of its difficulty and because of the difficulty of getting 16 wind players together; it really is a symphonic work for winds. It is a wonderful piece.

UCUC CONTINUES FOOD DRIVES

University City United Church's (UCUC) next food drive for the benefit of Community Christian Service Association (CCSA) will take place on Sunday, February 4 from 11:30am to 12:30pm at the UCUC parking lot. UCUC's parking lot is located off of Gobat Avenue, directly behind the Church's 2877 Governor Drive location. At the drop-off site a congregation member will enthusiastically unload your vehicle and get you quickly on your way. No waiting! No need to leave your driver's seat!

To the neighbors who took part in January's drive – a giant THANK YOU! In addition to being able to greet some familiar faces, we were also excited and gratified to see many new donors. We look forward to introducing ourselves to even more of our neighbors on February 4. Info at ucuc.org.



UC Del Sol is Ready for Spring

Come celebrate Opening Day and cheer on our UC Del Sol teams at the first games of the Spring Season!

Saturday, February 24
12:30 – 2:00pm
Fisher Field
 (behind Standley Middle School off Radcliffe)

It'll be a fun-filled day with games, raffles, a silent auction, food, and a parade of all our players! New or returning players interested in joining are encouraged to register as there are still spots available, particularly on the 6U team for 5–7-year-olds. Gear can also be provided if needed.

Please reach out to sponfun@ucdelsol.com for sponsorship opportunities and how your business can be recognized while supporting our local teams. It's a grand slam! Please visit the UC Del Sol website at ucdelsol.com for more information.



Many Thanks to Area Manager Jay Villaneuva

by Venkat Sethuraman

University City Parks Area Manager Jose 'Jay' Villaneuva was given a warm send off by the Standley Community Recreation Group (CRG) at its January 18 meeting ahead of his last day in the role which fell on 1/19. Jay started around the time the COVID shutdown ended and in his short tenure made a significant impact and won over a lot of admirers for his sincerity and dedication to his role.

- Jay conducted 'Recycled Water' certification renewals for some of the large parks in the UC Area. This is a complicated effort given the acreage of the parks and the number of sprinkler heads.
- Jay organized multiple 'volunteer' clean ups in area neighborhood parks which were positively received by the community.
- Jay worked with the area garden club related to donation of trees at Standley Park.
- Jay was prompt to address concerns of the area user groups (such as Cricket and UCLL) and neighborhood parks.
- Two joint use parks in the neighborhood have come online during his tenure with one more on the way (Spreckels).

He will be remembered for going out of the way to complete complicated tasks and for his creative solutions to issues faced/reported. He will move to a different work location within the Parks and Recreation department. We wish him continued success.



Jay Villaneuva, with certificate of appreciation in hand, is pictured above with community volunteers and city staff at the January CRG meeting. The CRG meets monthly and all are welcome. Contact the Standley Recreation Center director for meeting information: rhughes@sandiego.gov

LOCAL SCOUTS



UC Girl Scouts Gather to Kick Off Cookie Season by Christy Esau, UC Girl Scouts Service Unit Registrar

What does it take to sell a lot of cookies? How do you convince customers to donate to Operation Thin Mint? And what's an axolotl anyway? Daisy, Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts from UC gathered last month at Curie Elementary for a "Cookie Kick Off," a fun event to get ready for cookie season. The girls got to practice selling at a mock booth; to learn about the axolotl, an amphibian that is this year's mascot for cookie season; and to make all kinds of crafts. They also got to browse some of the rewards.

Cadette Troop 4486 organized the event and put on several skits to introduce girls to this year's cookies and demonstrate proper behavior at booths. The Cadettes also helped girls complete a series of activities to earn their Cookie Business badge. Cookie season starts January 28! UC Girl Scouts organize several fun community-wide events throughout the year, including an upcoming spring campout at Kumeyaay Lake. If you're interested to join, reach out to ucgirlscoutregistrar@gmail.com. Adult volunteers are always needed. It's fun and rewarding to build up girls' courage, confidence and character!



Boy Scouts Hold Court of Honor by Scott Anderson and Thomas Keegan

On January 6, Boy Scout (BSA) Troop #271 held a special Court of Honor, recognizing the five most recent Eagle Scouts: Gavin Beresford, Trevor Keegan, Matthew Harutunian, Nathan Fishman, and Max Anderson. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable through Boy Scouts and the troop did not want to let the opportunity pass to honor all five of them. The date was selected for when they were all in town from college for Christmas break and Torrey Pines Church graciously agreed to share their facilities to recognize this momentous occasion.

Looking at the five Eagle scouts up on stage, it was hard to think they were once little Tiger Cubs. In 2011, they were five out of a group of approximately 40, 6-year-olds starting out in UC's Cub Scout Pack 11. At that time, they were barely skilled enough to tie their own shoes, much less a double half hitch knot. By 2016, they all bridged over together from cub scouts to boy scout Troop 271 and together, they supported one another on their trail to becoming Eagle Scouts. As part of the ceremony, each of the Eagle Scouts had a chance to share what Scouting has meant to them. They each recapped their own unique experiences, acknowledging those who supported them along their journey. A common message among all five was encouraging the younger scouts to keep working towards their Eagle rank. Their Eagle Projects can be seen around UC schools and churches. Troop 271 is proud of them.

FEBRUARY IS SAN DIEGO MUSEUM MONTH

89 Museums in San Diego County and in Tijuana are offering half-price admissions, up to four tickets, during the month of February. Pick up a pass at the library or get a digital pass at sandiegomuseumcouncil.org.



HONORING CENTENARIAN LES HIGH

by Jerry Herrman

Ever wonder what it is like to be a hundred years old? Should you happen to see Les High, you can ask him about that because he will have achieved centenarian status on February 12 this year. If you do see him he will likely be on his daily morning walk along Pavlov Ave. which he has been doing since he and his late wife Carol moved to University City in 1975.

When he was a spry 91-year-old senior, Les was featured in the November 2015 issue of the UCCA News (www.universitycitynews.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/November-2015-Newsletter.pdf) which discussed his 29-year career in the United States Coast Guard, retiring as a captain. Many UC residents have had the pleasure of meeting this remarkable individual, or have seen or walked with him on his daily rounds. Should you meet his acquaintance, he may share one or two of the latest from his repertoire of jokes, or he may regale you with stories about the challenges of becoming project officer in commissioning the Coast Guard Air Station in Mobile, Alabama, or other military duties. Les was class advisor to the Coast Guard Academy class of 1965 and he continues to have contact with individuals from that class.

Les is proud of the idyllic marriage of 66 years and 66 days to his wife Carol which he describes as "a perfect marriage". When asked his message to those who want to live long and productive lives Les said "Have a perfect wife like I did, and find a career that rewards you and makes you happy". Congratulations to Les for achieving this milestone.

CELEBRATION TIME

Neighbors and friends are holding a get-together on the day before his birthday and University City friends are invited!

Sunday, February 11, 10:00am
at the top of Cozzens Street
look for the signs and balloons

More info, contact college@cure4cf.net



WHAT GOES UP, MUST COME DOWN

Thanks to the many volunteers that, like in every household, puts up the lights, then they take them down for storage. Pictured is Gordan Parham, Roger Hughes, Don Hotz and Jim Beshears.

INDOOR FUN AT DINNER WITH SANTA



A full house at the popular Dinner with Santa event, meals prepared by Lorna's; and lots of time for arts & crafts.



HOLIDAY LIGHTS OUTDOOR FUN

Event photos courtesy Greg Hom, UCCA Historian
More photos at ghom.zenfolio.com/p378493193



University City loves our school bands – Standley Middle School above, and University City High School below.



Plus we love to showcase local talent, the children of Our Mother of Confidence Church above, and the ladies of Key of She below.



THE HAPPY FACES OF CHILDREN IS THE BEST HOLIDAY GIFT



The annual lighting of the menorah with Merle Langston and Jacque Bernstein above left, and the singing of the Hannukah song by Tom Ventimiglia above right. And the highly anticipated hot chocolate and cookie giveaway courtesy of UCCA below.



UC Planning Group Meeting Update

by Chris Nielsen, UCPG Chair

New UCPG Governing Documents The UCPG submitted CPG governance docs to the city in mid-December and was told that the application was received by the Planning Department. In early January we were told that there was no competing application to represent the University Community received by the Planning Department, so going forward the UCPG will be representing the University Community. The City has our application under review and may or may not require further changes. When it is approved by the city council, perhaps in March, we will be able to operate under the new Operational Procedures, the new name for the UCPG's bylaws. Until then, we must operate under our current bylaws, including the upcoming March UCPG election. We will start planning for the inclusion of UC San Diego residents, doing outreach and engagement, and holding elections as soon as possible once the new Operational Procedures are approved by the City Council. Adding elected UC San Diego resident board members will not change the representation of the existing three districts on the UCPG board.

Revised Community Plan Update and Draft Environmental Impact Report The revised University Community Plan Update and Environmental Impact Report are expected to be released in the first quarter of 2024. In an email to me, Coby Tomlins, the Planning Department's Director of Community Planning, had the following to say about the Plan Update. "As discussed when we met last when Nancy was still with us, we anticipate [the Revised Draft Plan and Draft EIR] will both be released at the same time. I believe the comment period per CEQA is 45 days for the EIR. As always, we will take your feedback on an ongoing basis. While I don't have a specific release date given a number of variables, I would say, at the moment, let's work towards a March presentation from the City, with a recommendation from you in April if that works. As we get nearer releasing though, we will definitely be in touch because we want to work with you closely on this." We will continue to discuss the process and timing for the plan update with the Planning Department to provide the maximum amount of time for the community, the Plan Update Subcommittee, and the UCPG to provide input on the Plan Update and the Draft EIR.

Around the University Community Community members are wondering what the Mayor's executive order regarding city departments to process housing permits in 30 days for Complete Communities housing projects means for a project like the one proposed for Nobel and Genesee. Robin MacCartee, Project Manager with Development Services, explained, "The comments by the Mayor refer to the Building permits only, not the Discretionary Review. As such, the timeframes I originally provided (6-8 months) for the current review still apply. As for the building permits, they will be expedited, but even with Staff subject to new review timeframes, a project this complex is going to take longer than 30 days for sure." We still do not have a project timeline or final development plan for Alexandria's Costa Verde development.

Upcoming at the UCPG in February There will be an in-person event sponsored by the UCCA on Monday, February 12 at 5:30pm at the Nobel Rec Center, where Pure Water will give a presentation followed by the Traffic Department's presentation on the restriping of bike lanes on Genesee. These presentations will be repeated at the next day's UCPG meeting. In addition to our candidate's forum, we expect a presentation on a proposed People Mover system between downtown and the airport.

UCPG Announces Annual Elections for March 12, 2024

UCPG Elections will be held on March 12, 2024, ***under the current UCPG bylaw provisions if they do not conflict with the new Council Policy (October 2022) governing Community Planning Groups.*** The following seats are up for election:

SEAT	STATUS
R1-B	Held by Georgia Keyser
R2-B	Held by Joann Sellick
R3-B	Held by Alex Arthur
R2-C	Open (Isabelle Kay Termed Out)
B1-B	Vacant
B2-B	Vacant
B3-B	Vacant

UCPG "District 1" is south of Rose Canyon, North of SR-52, and between I-5 and I-805. UCPG "District 2" is north of Rose Canyon, west of Regents Road, and east of Gilman Drive, and south of UCSD. UCPG "District 3" the remaining portion of the UC Plan Area, excluding UCSD. UCPG "District 4" will be UCSD campus residents when the new UCPG Operational Procedures are approved by council.

Potential candidates are **NOT** required to attend **ANY** UCPG meetings to run for a board seat (conforming to the new Council Policy 600-24). Candidates must reside or have a business located in the district (1, 2, or 3) in which they run. The deadline for announcing candidacies is the end of the February 13 UCPG meeting.

There will be a candidate's forum at the February UCPG meeting. All candidates may give a two-minute presentation. We request each candidate to submit a 100-word statement in writing a few days after the February UCPG meeting for publication the on-line and printed University City News.

We will use the same voting procedures as in the past few years. Drop-off ballot voting boxes at the two UC Libraries will be available approximately one week prior to March 12. UCPG members will be able to cast a ballot according to the instructions posted here:

sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/university/agendas

In person voting will also be available at the UCPG meeting location, 9880 Campus Pointe Drive, third floor, on the covered patio outside of the Terra Nova Conference Room, from 5PM to 8PM. This has the additional advantage of providing an outdoor, but covered, voting location in case of rain. Thanks to Alexandria for the use of this multi-purpose location in its GradLabs building.

All current members of the UCPG are eligible to vote for candidates of their membership type (residential or business) in the district in which they reside or where their business is located.

However, per the new Council Policy 600-24, any eligible member of the community (a resident or business owner) may join the UCPG at any time up to and including the day of the election and be eligible to vote in this election.

Finally, remember that your UCPG membership does not expire.

Results of the election will be announced at approximately 8:00pm on March 12.

POWER SAN DIEGO

March 3, 2024 - 4:00 to 5:30pm

by Tama Becker-Varano

Change Begins With ME, a local Indivisible chapter headquartered in University City, is offering a series of educational meetings in 2024 to University City residents and neighboring communities. The first meeting will be dedicated to the topic of replacing SDG&E with Public Power. Please register to attend at bit.ly/CBWM_PSD.

Our guest speaker will be a representative from Power San Diego. San Diegans pay the highest electricity rates in the nation to SDGE. SDGE extracts more than \$1 million from the City of San Diego ratepayers a day, meanwhile, one in four San Diegans are behind on their bills by \$600 or more. Publicly-owned utilities across California and country-wide consistently have significantly lower rates and higher customer satisfaction than for-profit utilities (see the graphic below) - it's time for San Diego to have a public electric utility that serves its ratepayers, not shareholders.

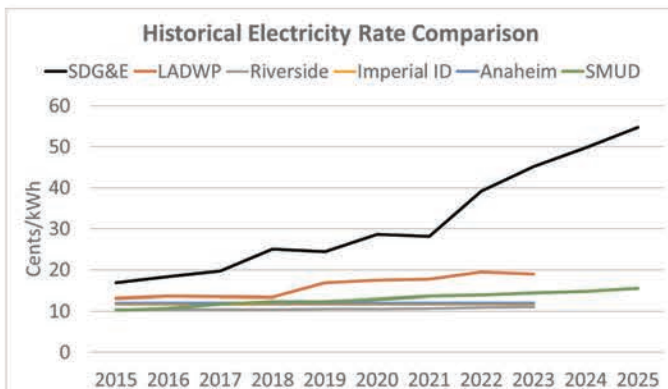


Image provided by Power San Diego, Paid for by Power San Diego State ID#1460987. Committee major funding from: Powers Engineering; Funding Details at www.sandiego.gov/donors

Power San Diego is a grassroots ballot initiative that aims to replace SDGE with a not-for-profit, publicly-owned electric utility with lower rates. The Campaign is currently collecting signatures to get on the ballot for November 2024. The goal is to collect 120,000 signatures by May 14.

What will this initiative do?

- Terminate the current franchise agreement the city holds with SDGE, purchase the electrical grid from SDGE, and implement public management of the electricity distribution.
- Provide significantly lower rates - without having to pay expensive delivery fees, rates will be significantly lower, even after paying for public ownership of the grid.
- End the attacks on rooftop solar and promote local solar through fewer fees and better rates for excess energy that is given back to the grid.
- Focusing on local energy generation and storage as the most economical, resilient, and environmentally friendly option for our electricity.
- If you're interested in volunteering with Power San Diego, donating, or spreading the word, go to wearepowersandiego.com.

Learn more on March 3, 2024 by registering to attend at bit.ly/CBWM_PSD. For questions or more info, contact Tama Becker-Varano at changebeginswithmesd@gmail.com.

Free Wildlife Preparedness Home Assessments in February

From the SD County Fire Safe Council:

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County has been awarded a CAL FIRE Defensible Space Assistance Grant through California Fire Safe Council that will allow them to bring a new pilot Home Assessment Program to residents of San Diego County in partnership with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County and the 39 community Fire Safe Councils including the University City Fire Safe Council.

Through this program, participants can receive a free wildfire prevention home assessment that will include a review of the vulnerability of the home and landscape to wildfire and ember ignition. Defensible Space Inspectors will provide participants with information about defensible space zones, home hardening principles, and landscaping suggestions to assist homeowners in understanding how to meet wildfire resilience goals.

Additionally, residents will receive resources and referrals to assistance programs which can further aid in achieving defensible space compliance and wildfire resilience. Programs and resources are available to support residents who need assistance creating defensible space or disposing of materials generated when they performed defensible space landscaping activities.

Pre-registration is required and time is limited. In University City, free wildfire preparedness home assessments will be scheduled from Monday, February 5 through Friday, February 16. Residents may contact the SD County Fire Safe Council at firesafe@rcdsandiego.org for more information, questions, or application assistance. To register, visit the SD County Fire Safe Council at: firesafesdcounty.org/hap.



HOME ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Prepare your home and property for wildfire!

The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County is now offering **FREE** home ignition zone and defensible space assessments!

What is a home assessment?

- 30-45 minute review of the vulnerability of your house and landscape to wildfire and ember ignition.
- Trained staff provide education, evaluation, and recommendations to help you meet your wildfire resilience goals.
- FREE of charge as grant funding permits.
- Registration is required through our website www.firesafesdcounty.org/hap.
- Contact Morgan Dioli at the FSCSDC with questions or assistance at 619-562-0096 or firesafe@rcdsandiego.org.

Scan me to sign up!



What will be covered?

- Review of defensible space zones (Zone 0, 1, and 2).
- Landscaping suggestions that complement the defensible space zones.
- Review home hardening and ignition reduction measures.
- Recommendations for your specific property.
- Resources and program referrals to help you meet your wildfire resilience goals.

The Home Assessment Program is administered by the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County in partnership with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County. Funding is provided by San Diego Gas and Electric and the California Fire Safe Council through CAL FIRE. In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture Policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. The FSCSDC is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit; tax-deductible donations accepted.



Thank You to Renewing and New UCCA Members

Individual

Laurie Aker
Clare Eckhardt
Barbara Fornes
Roger and Marilyn Gallegos
Millie Goddard
Joseph Koehler and Amy Briggs
Margot Laue
Ingrid Liebscher
Elaine Moore
Rita Newell
Chris Nielsen
Pauline Oen
Sean and Oksana O'Neill
Jaime Pineda
Podhorsky Family
Heather Ray
Anita Scuderi
Sharleene Sherwin
Margie Tranter
Catherine Watkins
A Wadsworth
Katherine Y. Wong
Cathy Zumberger

Angel

Michele Boehm and
Norma Benz
Rinaldo de Jong
Adriana Erni
Chris and Karen Landwair
Reed and Christine Sullivan

Supporting

Alcala Family
M. Robert Breslauer
Amy Butros and Mark Kasimatis
Ted Ciaraldi
Allan Coats and Cheri Farrell
Sarah J. Crahan
Faye and Brian Duggan
Barbara and Jeffrey Gordon
David and Lois Gottfredson
Larry Grounds and
Claudia Grauf-Grounds
Barbara and Brian Haggerty
Dick and Marlys Hamann
Roger and Mary Kay Hewitt
Angie and Joshua Jones
Alina and Tom Levy
Claudia Lowenstein
Tracy and Sheryl Mc Atee
Janet and Gary Mc Namara
D. Jessica Middleton
Rosemary Norling
John and Suzanne Ohlfest
Greg Pardue - *in memory of*
Betty Pardue
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University City Community Association 2024 UCCA Membership Application*

Members will receive a 2024 membership card and a special thank-you gift for joining.

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



\$_____ Additional Donation Enclosed



Please print Name(s) _____

Address _____

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Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

Payment is also accepted on UCCA's website at universitycitynews.org/join-ucca-today

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

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

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

Please let us know by emailing us at: UniversityCityNews@gmail.com

*This membership is valid for the 2024 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

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SAVE THE DATE!



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UCCA MEETING: PURE WATER SAN DIEGO

Hear about the latest Pure Water construction updates in the University City area, including ADA ramp upgrades, crosswalk markings, and bike lane striping from the City of San Diego's construction management team and Transportation Department.

FEB 12 2024

AT 5:30 P.M.

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