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Magic of Pastels Art Show

Backyard Garden Rooms

San Diego Budget Rundown

Development Permit Finder

All You Need to Know: UC Celebration

UC People: Sandy Huffaker

universitycitynews.org

UCCA PRESENTS

One-on-One: UC Talks Construction Pure Water and Improv 1 Projects

Pure Water: Genesee Avenue and Nobel Street
Improv 1: Governor Drive Sewer and Water Main Construction

Tuesday, June 17, 5:30 – 6:30pm University Community Library, 4155 Governor Drive

The City of San Diego's Construction Manager for the Pure Water and Improv 1 construction projects will discuss and present an update about both contrsuction projects and what University City can expect during the summer, with a Q&A session afterwards. If you are unable to attend, you may send questions to jemmasamala@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY CITY... more than just a neighborhood!

University City

NEWS



City Attorney Heather Ferbert Visits UCCA

by Jemma Samala and Katie Rodolico

San Diego City Attorney Heather Ferbert (pictured above right) stopped by the University City Community Association's May general meeting and gave a brief outline about the City Attorney's office. Ferbert was elected as City Attorney approximately six months ago, after working in the City Attorney's office for 11 years. The City Attorney's office practices every type of law except family law and bankruptcy. They will also prosecute misdemeanor offenses, including unlawful lobster fishing. Her office acts as general counsel to all city departments, and when a party sues the city, the City Attorney is in charge. In 2024, there were 335 lawsuits filed against the city, including worker's comp actions. Ferbert oversees a staff of 420, including 180 attorneys. The elected position acts independent of the Mayor's office and City Council,

The City Attorney's office houses the Your Safe Place program which provides services to those experiencing domestic violence, human trafficking, elder abuse, child abuse – anyone who needs to flee a dangerous living situation. They will pursue conservatorships, promote consumer protections, and work with law enforcement in gun management situations. The City Attorney's office is also working on a joint campaign with the USD women's volleyball team to bring awareness to the dangers of fentanyl and the use of Narcan in the event of an overdose episode.

City Attorney Ferbert spoke about some of the challenges of the job and she directly addressed and defended her decision to allow one of her Deputy Attorneys to take four months of remote work while on an extended cruise trip, to prevent that person from retiring. She admitted the press and political fallout was significant. Ferbert took questions from the audience, including on why not all cited offenses were prosecuted, answering that the City Attorneys office has a higher bar than arresting officers in deciding whether there is enough evidence to bring a prosecution beyond a reasonable doubt. Ferbert also addressed the costs and lawsuit related to La Jolla becoming its own city. She was unable to answer questions about the City's implementation of trash collection fees, as there is a pending lawsuit on the matter.

For more information, visit the City Attorney website at: www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney.



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OR MAIL IN MEMBERSHIP
FORM ON PAGE 14

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

UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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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:

- Your article should be approximately 250 words or less, sent in a Word document and attached to an email (not within the email).
- 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.
- UCCA does not guarantee publication.
- Submitted materials may be published on the Internet. 6. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles as needed.
- Articles or ads considered to be political will not be accepted. 8.
- Attach photos separately in a picture format at high resolution or straight from camera as a jpeg or png.
- Send to UCCAeditor@gmail.com or jemmasamala@gmail.com.

Deadline for the JULY/AUGUST 2025 issue: JUNE 12

Please send your submission as early as possible. The deadline for the July/August issue is June 12, 2025, but the newsletter can fill up before the deadline. Articles and news items are reviewed as they are received. Priority may be given to UCCA members and time sensitive material. Articles may also be edited for allowed space. UCCA does not discriminate against nor endorse all information in the monthly newsletter. The UCCA Newsletter receives information and advertising from a variety of sources. UCCA cannot and does not guarantee the accuracy of the information or the complete absence of errors and/or omissions, nor does UCCA assume responsibility for the same. Publication does not constitute an endorsement.

2025 UCCA Board Members

Executive Board

President: Jemma Samala, president@universitycitynews.org

Vice-President: Jim Beshears Secretary: Katie Rodolico Treasurer: Phil Fowler **Appointed Positions**

Beautification Chair: Merle Langston

CASA Liaison/Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Chair/Publicity

& Promotion/Webmaster: Diane Ahern

Historian: Greg Hom

*Holiday Lighting: Darlene Ventimiglia Membership Co-Chair: Wendy Lee Membership: Corporate Co-Chair - OPEN Neighborhood Watch: Barbara Gellman

*Newsletter Ads: Terri Day

*Newsletter Editor & Distribution: Jemma Samala

North UC Liaison: Bill Beck

Parliamentarian/SD Network of Town Councils: Mack Langston

Past-President: Diane Ahern Senior Watch: Valerie Upham *Special Events: Barry Bernstein

Other Volunteers - Newsletter Contributors

*Mike Frattali: City Issues *Vince Reardon: UC Profiles *Non-Voting Position

SUMMARY OF GENERAL MEETING May 20, 2025 at University Community Library

Excerpts of Minutes taken by Katie Rodolico, UCCA Secretary

The meeting started with a One-on-One presentation and Q&A with City Attorney Heather Ferbert (see page one for more info).

UCCA April Board Meeting Actions: Approved March General UCCA meeting. Approved \$1,000 grant to the University City Parks Council for the UC Celebration.

Public Safety Reports:

SDPD Officer Anderson Brown: Talked about the perspective of cops to non-prosecution. Crimes against persons: down 1.6%, for the month compared to the last 3 years. Crimes against property down 18%. Crimes against society (public drunkenness, prostitution, etc.) up 12.9%. Standley Park is covered by city Park Rangers, and they have domain in enforcement. There will be a torch run for the Special Olympics on May 27. Officers from the northern division will be starting around 1:00pm. Funds raised will go to the Special Olympics. There will be a big turnover in staff as people retire, but six beach staff are being added. It's Neighborhood watch meeting season, with UCCA NW Coordinator Barbara Gellman and Officer Brown visiting Neighborhood Watch groups.

SD Commission on Police Practices, Yasmeen Obeid: Police oversight started in 1985. In 2020, Measure B gave them independence and funding. The commission's purpose is to hold law enforcement accountable and build trust with the community and law enforcement. As a third party with oversight of reported complaints about the police they work to review the complaint, the internal affairs report, etc. and find the truth. The commission has subpoena power, and use of body cameras helped solve many disputes. Officer Brown commented that he loves having his camera on, and feels it's great commission members do ride-a-longs. The commission meets two times a month on the first and third Wednesdays.

Elected Official Reports:

Omar Telon-Sosa, rep for Supervisor Terra Lawson Remer: The supervisor unveiled her agenda during the State of the County Address (see her column on page 5). In response to a question about using reserve funds. Telon-Sosa replied that they would need a majority of the supervisors to approve, which would be three votes. District 1 is currently vacant. The election for District 1 is in June.

Special Reports and Non Agenda Comment:

UCPG - Chris Nielsen: See page 12 for updates about the Costa Verde center and ADU issues. No new construction projects by the Hyatt have been heard. The recording of the May 12 UCPG meeting is on the UCCA website - the Costa Verde project is about 2 hours in. The project will be going before the planning commission in the next couple months. Then Land Use & Housing Committee, then the City Council after summer.

UC Library Grant Requests:

Helen Liebowitz, Friends of the University Community Library requested \$500, which will be added to the Library Foundation to receive matching funds. They expect to lose book sales income during renovations. Plus the library will have reduced funds due to City Budget issues.

Naomi McClain, Friends of North UC Library requested \$2,000 in order to replace furniture in the children's room. The children's program is one of the most attended programs at the library. Furniture dates back to 2007. It was suggested that parents be made aware of fundraising efforts.

Matt Adrian, UC Celebration thanked UCCA for the \$1,000 grant. The website is available to register for the run/walk and to sign up for a booth.

Open Comments:

Fred Begley lives on Combe Way and informed the audience that a large ADU development is proposed on Combe (a cul de sac). The property owner raised kids there and is now developing his backyard with 8 units. A similar project, adjacent to the property, is proposed on Edmonton.

UCCA Committee Reports:

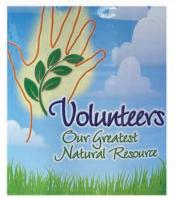
Phil Fowler, UCCA Treasurer presented the financial report as of 4/30/25. Report was approved by board.

Barbara Gellman, Neighborhood Watch reported that street captains are still needed (see page 9). Come visit the Neighborhood Watch Socks for Safety booth at the UC Celebration.

Upcoming dates

Tuesday, June 17, 5:30pm - One-on-One: UC Talks about Construction Projects - Genesee Avenue and Governor Drive

Tuesday, July 15, 5:30pm - UCCA General Meeting at University Community Library



UCCA President Jemma Samala

National Volunteer Month was back in April, but I saw the banner pictured left at the library and it really made me think about how much University City relies on our local volunteers to help make our community...special.

I could go on about our fantastic UCCA volunteers (and they are great – the board, the Neighborhood Watch captains, the newsletter distribution and deliverers), but look around and volunteers are really what has made University City a sought

after community. The school and PTA volunteers make our schools stand out. The UC Celebration, Summer Concerts, Oktoberfest, and Holiday Lighting events are all put on by volunteers. Soccer, baseball, softball, and other youth sports teams are coached by volunteers. Girl and Boy Scout troops, yes run by volunteers.

Sometimes though, we don't get enough volunteers. Vince Reardon has been running the People for a Clean UC for 11 years, but the number of volunteers has trickled down to just a handful. Let's not let this grass-roots (get-it) project go away – show up Sunday, June 22 at Starbucks, bright and early at 7:30am and show Vince we care about our neighborhood.

The best part of volunteering – is the joy it gives you. Yes, people tell me I do a lot for the community, yes thank you. But really, I'm selfish. The joy I get back from helping my neighbors and my neighborhood is a thousand-fold of what I put in. The biggest gift I get – the many friends I have met by putting myself out there and meeting new people. My close friends are those whom I first met while our kids were in t-ball and kindergarten. The kids are all out of the house, but our connections remain. (Now in the form of a book club.)

To help you connect with volunteer opportunities, we've started a Volunteer Connection column (see page 9). Also, come by and connect with me at my next Starbucks Open Hours, Saturday, June 14 from 9:00-11:00am at the Starbucks on Governor Drive.

And we can't forget that your parents are the original most influential volunteers in your life, so hope you enjoyed Mother's Day last month, and this month...Happy Father's Day to all! I'm sure my dad is looking down, happy he spent some time living in such a giving community.

Jemma
Thinking Locally, Acting Neighborly





Band members are: Jack Hoffman, piano & drums; Gary Chun, drums, vocals & piano; Roy Jenkins, bass; Jim Napier, trumpet; and Greg Pardue, saxophones.

Photos courtesy Rick Ord.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT – Front Porch Pandemic Jazz Band Members

Volunteers come in many forms, even musicians. Greg Pardue started the front porch jam sessions soon after the covid shutdown in 2020, and they have consistently performed every Thursday...for five years!

Except for bad weather conditions, the guys pictured left (plus the many guest musicians), perform for free to UC neighbors. What started out as a way for musicians to practice until they could resume playing their paid gigs, has become a weekly neighborhood tradition. UC folks, along with friends and family, come over with their chairs, picnics, and dancing shoes – converting sidewalks into dance floors.

Greg and the many musicians don't have to continue playing every week, but they do so out of the kindness of their hearts. The best way to say thank you – stop by Thursdays at 5626 Bloch Street, 4:00-6:00pm, and see how these volunteers bring joy to their neighbors!

Calendar

June 2025

LGBTQ & PRIDE MONTH

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Tuesday, June 10, 6:00pm 9880 Campus Point Drive, Third Floor Zoom available Info: planuniversity.org

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

Saturday, June 11 to Sunday, July 6

FLAG DAY

Saturday, June 14

JEMMA at STARBUCKS OPEN HOURS

Saturday, June 14, 9:00-11:00am Starbucks on Governor Drive

FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 15

UCCA ONE-ON-ONE:

UC Talks Construction
Pure Water and Improv 1 Projects
Q&A following One-on-One
Presentation.

Tuesday, June 17, 5:30pm UC Library on Governor Drive

JUNETEENTH DAY

Thursday, June 19

PEOPLE FOR A CLEAN UC

Sunday, June 22*
7:15-7:30am – meet & greet
7:30-9:00am – work
Cleanup volunteers meet at Starbucks
3203 Governor Drive, supplies provided

(*Scheduled last day unless enough volunteers show-up to continue the program.)

UC CELEBRATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 25, 6:15pm Standley Rec Center

STANDLEY PARK COMMUNITY REC GROUP

Thursday, June 26, 7:00pm For meeting details, call: 858.552.1651

SAVE THE DATES

UC CELEBRATION Friday, July 4 Standley Park See page 11 for more details.

OKTOBERFEST Saturday, October 4 Standley Park uceducate.org for more details.

UNIVERSITY CITY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WE REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES TO OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Do You Know...

by Barbara Gellman

If you ever get a busy signal when calling 911 which has happened in the recent past, you can always dial 619-531-2065. This is called the 10-digit 911 number. It works the same as 911, but you can call this number from any phone anywhere in the U.S., and it comes directly to San Diego Police Department 911.

Also, texting 911 works fine during an outage, but they prefer a phone call if possible. It's much quicker.

Coyote and wildlife issues in San Diego County are primarily addressed by the San Diego Humane Society (SDHS) through its Project Wildlife program and by the County's Department of Animal Services (DAS). There are other non-city sponsored private companies like: AnimalControlSanDiego.com and SanDiego-aaacwildliferemoval.com/coyote.

VACATION PLANNING

Protect Your Home While Away

This being a prime time for vacations, one must still engage in protecting ones property while away. There is more to this than just packing up and locking the door. The criminals can have a field day during this time, unless you are pro-active in hardening the target, your home.

Ten Home Protection Tips:

- 1. Don't give your name, phone number or whereabouts on your answering machine message. Never say you aren't home. Just ask the caller to leave a message. Avoid sending messages via computer or Facebook with any details, no dates.
- 2. Don't leave your garage door opener where it is easily accessible if you have to leave your car outside; take it in the house with your keys. Keep your vehicle registration, proof of insurance and any other papers with your home address on them where a criminal won't find them. Keep keys away from windows and front doors.
- 3. Don't give cleaning people, babysitters or others working in your home access to your home keys or alarm codes.
- 4. Have a neighbor pick up papers, fliers or any items delivered. Do not order items that may come while you are away.
- 5. Be sure a neighbor knows how to turn off your main water and gas valves.
- 6. Fill out the form for an RSVP check while away. It is a free service with our SDPD. Go to the SDPD website, click on services, scroll down to "vacation house check" click on the form, fill it out and send in to Northern Division. The RSVP officers will come by to check every day. They will contact you if necessary.
- 7. Be sure locks or dowel rods on doors and windows are in place including side gates. Set timers for lights to come on inside and out. Check that no one can see inside your home.
- 8. Leave a key with a trusted neighbor.
- 9. A house that is dark is a magnet for a crime of opportunity. Install dusk to dawn or motion detectors outside in the front and back of your home. Set timers inside if not home after dark.
- 10. Lock side gates so strangers don't wander in and try to get into your home via the patio door or a window and no one would see them. Also use dowel rods as an extra deterrent.

For more information, visit www.sandiego.gov/police.

Consumer Alert: Don't Fall for Scam Text Messages

by District Attorney Summer Stephan

Scam artists are constantly adapting their tactics to trick unsuspecting victims into giving away personal information or money. If you've received a strange text message recently—one that seems too good to be true or suspiciously urgent—you're not alone. Scam text messages, or "smishing" (SMS phishing), are on the rise across the country, and San Diego County is no exception.

One of the most common forms of fraud we're seeing right now involves scam text messages — often referred to as "smishing," a combination of "SMS" and "phishing." These fraudulent messages arrive daily on mobile devices across San Diego County, so it's critical that you know how to recognize them.

Scam texts may look like they come from trusted sources — banks, delivery services, government agencies, or even local businesses. They often contain urgent messages designed to scare or pressure you into clicking a link or responding. Once you do, scammers can install malware, steal your identity, or gain access to your financial accounts. We want to ensure that you and your loved ones stay protected. Here's what to watch for:

Common Scam Text Examples:

- Your package is on hold. Click here to reschedule delivery.
- Unusual activity on your bank account. Verify immediately.
- You've won a gift card! Claim your prize now.
- Jury duty notice: You missed your appearance. Avoid arrest by paying now.
- Phone job opportunities: You can make \$1,200 a day working from home.
- You have an unpaid toll, click the link to make a payment.

Warning Signs of Scam Text Messages:

- Unfamiliar Numbers: Messages from strange or international numbers should raise red flags.
- Suspicious Links: Links that look odd or don't match the company's official website.
- Spelling or Grammar Mistakes: Many scam messages contain typos or awkward phrasing.
- Urgent or Threatening Language: Messages that demand immediate action or threaten consequences.
- Requests for Personal Information: Legitimate businesses will not ask for your passwords, Social Security number, or bank info via text.

How to Protect Yourself:

- Do Not Click Links: If you're unsure about a message, don't click on any links. Go directly to the organization's official website or app.
- Don't Respond: Even replying "STOP" can confirm your number is active, leading to more scams.
- Block and Report: Use your phone's tools to block the number and report the message as spam.
- Enable Spam Filters: Most smartphones have settings to reduce spam messages — take advantage of them.
- Forward messages to 7726 (SPAM). This helps your wireless provider spot and block similar messages.
- Stay Informed: Talk with family and friends, especially seniors who are often targeted, about these scams.

When scammers are identified and we have evidence to prosecute them, we will, but public awareness is the best defense. If you believe you've received a scam message or fallen victim to one, contact your local law enforcement agency or file a report with the Federal Trade Commission at www.reportfraud.ftc.gov. No one is immune to scams but staying alert and informed can help keep your identity and finances safe. As your District Attorney, I'm committed to increasing communication and accessibility between the DA's Office and the public. I hope these consumer and public safety tips have been helpful. For more info, visit: www.sdcda.org.



SD County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer

San Diego's world-class life sciences sector is facing a serious risk. Congress is considering a 40 percent cut to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and that would deal a devastating blow to public health, research, and our local economy.

As I said in my State of the County address, protecting the public good is one of our most important responsibilities. That includes standing up for science, for jobs, and for the people whose lives depend on the discoveries being made in our backyard.

That's why I'm organizing our region to fight back. I recently joined researchers, students, patients, and nonprofit leaders at UC San Diego to announce a new County resolution opposing these proposed cuts. The resolution also calls for stronger federal investment in life-saving science and innovation.

At the event, speakers from UC San Diego and Sanford Burnham Prebys described the ripple effects already being felt—from lab slowdowns to delayed clinical trials, and uncertainty in nonprofit budgets. These cuts aren't hypothetical—they're already impacting the pace of research and the development of breakthrough treatments.

San Diego leads the nation in life sciences. These cuts would threaten cancer research, cancel clinical trials, and drive promising young scientists out of the field. And they would hurt our economy: more than 3,000 local jobs and over \$500 million in economic activity are at stake in our region alone.

Here in San Diego, our members of Congress have been fighting to protect this funding—and I want to especially thank Congressman Scott Peters for his leadership. His work on this issue is a powerful reminder that we still have champions in Washington who understand what's at stake. Now it's time for the rest of Congress to follow their lead.

That's why I'm bringing this resolution to the full Board of Supervisors on June 3, urging Congress to reject these short-sighted cuts and fully fund research in cancer, neuroscience, pediatrics, and rare diseases. With San Diego ranked as the third-largest NIH funding recipient in the country, our region would be especially hard-hit.

More than 800 San Diegans have already signed a petition calling on Congress to protect NIH funding. This isn't just about scientists—it's about our families, our economy, and our future. To join the effort, you can sign the petition at: remer.nationbuilder.com/nih cuts

Councilmember Kent Lee

As we head into June, my job is to take the public feedback we've received and use it to craft a final budget that reflects the priorities of our communities while still operating with the limited budget resources we have available.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our District 6 Budget Town Hall. We're especially grateful to the Independent Budget Analyst's Office for taking the time to walk us through the proposed budget and answer questions. We know your time is valuable, and your input plays a key role in shaping our City's future.



We're not done yet: The City Council will hold a meeting on June 6th to budget discuss modifications and will then make final adjustments to the budget at a public hearing on June 10th. am committed to working with my

City Council colleagues to pass a fiscally responsible budget that prioritizes the City's most urgent challenges: protecting our parks and libraries and finding ways to find efficiencies and generate new revenues to support our ongoing programs and services. You can find more information on the entire budget review process and how you can participate at www.sandiego.gov/cd6-budget.

Looking back at a busy May, we had the pleasure of welcoming students of all ages to City Hall. Alongside Council President Joe LaCava's office, we hosted the Associated Students of UCSD for a great Q&A session



before they sat in on a City Council meeting. Their curiosity and drive are a reminder that the next generation is watching—and already thinking about how to lead.

We also welcomed bright young minds from La Jolla Country Day School. The 2nd graders came prepared with big questions for the Mayor, City Attorney Ferbert, and me, as part of their hands-on civics lesson. We're proud to have their school in District 6 and can't wait to see what's next for these future leaders.

Thank you for staying engaged and being such an important part of our community. We're looking forward to seeing you at summer events in University City!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All San Diego Public Libraries will be closed on Thursday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth.

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North University Community Library SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Ralph Covert of Ralph's World, library mascot Odi the Coyote with library staff member Scott Burton, face painting, and children's crafts, will all be available during the library's Summer Reading Program Kick-off Celebration on Saturday, June 7. Between June 1 through August 31, readers of all ages are encouraged to participate in our 2025 Summer Reading Program, themed "Level Up at Your Library." You can complete a combination of 10 books, hours, or activities to claim prizes. Prizes are subject to change while supplies last.

ALL-AGE PROGRAMS

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Book and a Ballerina Storytime: Monday, May 5 at 11:45am-12:45pm. Join City Ballet of San Diego for "A Book and a Ballerina!" Enjoy listening to a read-aloud, hearing from a professional ballerina, and learning some basic dance steps. This hour-long program is an introduction to the world of classical ballet for kids in grades Pre-K through 5th.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting: Friday, May 2 at 4:00-5:00pm. This is a meeting for teens who want to help improve library programs for young people. Your input is needed and appreciated! We will make origami owls, in addition to discussing library-related topics.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Memory Evaluation Screenings: Tuesday, May 20 at 12:00-3:00pm. We are hosting free and private 30-minute memory screening appointments led by Sharp Neurocognitive Research Center. Annual memory testing is highly recommended for adults ages 50 or older, or even earlier if you're experiencing memory problems that concern you. Please call library staff at 858.581.9637 to schedule a 30-minute appointment.

SDIS Monthly Lecture Series: The National Institute of Health's BRAIN Initiative and Aging: Saturday, May 24 at 1:30-3:00pm. Maintaining the right balance is critical in cognition, while disruption can lead to disorders such as schizophrenia and autism. Although symptoms of these disorders can appear at different times, they may result from abnormal brain development during critical periods early in life. Dr. Behrens focuses on the epigenomic control of neural circuit formation and disruption within the prefrontal cortex, an area of the brain responsible for decision-making and reasoning, from late pregnancy through adolescence. She is also part of the Salk-team creating the single-cell epigenomic map of the mouse brain funded by the NIH BRAIN Initiative. She will discuss this in relation to brain maturation and the effects of aging.

Amantes de la Lectura - Novelas Hispano-Americanos en Español: Saturday, May 17 at 2:00-4:00pm. The Amantes will be discussing *El otoño de Amira* by Lía Sayoni. If attending, RSVP to tlampell21@gmail.com.

Celebrity Memoir Book Club: Tuesday, May 27 from 6:00-7:30pm. The Celebrity Memoir Book Club selects a celebrity memoir to read and discuss each month. This month's selection is *Untamed* by Glennon Doyle.

University Community Library (Governor Drive)

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

Ghosts on the Little Bighorn presented by OASIS: Tuesday, June 10, 12:30—2:00pm. Ages 8 & up. The battle of the Little Bighorn has long become the iconic clash between Native American nations and tribes and the white colonizers. What led to the war? What really happened that fateful day? Now you can learn the truth about Custer's Last Stand.

Koala Conservation: Climate Change and Impacts to Animal Behavior presented by OASIS: Monday, June 16, 12:30-2:00pm. Ages 8 and up. Koalas are not bears, but marsupials, and are an endangered species. Find out how climate change is affecting their behavior and ecology. No registration required.

CHILDREN/TEEN PROGRAMS

Signing Storytime (new series through June): First Mondays, 11:45am. Learn basic counting, language skills, and Korean words through an engaging storytime. Next classes: June 2. Beginning July 2025, this class will move to the 4th Wednesday at 10:30am.

Toddler Storytime & Craft: Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am. Ms. Ann reads fun stories and sings songs followed by craft time.

ADULT PROGRAMS

English Conversation Group: Fridays: June 13, June 27, 10:00am-11:00am. Meet with other people to practice and improve your beginner's English-speaking skills.

Introduction to Watercolor: Friday, June 6, 11:00am to 1:00pm. Rediscover the artist within you. Using various watercolor and ink techniques, Eddie Omens will show you how to create a stunning work of art. Perfect for beginners. Sign up through the online calendar or call Library Staff for assistance at 858.552.1655. You must have attended the first class in May to participate in the June Watercolor class.

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

Friends of the University Community Library bimonthly meeting, Wednesday, May 21 at 4:00pm. (for Zoom link- see staff for details)

Mahjong Club (open play): 1st Saturday, 9:30am – 12:30pm and 4th Saturday, 2:00 – 5:30pm. For beginners who understand the basics of American Mahjong. Next meet ups: June 7 (am) and June 28 (pm).

Qi Gong: Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:30am Qi Gong: 2nd Saturday, 9:30 to 11:30am

Great Decisions 2025: Meets on Friday, June 16 1:00-3:00pm. to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Check out the Foreign Policy Association website for more details. Call UC Library if you have any questions and to get course materials. Space is available, sign up today!

EXHIBIT: Pastel Art, May – July 2025. An exhibit of works by students of Rochelle Bradford. Enjoy the variety of subjects in works of art done by students who range from beginners to those with ten years or more of experience.

San Diego FY 2026 Budget Rundown 'Don't Count Your Chickens' or 'Rearranging Deck Chairs on the Titanic'

by Mike Frattali

The Fiscal Year 2026 budget process is nearing completion. Scraping together a budget isn't easy in most years (there's never enough money for all the worthwhile programs), but this was the tightest since 2009. Unlike the 2009 budget crunch (which was caused by a nationwide recession), this year's crisis was largely self-inflicted: the mayor, expecting a sales tax hike, ramped up spending while running structural budget deficits.

Even the Municipal Employee Association general manager, who represents city office workers, called out the mayor for hiring too many unclassified employees. The city effectively added a new layer of bureaucracy to its organization chart. A net of 1,000 positions were added since the 2022 budget. City council staff alone increased from 109 to 160.

When the voters rejected the tax hike, which had no sunset clause, no oversight, and no guarantee that the new money would have been spent on critical infrastructure, the city had to cover the additional expenses with no means to pay for them (the pre-counted chickens never hatched).

The mayor deserves credit for closing the operating budget deficit without major cuts to public safety, but did not solve the underlying structural budget deficits. The city is engaging in deck chair management.

Next year's budget will be more challenging. The current budget underfunds efforts to maintain streets and storm drains. Pension and infrastructure gaps expenses won't go away. And while further tax increases are already in the planning stage they will not help unless structural reforms are implemented. City leaders like to complain that San Diego has lowest sales tax in California, but every big city in the state even those with higher tax rates, is facing budget deficits.

On June 3, the Independent Budget Analysist is expected to issue their final report; on June 6, the Budget Review Committee is expected to meet; and the City Council Budget Hearing is expected on June 10. For more information about the 2026 Budget Key Dates, visit: sandiego.gov/iba



Last Chance to Return Trash Fee Protest Cards; Hearing is June 9

In April, San Diego City Council voted to move forward with a nearly \$48-a-month home trash pickup fee. Under state law, the new fees cannot be imposed if more than half of the estimated 233,000 households that would pay the new fee submit protest cards before the June 9 Public Hearing. A PDF of the Notice of Public Hearing with the Proposed Solid Waste Management Fees and Proposition 218 Notice "Protest Card" is available at: bit.ly/Prop218ProtestCards



UC Girl Scouts Spring Campout

by Christy Esau

Have you ever seen your moon shadow? UC Girl Scouts gathered together at Camp Whispering Oaks in Julian last month under a full moon for their annual KODA Camp tradition. Koda means "friendship" in the Dakota language. A Camper Council of girls from several troops planned the "Renaissance" themed event which included archery, crafts and games during the day. In the evening everyone gathered at the campfire for s'mores, skits and songs, which is pictured above and enjoyed by all ages.

Early bird registration for the new fall Girl Scout year is happening now and we are looking for adult volunteers who want to join us in our mission to support and build up girls of courage, confidence and character. Check out sdgirlscouts.org and ucgirlscouts.weebly.com for more information on Girl Scouting in UC.

How to find locally grown food in University City

by UC Girl Scout Troop 4486

Do you know what your options are to eat locally grown food in UC? 9th grade Girl Scout Troop 4486 learned about options for eating local and we've made a website to share what we learned with the community. You can visit by scanning this QR code:



Locally grown food must be grown in season, which means that it will always taste better than grocery store bought out of season produce. Another great reason to eat locally is to support local farmers. The money you spend on food is kept in the community and can therefore be used to support local businesses, growing the economy. Finally,

eating locally helps the environment. By eating locally, you help conserve local farmland and support more sustainable farming practices.

Visiting your local farmers markets is one of the easiest ways to get local fruits and vegetables at a reasonable price. CSA boxes are another way of purchasing fresh crops from local farmers. These boxes are usually delivered regularly, including a mix of locally harvested fruits and vegetables. Our website mentions some local CSA boxes worth checking out.

COMMUNITY SHORTS



SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Level Up at Your Library this summer! Rediscover the joy of gaming—whether it's a favorite board game, an exciting video game or a gamified reading adventure—and join this all-ages reading adventure. Spark your creativity, critical thinking and team building skills while making connections and having fun at the San Diego Public Library. For more information and to register, visit: sandiego.gov/public-library/kidsandteens/summerreading

PRIDE MONTH

The UC Pride group is happy to celebrate Pride Month in June, and the city of San Diego also celebrates Pride in July. For Pride this year, local students and families will join San Diego Unified School District at the San Diego Pride Parade in July and march with the electric school bus covered in affirming posters. In June, UC Pride is hosting a neighborhood potluck to celebrate Pride. Also, UC Pride will have a booth at the UC Celebration on July 4! Please stop by our booth for your affirming merch and giveaways. You can find more information at UC-Pride.com.

RESIDENTS FORM UC THRIVE

UC Thrive is a newly formed grassroots group of passionate community members dedicated to strengthening the bonds between neighbors and creating more opportunities for residents to feel seen, heard, and involved. To begin this journey, UC Thrive is inviting all University City residents to participate in a short, anonymous survey. The goal of the survey is to understand how people currently feel about their level of engagement in the community and what kinds of connections they'd like to see more of. A future meeting will be planned to review the survey results. To get the survey link, contact Sam@samhealthyfood.com.



FRONT PORCH PANDEMIC JAZZ JAM

The Front Porch Pandemic Jazz Jam continues to play each Thursday starting at 4:00pm, weather permitting. They will perform for two hours, non-stop, no breaks. Come watch them at: 5626 Bloch Street. Bring chairs and a picnic. Bring your kids, dogs, bicycles and your dancing shoes. Free for all.



Summer Movies in the Park

Summer Movies in the Park is the largest free and family-friendly outdoor movie series in San Diego, with over a hundred screenings at dozens of parks across the region. The program launched in 2007 and provides residents with unique opportunities to visit their local recreation destinations after hours to watch blockbuster hits under a starry night sky. Shows run May through October, with pre-show activities before dark and movies beginning about 15 minutes after sunset. Coming soon to a local park in University City:

- May 31 at Standley Recreation Center: The Sandlot
- June 20 at Doyle Recreation Center: Moana 2
- June 27 at Nobel Recreation Center: Finding Dory
- June 28 at University Village Park: The Wizard of Oz
- July 26 at University Gardens Park: Wicked
- August 8 at Nobel Recreation Center: Wicked
- August 22 at Villa Jolla Park: Despicable Me 4
- October 17 at Nobel Recreation Center: Encanto
- October 24 at Standley Recreation Center: IF

The schedule is subject to change. For the latest information and a printable schedule, visit: summermoviesinthepark.com

PURE WATER PROJECT UPDATE

Construction of major pipelines continues to progress on Genesee Avenue between Governor Drive and Decoro Street as part of the City of San Diego Morena Northern Pipelines and Tunnels Projects in University City. The pipelines have been installed in this segment, and crews have reduced work areas and re-opened portions of the lanes on Genesee Avenue between Governor Drive and Centurion Square.

Traffic lights at Decoro Street and Genesee Avenue have returned to normal operation and traffic control and construction equipment on Genesee Avenue will continue to be cleared from Governor Drive to Centurion Square. Southbound and northbound lanes on Genesee Avenue between Governor Drive and Centurion Square were re-opened prior to University City High School's graduation ceremony on May 28.

Based on the current phasing and progress, the contractor will continue construction on Genesee Avenue from Centurion Square to Nobel Drive through June 2025. Traffic control and signage will be in place with one lane northbound and southbound open on Genesee Avenue between Centurion Square and Decoro Street through June 2025. Additional information about the next phase of construction will be shared as soon as possible.

For any questions, email PureWaterSD@sandiego.gov or call 833-UTC-PWSD (833.882.7973). Also, for more info, attend the One-on-One: UC Talks Construction, Tuesday, June 17, starting at 5:30pm, at the Community Library on Governor Drive.



The Magic of Pastels

The Magic of Pastels gallery show is now on display at the University City Community Library, 4155 Governor Drive, through July 2025. and features the work some of the student artists from the San Diego College of Continuing Education Older Adult Magic of Pastels classes with longtime instructor and University City resident Rochelle Bradford.



The classes currently meet at Standley Recreation Center and at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, as part of the Emeritus Program.

The show's Gala opening was held on May 24 at the library with students from both classes, with lots of food, drink and energy. Students included the two pictured below, Shahin Shokofi (left) and Amy Okamura (right). Shahin mentioned that the art form of drawing with pastels was very forgiving. As a graphic artist, she has created art in many formats, but felt that once she started pastels, she felt it was a natural fit for her.



For more information about the show, contact Rochelle Bradford at: rochelleledell@yahoo.com. For more information about the Magic of Pastels classes for seniors, and to register, visit the San Diego College of Continuing Education at: sdcce.edu

VOLUNTEER CONNECTIONS

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in the community and connecting with your University City neighbors. Here's a list of some current volunteer opportunities:

BE A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH LEADER

Consider being part of the crime prevention solution as a Neighborhood Watch Street Captain in partnership with our SDPD. They need us as extra eyes and ears of our community. Learn how to report a crime, how to recognize scams, how to prevent vehicle related crimes, home security tips and more: using education, observation and reporting; not confrontation. Knowledge leads to putting you and your neighbors in control, not the "bad guys". If this leadership role sounds of interest to you, please contact bggellmahn@hayoo.com.

The following streets need a Captain and/or Co-Captain to step up and lead, and once this happens, a Neighborhood Watch sign will be installed. Streets: Araya, Arnoldson, Baeza, Briand, Branting, Brannick, Bunche, Carnegie, Carrena, Dunant, Ducommun, Erlanger, Enders, Ferber, Fried, Finson, Farley, Gullstrand, Kantor, Maynard, Merwell, Occidental, Pennant, Pauling, Rous, Soderblom, Sandburg, Stadium, Steinbeck, Via Lapiz, Via Regla, Werner, Wellesley, Whipple, and Willard.



UNIVERSITY GARDENS PARK BEAUTIFICATION

University Gardens Park (Governor & Gullstrand) beautification and cleanup, on Wednesday, June 18, from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Contact Claudia Glenn for more information at: cbglenn@sandiego.gov. Pictured above are staff and volunteers at the May beautification event.

WALK YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND DELIVER NEWSLETTERS

UCCA produces ten newsletters a year, which are delivered by volunteers. Open street routes are: Carnegie Place, Dirac, and Rous. If you are interested, contact jemmasamala@gmail.com.

UC CELEBRATION ON THE 4th OF JULY

Many volunteers are needed beforehand and during the annual event held at Standley Park. For more info and to sign up for volunteer slots, go to: uccelebration.com.

GIRL SCOUTS NEED YOU

UC Girl Scout troops are looking for adult volunteers to help support and build up the girls courage, confidence, and character. Contact: Christine Esau at christyesau@yahoo.com.

HELP KEEP UC STREETS CLEAN

Vince Reardon implemented and has been running the People for a Clean UC project for the past 11 years. Due to lagging participation, only four volunteers last month, down from 40-50 at its most, Vince has scheduled Sunday, June 22 to be the last community clean up. If you feel it important enough to keep UC streets clean, show up to the Sunday, June 22 meetup at Starbucks on Governor Drive. Meet and greet starting at 7:15am, and clean up from 7:30 to 9:00am. Supplies are provided. And if you are interested in taking over the project, contact Vince at vfreardon@gmail.com or Jemma Samala at jemmasamala@gmail.com.



UC People – Sandy Huffaker: A Storyteller in Focus

by Vince Reardon









Most sons want to be just like their dads. Sandy Huffaker was no different — but his dad set a high bar. A legendary political cartoonist and illustrator, the elder Huffaker's work appeared in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, and other premier publications. "I wanted to follow in his footsteps," Sandy said. "But I just didn't have the talent." Still, the apple didn't fall far from the creative tree. Sandy found his own artistic outlet — not with pen and ink, but through a camera lens.

As a high school junior, he pooled his birthday savings and bought his first camera. "That was it," Sandy said. He was hooked. From that moment on, Sandy was rarely seen without it, chasing moments and telling stories one frame at a time. What began as a passion project — snapping yearbook photos and chronicling high school life — soon became something more. A post-high school graduation trip to Peru cemented his path. Step by step, assignment by assignment, Sandy carved out his own career as a freelance professional photographer.

Eventually, he earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts-photography from Pratt Institute in New York City. In those days, Sandy loved nothing more than wandering the streets of Manhattan, channeling the offbeat wit and human touch of Elliott Erwitt — the photographer who first showed him how powerful a simple street photo could be. Fashion icon Richard Avedon also inspired him, though in a different way. Sandy dabbled in fashion shoots but quickly realized it wasn't his calling. "I don't see beauty in fashion photography," he said. Fussing over a single strand of hair out of place just isn't his style. "I look for beauty in the most interesting person in the room."

In 1992, he and his then-girlfriend—now wife—Michelle, a graphic artist, set out for Seattle to photograph the grunge scene. But their Seattle dreams hit a speed bump called San Diego — and they never shifted out of park. They've lived in UC since 2005.

Sandy spent his early career shooting for *The Reader*, honing his craft for eight years as he roamed San Diego, always searching for stories others overlooked. Then came December 8, 2008 — the day a Navy jet crashed into a University City neighborhood. Sandy got to the scene before the paramedics, camera in hand, and started documenting the devastation. He sent his photos to the *Union-Tribune*. They ran them, so did the *New York Times*. That crash put him on the radar — but it was his eye for human stories that kept him there. Soon, Sandy was shooting for the Associated Press, *The New York Times*, Getty Images, and *The Washington Post*, covering border tensions, military life, and San Diego's biotech boom. Whether on the frontlines or in a lab, Sandy looked for the same thing: the most interesting person in the room.

He and Michelle raised three children, all of whom attended University City schools. "UC is a great community for raising kids," Sandy said. Over the years, they've been deeply involved in Little League, Girl Scouts, and the kind of everyday moments that build a life.

His father passed away in 2020, but there's little doubt how proud he'd be. Sandy may have chosen a different medium, but the calling was the same: to tell stories, to capture life in all its beauty and imperfection. The son who once thought he didn't have his father's talent carved out his own legacy — one frame at a time.

Photos taken by Sandy Huffaker



Meander Along Backyard Paths and Find Your Garden Room

by Jemma Samala

The UC Garden Club was treated to the peaceful and color-filled backyard garden created by Allison and Jim Dossett during a recent meetup in May. Allison and Jim both grew up in University City and attended Spreckels Elementary. Allison's family moved to their current home on Arnoldson when she was in her teens, and they moved back into it together in 2021. They since re-landscaped the backyard to include drought tolerant plants, along with grass areas for their grandchildren. As you walk around the path that runs through the backyard, you'll encounter many seating areas for reading, conversations, sitting around a firepit, and taking naps. The landscaping also incorporates original bricks Allison's father had saved, and metal welded artwork made by Jim's mom. The beautiful garden is well worth the "ten months of work for the two months of beauty." To get on the UC Garden Club email list, contact: jemmasamala@gmail.com.





University City Celebration on the 4th of July at Standley Park – uccelebration.com

All proceeds from the UC Celebration support the UC Parks Council, including the Summer Concert Series

THE RUN AND WALK

The UC Celebration starts bright and early with the One Mile Fun Run starting at 7:45am, followed by the 5K Run/Walk at 8:00am. But our volunteers will be there even earlier as day of registration and bib collection starts at 6:30am. You can register in advance at uccelebration.com. Registration fees are \$25 per person for both the Fun Run and the 5K.

The courses will start and finish in the grass field east of Swanson Pool at Standley Park. The 5K course is two loops around Standley Park and Standley Middle School along sidewalks, paved areas, and grass athletic fields. Awards will be given to age group winners, and will take place later in the day at Standley Park. Both events are open to all ages and abilities. Feel free to run, jog or walk. The goal is to enjoy the park and the celebration. Afterwards, head on over and grab some of the community breakfast options.

The run proceeds support the UC Parks Council, Summer Concerts, and the UC community.





THE BOOK BARN

Book Barn donations are being collected at the Standley Park Rec Center starting June 28. All books are welcome but especially children's, young adult, and travel books. For info, to volunteer, or to make additional donation arrangements, contact Jemma Samala at jemmasamala@gmail.com.



UC CELEBRATION Be a Star-Spangled Supporter! Sponsor the UC Celebration

Join us in making this year's UC Celebration the best one yet! This beloved community event brings together families, friends, and neighbors for a day of fun, festivities, and patriotic pride. By becoming a sponsor, you'll not only contribute to a cherished local tradition but also gain valuable exposure for your business or organization.

We offer three fantastic ways to partner with us:

RED LEVEL SPONSORSHIP

Investment: \$500

- Exclusive Trolley Advertising: Your advertisement prominently displayed on the trolley during our 4th of July Celebration! (Banner production not included).
- Complimentary Booth: Engage directly with the community at your own booth during the event
- Social Media Shout-Outs: We'll thank our Red Level sponsors on our social media channels.
- Website Recognition: Your logo featured on the UC Celebration sponsorship page with a link to your website.

WHITE LEVEL SPONSORSHIP Investment: \$1000

- . ALL RED LEVEL BENEFITS, PLUS:
- Banner Included: We'll produce your vinyl banner for display at the event!
- On-Stage Acknowledgement: A special thank you mention for your organization and its community impact during our thank you ceremony.

BLUE LEVEL SPONSORSHIP (LIMITED AVAILABILITY)

Investment: \$2000

- ALL WHITE LEVEL BENEFITS, PLUS:
- Premier Event Area Sponsorship: Become the official sponsor of a key attraction, such as the Car Show, Inflatables Zone, Live Music Stage, or another popular area! (Subject to availability).

Ready to Make a Difference and Showcase Your Brand?

To sign up or learn more, please contact:
Matt Adrian at Matt@CanyonsChurchSD.com or visit www.UCCelebration.com



UC Celebration Schedule 2025

6:30am: Walk up sign-ups for 5K and 1-mile Fun Run

7:45: 1-mile Fun Run begins

8:00: 5 K begins

11:30:

Pancake Breakfast opens 8:30:

9:00: Opportunity Drawing ticket sales begin

10:00: Begin lining up for Bike/Pet Parade at Standley

Middle School West Parking Lot

10:30: Bike/Pet Parade begins led by Mission Bay

Montessori Band

End of Pancake Breakfast

11:00: "Official" opening with Troop 11 Color Guard

and National Anthem sung by Key of She

Beer Garden opens

Book & Puzzle Barn & Vendor Booths opens

Trolley service along Governor Drive begins First Field Game - Sack Race

12:00pm: Hawaiian/Polynesian Revue

Free swim at Swanson Aquatic and

Kids Fun Zone opens

1:00: Music by Phil Marcos Trio First Section of Opportunity Drawing Winners

2:00: Second Field Game - Balloon Toss

3:00: Music by The Resonators

Announce Last Opportunity Drawing Winners 4:00:

Third Field Game - Tug of War Booths close, except for food booths

5:00: Music by "Strange Brew" at the Pavilion Stage

by Standley Middle School

7:00: Strange Brew wraps up and see you next year!

7:30: Trolley service ends



Summary of University City Planning Group Meeting - May 13, 2025

by Chris Nielsen, UCPG Chair

There were two "small" action items on the agenda on May 13th to approve a revised sign project for Irvine Co. along Executive Drive and a project to convert two commercial rental buildings to commercial condominiums along Shoreham Drive. Both were recommended unanimously for approval by the UCPG.

We had an information item from Seritage, the owner of the eastern third of UTC, regarding a remap project dividing the original parcel into ten smaller parcels. The project does not involve development. Two issues came up during the discussion, a potential building on the old Sears Tire location and its impact on the homes in Vista La Jolla, and a new subdivision map for the eastern third of UTC owned by Seritage.

The eastern third of UTC is currently a single parcel and the new map would create several parcels of less than 25,000 square feet, exempting them from the 5% public space requirement. Seritage stated that it was not their intention to evade the public space requirement. Seritage will consult with City Planning and present a revised proposal to the UCPG soon. The UCPG has asked City Planning to make a general policy statement regarding the public space requirement when a new subdivision creates parcels less than 25,000 square feet from a parcel greater than 25,000 square feet.

We heard an expanded presentation from Cass Street Partners on their proposed project for the former Costa Verde mall. The 14-acre project at this point is a series of 13 approximately 40,000 sq. ft. parcels, a Main Street down the center from north to south with new utilities and sewer underneath, and new a stormwater system. Cass Street intends to develop the buildings, each with its own underground parking, from north to south in phases. Given the emphasis during their presentation on housing with anchor grocery and pharmacy tenants, an office building and a couple of housing buildings might be developed first, adjacent to Esplanade Court in the northern section of the site. Cass Street are housing developers, so it makes sense to start with housing and retail and develop down to the south edge of the property. A UPS store could supply some postal functions, including boxes. Cass Street will be the master developer of the site with a set of CC&R's that governs development.

The project the UCPG heard is a new map, a recission of Costa Verde Specific Plan from 1987, and a recission of the entitlements from the 2020 Costa Verde Community Plan Amendment. The UCPG voted unanimously to recommend approval of the project as presented with several considerations (not conditions):

- Work with representatives of the Vi Living complex to ensure the successful interface between building on Lot #10 of the proposed development and the adjacent buildings of the Vi Living complex so there are varied heights, orientations, and views.
- Maximize the use of native trees and native plants on the site. Maximize green street features, such as rain gardens and street tree wells, to enhance sustainability as well as traffic calming.
- Use the stormwater retention system or other Main Street features to enhance the sustainability of the site.
- Follow NACTO Urban Bikeway Guidelines for intersections, design connected bicycle paths throughout and around the development. Use separate bicycle lanes where possible.

Continued UCPG Meeting Summary by Chris Nielsen ADU Issues

It was a busy week at City Council. I met at City Hall with CM Lee's staff in May, together with our CPC Chair, Andrea Schlageter, to advocate for CPC's resolution on the City's Bonus ADU program. Our proposal emphasizes simplicity, with 1 Bonus ADU, deed restricted for income, for each lot in the RS (single family) zone, and two Bonus ADUs for each lot in the RM (multi-family) zones. Parking to be supplied outside of TPAs, no short-term vacation rentals, a two-story limit at 16-18 ft. but no higher than the base zone. We gave our comment at LU&H, and the committee did recommend some portions of our proposal.

LU&H's resolution included no bonus ADUs in Very High Severity Fire Zones on cul-de-sacs or streets with limited access. It also limited the amount of square footage to 8,000 sq. ft. for calculating the number of ADUs allowed regardless of the size of a lot. The full City Council will hear this item again on Monday June 16, with some chance for improvements still to be made. It is unlikely that any changes approved by City Council will be retroactive for already permitted projects.

Below is a letter sent from the UCPG regarding the Costa Verde Project

To: Oscar Galvez, DSD Project Manager, Development Services Department, City of San Diego RE: PRJ-1121151, 8610 Genesee Ave. Project

The UCPG heard discretionary project PRJ-1121151, 8610 Genesee Ave., at its meeting on May 13 as an action item. The Applicant, Cass Street Partners, requested three actions, a new Tentative Map, an amendment to rescind the previous Costa Verde Specific Plan, and an entitlement amendment to rescind the previous entitlements (full rescission).

The requested actions were addressed in the following resolution:

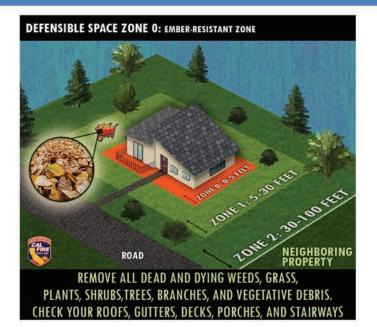
The UCPG recommends approval for the following as presented:

A new Tentative Map, an amendment to rescind the previous Costa Verde Specific Plan, and an entitlement amendment to rescind the previous entitlements (full rescission).

The UCPG further recommends the *consideration* of the following as the project is developed. These are not conditions.

- Maximization of the pedestrian experience for Main Street, including consideration of a closure of Main Street or designing to accommodate the temporary closure of Main Street for special events.
- Work with representatives of the Vi Living complex to ensure the successful interface between building on Lot #10 of the proposed development and the adjacent buildings of the Vi Living complex so there are varied heights, orientations and views.
- Maximize the use of native trees and native plants on the site. Maximize green street features, such as rain gardens and street tree wells, to enhance sustainability as well as traffic calming.
- Use the stormwater retention system or other Main Street features to enhance the sustainability of the site.
- Follow NACTO Urban Bikeway Guidelines for intersections, design connected bicycle paths throughout and around the development. Use separate bicycle lanes where possible.

Approved unanimously, 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, with 1 Recusal (member employed by Alexandria, a development partner).



San Diego's Cohesive Fire Strategy

Fire Chief Tony Mecham, with CAL Fire/ San Diego County Fire, presented information at the recent San Diego Regional Fire Foundation meeting and highlighted the coordination among fire agencies throughout San Diego as well as with Federal and State agencies.

In San Diego, fire agencies have developed a cohesive four-part Fire Strategy to reduce wildland fuels; increase defensible space and home hardening; increase community fire preparation and prevention education; and protect evacuation corridors.

Chief Mecham urged Fire Safe Councils to create a shared understanding that the San Diego area is a wildland environment and that we must all do our part to protect our homes and community. He urged all residents to adopt Zone O by removing vegetation and flammable materials adjacent homes within the first 5 feet of the structure. And he urged home owners to prevent ember penetration by installing ember resistant screens on attic vents and openings. For more information, visit: firesafesdcounty.org.



Development Services Permit Finder Map

The Development Services Department (DSD) has recently updated its Permits, Approvals & Inspections process to make it easier for residents to find permitting information by using an interactive Permit Finder Map.

When accessing the *Use Interactive Map to Find Permit Info* link, users can navigate to a community location and then *Select a Parcel*. By selecting a parcel, users will see a report of all approvals associated with the parcel including projects for remodels, additions, ADUs and garage conversions.

Development Services also provides information about how to Apply for a Permit, Schedule an Appointment, Schedule an Inspection, Building & Land Use Enforcement Cases, as well as the Interactive Map to Find Permit Information. Visit the DSD site at: sandiego.gov/development-services



University City Fire Safe Council Receives Grant Award

by Diane Ahern

The University City Fire Safe Council is one of 31 San Diego area Fire Safe Councils to receive a grant award from the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation. This grant award will help support the efforts of the UC Fire Safe Council to monitor brush density in the city-owned land along the south rim of Rose Canyon as well as community outreach at events such as the UC Celebration, ongoing community meetings, and monthly fire preparation and prevention articles in the University City News and on social media.

San Diego has over 50 Fire Safe Councils (FSCs), more than any region in the United States, all supported by the Fire Foundation. In 2024, volunteers from FSCs invested 16,000 of their time in clearing 1.5 million cubic feet of vegetation, collecting 178 tons (356,000 pounds) of trash, metal, and ewaste; distributing 53,000 newsletters, and presenting 100 wildfire safety education events all geared toward making their communities safer for all residents.

University City's Fire Safe Council president and vice president, Lou Rodolico and Diane Ahern, pictured with Joan Jones (left) from the Fire Foundation and Shaina Gross (right) from SDGE, attended the 2025 Fire Safe Council SAFE Grant Awards Ceremony in May.

The San Diego Regional Fire Foundation is the only fire foundation supporting all of San Diego County with the goal of "Making San Diego the Safest County in the Nation". The Regional Fire Foundation works to prevent fires and makes community members better prepared in case of fires by supporting all Fire Safe Councils in San Diego County. The Foundation provides fire and medical equipment to all fire agencies in the County with over 250 fire stations. Additionally, the Regional Foundation helps prepare youth for careers in public safety by supporting high school EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and firefighting training; and with scholarships to new firefighters to attend Fire Academies and Paramedic School. Funding sources for the foundation include the San Diego River Conservancy and SDG&E.

- For more information about the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation, visit: sdfirefoundation.org.
- For more information about the University City Fire Safe Council and the 2025 Brush Management Assessment, visit: ucfiresafecouncil.com.

Thank You to Renewing and New UCCA Members for 2025

Gold

Christine Esau Jud Grubbs Kevin McLean Joan McNamara Doanld Newman & Kathy Gavenda Joshoa Wong

Angel

Claudia Prescott

Supporter

Sandra & Lyle Boelter John Garretson Carolyn Ha Christine Mailloux Laura Miller Virginia Prutow

Individual

Richard Crowers Virginia Curran Samantha Hua Leila Wopschall

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

Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project **Moves to Governor Drive**

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

During June, the project is expected to move to Governor Drive between Radcliffe and Stresemann. The timelines presented below are approximate and subject to change:

Sewer Main Replacement

- Crews are expected to finish sewer main replacement work in residential area of Eton Av & Eton Ct during May
- Crews will then begin work in June at the intersection of Governor Dr and Stadium
- Sewer main installation will continue on Governor going east all the way to Radcliffe
- Sewer main installation / majority of sewer work to take place on the Governor Drive eastbound lanes
- Residents can expect lane closures

Water Main Replacement

- Crews are expected to finish work on Stresemann St between Gobat Av & Governor Dr during May
- Crews will move to the residential areas of Ithaca St, Ithaca PI, Eton Ct, Stadium Ct, Stadium Pl during Summer
- Following conclusion of work in residential streets, crews will begin installation of water mains on Governor Dr during October
- Water main installation work in the business areas and recreation center will not be taking place until 2026
- Residents can expect lane closures

For more information, attend the One-on-One: UC Talks Construction on June 17, starting at 5:30pm, at the Community Library on Governor Drive; or contact community liaison Reema Boccia at: reema@tworiverspr.com

Univ	ersity City Community Association 2025 UCCA Membership Applicatior
	\$100 Gold \$75 Angel \$50 Supporter \$25 Individual \$500 Donor/Corporate
	UCCA S Additional Donation Enclosed
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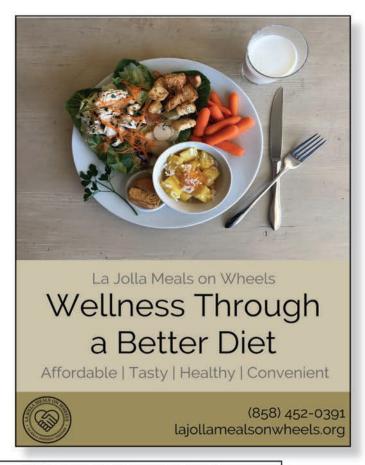
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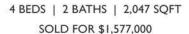




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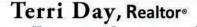
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Bring the found flag to a librarian to claim your prize.

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