University City NEWS

November 2026

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

universitycitynews.org

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Community Art Walk
Garden Club Succulent Pumpkins
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UC Families Learn About E-Bikes and Get Free Helmets

by Jemma Samala



The Community Room at the UC Library on Governor Drive was standing room only as parents and their children learned about e-bike safety and received e-bike helmets. The October 20 event was co-hosted by UCCA and the office of San Diego County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer. The San Diego County Bike Coalition provided an informative presentation, alongside Scripps Health's Trauma Prevention Outreach group which gave out informational brochures, bicycle accessories, and the helmets. Children were given helmets that were sized so that they sit comfortably and safely on their heads. Bodie, aged 10 (pictured left) volunteered to help show the dos and don'ts of helmet wearing.

Mr. Kevin, the presenter, went over a number of topics, such as: The three classifications of e-bikes (if there are no pedals, it's not an e-bike); many cities have passed laws banning anyone under the age of 12 from riding Class 1 and 2 e-bikes (including the City of San Diego), and additionally class 3 e-bikes are already illegal for those under age 16; and reminding riders to bike in the same direction of traffic. If bike riders are riding on the wrong side, they can't see road signs, and drivers won't be looking for you as well.



Drivers must pay attention around bicyclists as well and are only allowed to pass bicycles if they have at least three feet of space from the bicyclist. Sharrow lanes are those roads where you see the symbol pictured right and indicate that a traffic lane is shared by both bicycles and motor vehicles. Bicyclists are encouraged to ride in the middle of the lane to discourage passing by vehicles. E-bike riders are also reminded to register and lock up the bikes; and the more expensive your bike, the more expensive lock you should use. And a good preventative measure is to take your bike charger with you.

For more information, the San Diego Bike Coalition website is sdbikecoalition.org. Additional resources can be found at: AAA, aaa.com/SafetyMatters; and SANDAG, sandag.org/projects-and-programs/bikeways-and-complete-streets – search for the Bike Map, which shows over 1,800 miles of connecting bikeways in the county. Safe Biking!



Bike Bus Along Governor Drive Supports Local Students

by Brittany Fair

Parents from Spreckels Elementary School organized a "bike bus" in which students ride to school as a group under adult supervision once a week. The program has included roughly 14 children each week since March 2025 and recently received a Bronze Level SANDAG Diamond Award for promoting sustainable commuting to reduce traffic and greenhouse gas emissions.

The bike bus travels along Governor Drive, a corridor that serves local schools, including Spreckels Elementary School and Standley Middle School, and currently does not have a designated bike lane. According to the 2026 Governor Drive Complete Street Mobility Study, bicyclists primarily use the sidewalk instead of riding on the roadway. Studies have found that riding on sidewalks can increase the risk of collisions at driveways and intersections due to visibility challenges. Recent research from Rady Children's Hospital San Diego found that 81% of bicycle injuries occur in locations without a bike lane.

The mobility study evaluated the potential addition of a bike lane along western Governor Drive, the route used by bike bus participants. The study reported that installing a bike lane would add 12–14 seconds to peak-hour commute times, with no impact on emergency response or evacuation. As the bike bus continues to bring students to school each week, Governor Drive remains both a key travel route for participating families and a focus of ongoing transportation planning efforts.

UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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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 format.
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 DECEMBER 2026 issue: NOVEMBER 13
Please send your submission as early as possible. The deadline for the December issue is **November 13, 2026**, 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. 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. UCCA will not knowingly print features or news items that appear to be entirely generated by artificial intelligence (AI). Publication does not constitute an endorsement.

2026 UCCA Board Members

Executive Board
President: Jemma Samala, president@universitycitynews.org
Vice-President: Jim Beshears
Secretary: Greg Hom
Treasurer: Phil Fowler
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CASA Liaison/Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Chair/Publicity & Promotion/Webmaster: Diane Ahern
Historian: Greg Hom
Marketing (Membership & Advertising): 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: Jemma Samala
*Special Events: Barry Bernstein
*UCSD Liaison – Jim Beshears
Other Volunteers – Newsletter Contributors
*Mike Frattali: City Issues
*Vince Reardon: UC Profiles
*Non-Voting Position

SENIOR WATCH ACTIVITIES

Managing Your Finances

Saturday, November 14, 2:00pm
Cal Coast Credit Union
3202 Governor Drive

Cal Coast Credit Union will be presenting on the topic of Managing Your Finances, on Saturday, November 14 starting at 2:00pm. The UC Branch is located at 3202 Governor Drive, near Starbucks. The presentation will cover the following topics:

- Money Moves During Economic Uncertainty
- Managing Rising Costs
- Protecting Savings
- Refinancing Considerations
- Building Financial Resilience

Cal Coast is coordinating the event with UCCA's Senior Watch program. For more information, to get on the Senior Watch email list, or to suggest a future topic, contact jemmasamala@gmail.com. No RSVP is required for the event, and all ages are welcomed.



Game Night & Potluck Sing A Long and Music Trivia

Thursday, November 19, 5:30pm
Standley Park Rec Center
3585 Governor Drive

Come out and sing-a-long to songs of the 60s, 70s, and 80s, led by new UC resident, Bruce Frager, on Thursday, November 19, from 5:30 to 7:30pm, at the Standley Park Rec Center. Plus, play music trivia and answer questions relating to the songs we'll be singing. Form a team (max of 4 members) with the best trivia team winning a prize! We'll have lyrics of the songs available.

Remember, it's a potluck too – so for this month, think of favorite comfort foods from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Casseroles, appetizers, and desserts would be great choices.

The Seniors Games Nights continue the third Thursday of each month at the Standley Rec Center's Game Room. For more info or get on the Senior Watch email list, contact jemmasamala@gmail.com.

And for our Bingo lovers, don't worry, we'll be bringing back for future game nights. In October, we started playing Bingo with a $1 per card buy-in, and game winners won the cash. And the first game winner was Gigi Esguerra – congrats! Don't spend your winnings all in one place.



Walking on Wednesdays

Led by Marie Pleasant, the Senior Walkers meet every Wednesday, unless there's inclement weather. Meet in front of the Swanson Pool at 9:30am every Wednesday. There are slow walkers and faster ones, and the group walks for about 45 minutes around the neighborhood. Some walkers bring canes. The important thing is to show up and move. It has become a wonderful social outing that fits into the Senior Watch mantra. For more info, contact Marie at seekgene@aol.com or 858.452.2107.

Tai Chi

No Tai Chi for November, due to Thanksgiving holiday schedules. See the December newsletter for future meetups.

UCCA President Jemma Samala



I'm writing this column after having a really busy weekend, and actually, the whole month of October was busy! It started off with Oktoberfest, on a very hot day which I almost fainted in the parking – I really do have to drink more water. But at Oktoberfest, I get to see old friends, new friends, and friends I need to spend more time together. I'm thankful for these friends.

Gratitide is a good word to describe these friendships, and November is National Gratitide Month! I think I'll make a Gratitude post for each day of the month on my social media – follow me on Instagram @jsamala.

It's nice to always be making new friendships everyday. I am very thankful that in my role as president, I get to meet wonderful new people all the time, in many circumstances. Plus, I love when I can put a face to the names of people I e-meet on emails. And I really am grateful that some of these new friendships lead to fun new events – like meeting Bruce Frager who is going to lead our new sing-a-long event on November 19 - please come join us at the rec center at 5:30pm.

I'm also grateful that I'm in a position to help bring some fun events to my community – our game nights, singing, trivia, tai chi, and the new Holiday Lights & Market on December 12 (see my article below). Yes, I do it for the University City neighborhood, but it really brings me joy too. I'm one lucky gal.

I hope you're all grateful too – not just for the events, but for the many neighbor friends that help deliver newsletters, or become Neighborhood Watch captains, or volunteers to put on the UC Celebration, Oktoberfest, and now our upcoming Holiday Lights and Market.

To show your gratitude, please make sure to return the UCCA envelope enclosed within this newsletter – which is delivered free of charge to your home. Any membership donation helps and be a friend to UCCA and to University City. Remember, UCCA is here to help – that's what friends are for!

Jemma

Thinking Locally, Acting Neighborly

HOLIDAY LIGHTS & MARKET

Bringing a New Holiday Tradition to University City

I love the holidays and for some years now, I have envisioned bringing to UC a holiday event that brings the community together to sing, eat, and enjoy making crafts. Even more so now that my own children are grown and living out of the area, I crave more of the family and friends holiday gatherings. I hope you all come out on Saturday, December 12, from 2:00 to 6:00pm and help bring that family-friendly, holiday glow to the neighborhood.

We will have food, crafts, and entertainment – including a holiday sing-a-long. And we will continue the tradition of the Christmas tree and Menorah lighting that UCCA has previously had at the Friday Night Holiday Lights events. And yes, Santa will be there for pictures with the kiddoes. They'll be a coffee vendor on hand who will also be serving hot chocolate. Local UC artisans will be selling their wares, and community groups will be offering holiday crafts. And I hear, the weather forecasts snow!

We're still looking for food vendors, crafters, entertainment, and sponsors – thanks to Westfield UTC for being our inaugural event sponsor! If you're interested, or would like to help volunteer, please contact me at jemmasamala@gmail.com.

Together, we can create holiday magic for our University City families!

Calendar

November 2026

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

NATIONAL GRATITUDE MONTH

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
Sunday, November 1, 2:00am
Set clocks back one hour to "fall back"

ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 3

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
Tuesday, November 9, 6:00pm
9880 Campus Point Drive, Third Floor or Zoom
Info: sandiego.gov/planning/community-plans/university/planning-group

VETERAN'S DAY
Wednesday, November 11

JEMMA'S OPEN HOURS
Saturday, November 14, 9:00-11:00am
Starbucks (by Sprouts on Governor Dr)
Bring your 2027 Membership Form!

PREPARE A GO BAG AND BUILD A STAY BOX
Saturday, November 14, 12:00noon
UC Library – 4155 Governor Drive

SENIOR WATCH:
MANAGING YOUR FINANCES
Saturday, November 14, 2:00pm
Cal Coast Credit Union – 3202 Governor Drive

HOLIDAY LIGHTS & MARKET PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday, November 15, 9:00am
Standley Rec Center

SENIOR WATCH GAME NIGHT & POTLUCK:
SING-A-LONG & MUSIC TRIVIA
Thursday, November 19, 5:30 – 7:30pm
Standley Rec Center

UCCA GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, November 17, 6:00pm
UC Library on Governor Drive
4155 Governor Drive

STANDLEY PARK COMMUNITY REC GROUP
No November meeting. Next meeting:
Thursday, December 10, 7:00pm
For meeting details, call: 858.552.1651

THANKSGIVING DAY
Thursday, November 26

WE WELCOME YOU TO BECOME A PAID UCCA MEMBER, AND TO RENEW YOUR UCCA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2027. Go to UNIVERSITYCITYNEWS.ORG or mail in the enclosed membership envelope.



Hardening the Target, What Does that Mean?

Part 1 of a series

submitted by Barbara Gellman, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

It means to enact measures to make it difficult for a criminal to commit his planned crime. It is meant to discourage or deter a would-be robber, burglar or thief by increasing his risk of being seen, heard or caught during or after the crime.

If you haven't taken proper steps, it leads to "crimes of opportunity" and that is when the perpetrator sees a chance to commit the act at the moment and seizes it such as breaking into a car to retrieve valuables.

What to do to harden the target at your home and property

1. Lock all doors, windows, side gates and activate alarms. The side gate is major because left unlocked, the perpetrator can walk behind the house, unseen and have plenty of time to get in via a patio door or window. Secure windows/doors with a wooden dowel.

2. Install dusk to dawn or motion detector lighting; darkness invites trouble.

3. Do not let mail, papers or fliers pile up; gives appearance of no one home. Ask neighbors to pick up. Set inside timers if not going to be home.

4. Add dead bolt locks to all doors, peepholes where possible. Add an extra boost to your security with a security camera doorbell.

5. Lock car doors and leave nothing of value visible; park in garage or driveway if possible.

6. Remove registration information from car to prevent identity theft. Make copies for wallet.

7. Remove garage door opener and place in house to prevent possible entry. Be sure to lock door leading from house into garage. Keep garage doors closed unless working in or around area.

8.Never leave children's toys, bikes, sports equipment, lawn equipment out around your home, it advertises what you have and can be tempting to a stranger; he may think "what else do they have."

9. Eliminate hiding places by trimming trees and plants close to your home. Leave space below so you can see feet and space above so you can see a person's head.

10. Get to know your neighbors so you know who doesn't belong.

Witness a crime call 911 and report it.
Non-emergency 619-531-2000.

Digital Deception and How to Spot a Deep Fake

from the City of San Diego

Deepfake technology uses artificial intelligence (AI) to create realistic but fabricated images, videos and audio that can be used to spread misinformation, impersonate people or commit fraud. Before you trust or share something online:

- Look for inconsistencies in images, video and audio.
- Verify unusual requests directly with the person using a trusted phone number.
- Be cautious of urgent requests for money or personal information.
- Think twice before sharing content that seems suspicious.

Stay alert, think before you click and help stop the spread of digital deception. Learn more about protecting against deepfakes and test your abilities to detect them here: staysafeonline.org

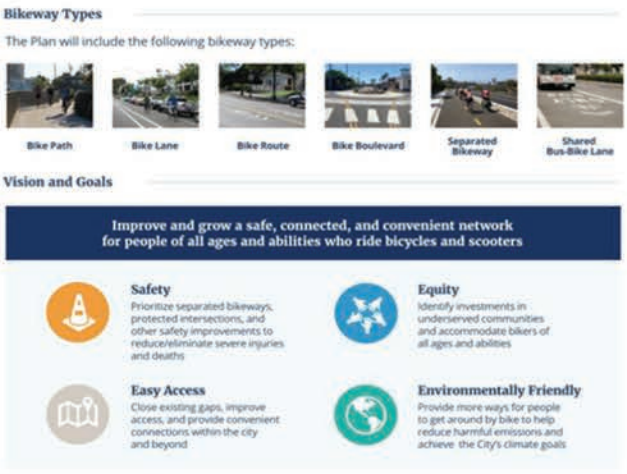


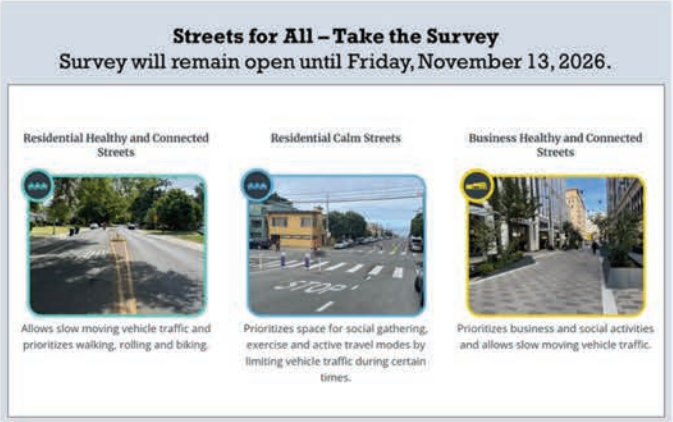
City Releases Updated Bicycle Master Plan

from the SD Planning Department

The updated *Bicycle Master Plan* will identify a network of bikeways and provide a framework to help make San Diego an easier and safer place to bike by focusing on improved travel to work, school, and other activities.

The draft update outlines a vision and goals for biking in San Diego, a proposed bikeway network, and recommendations for supportive programs and strategies to support implementation. Your feedback is essential to shaping the Bicycle Master Plan Update, which is expected to be adopted in 2027. The comment period will be open until Nov. 30, 2026. Comments can be submitted through the comment portal on the project site at: sandiego.gov/planning/work/working-on/bicycle-master-plan





City Launches Streets for All

from the City of San Diego

The City of San Diego's City Planning Department is launching Streets for All – a framework that can guide communities interested in slowing down neighborhood traffic, improving safety or creating more space for neighbors to gather and socialize. By choosing from a range of traffic-calming options, neighbors can work together to create safer, more welcoming spaces for everyone to walk, roll, ride, play and connect.

The City has released its draft *Streets for All* manual, which outlines the different options available, and the steps communities would take to implement them. San Diegans are encouraged to review the draft manual and provide feedback through an online survey by November 13, 2026. For more information and to complete the survey, visit: sandiego.gov/planning/work/streets-for-all

Celebrating Our Veterans

Local Veterans Day Celebrations

by Diane Ahern

This month, UCCA salutes all our veterans and active-duty neighbors. We are grateful for your friendship and your service to our country.

- Saturday, November 7: Veterans Ceremony at Mt Soledad Veterans Memorial in La Jolla. The theme of this year's Veteran's Ceremony is *Guardians of the Promise - The 250-Year Unbroken Line*. Two hundred and fifty years ago, a promise was made to a nation. Not to a king. Not to a crown. A promise to a cause: a Constitution, a people, an idea worth protecting. For two and a half centuries, ordinary men and women have kept that promise. This Veterans Day, we honor them all. Event details and parking information at: soledadmemorial.org
- Wednesday, November 11: Veterans Day Ceremony at Miramar National Cemetery, 5795 Nobel Dr, November 11, at 4:00pm. The theme of this year's Veteran's Ceremony is *A Salute to Special Operations* with CAPT Brian Cunningham, U.S. Navy (Ret.), a retired Naval Special Warfare Officer. While on cemetery grounds for the ceremony, visit the Avenue of Flags, the Memorial Walkway, the Veterans Tribute Tower and Carillon, POW Liberation Memorial, and the gravesite of Medal of Honor Recipient, SGT Charles Schroeter, U.S. Army. More information at: miramarcemetery.org



Councilmember Kent Lee

Last month, our team connected with neighbors at EdUCate's Oktoberfest, where our University City representative, Zach Burton, and I had the pleasure of pouring a few pints at the VIP reception. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to say hello, and to the volunteers who make this fantastic event happen each year! (Pictured above from left: Kent Lee; Spreckels Elementary Principal Kamilah Abdul-Alim; and UC High School Principal Mike Paredes)

With fall in full swing and holidays coming up, I'm looking forward to more time together in the community, including our annual **D6 Turkey Distribution on Monday, November 23.** Our office invites District 6 residents and families in need to pre-register for a free turkey at bit.ly/D6Turkeys-2026. We'll also be hosting our annual Trees for Troops event in December, more details to follow!

Lastly, don't forget to vote! Election Day is this Tuesday, November 3. If you received a ballot in the mail, you can return it at any official ballot drop box or vote center. Prefer to vote in person? Find the location nearest you at sdvote.com.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season. If there's anything our office can help with, please don't hesitate to reach out to Zach Burton at zburton@sandiego.gov.



LOCAL LIBRARY NEWS

North University Community Branch Univ
8820 Judicial Drive, San Diego, CA 92122
858.581.9637
Manager: Kat Carn
sandiego.gov/public-library/locations/north-university-community-library

University Community Branch
4155 Governor Drive, San Diego, CA 92122
858.552.1655
Manager: Melissa Martin
sandiego.gov/public-library/locations/university-community-library

Library Hours and programs are subject to change. Call to confirm hours and events.
Local libraries are open on Tuesdays from 11:30am to 8:00pm; and Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9:30am to 6:00pm.
Ballot Boxes: Currently Open 24/7 and will close promptly on Election Day, November 3 at 8:00pm.
All San Diego Public Library locations will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27.

North University Community Library

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Toddler Storytime: Tuesdays, 12:00pm
Join in as we read, sing, dance, and play at Toddler Storytime!
Stay and Play: Tuesdays, 12:30pm
Stay and Play is a relaxed playtime designed for babies, toddlers, and their caregivers. Little ones can explore toys, practice new skills, and interact with other children while caregivers connect and socialize.
Lego Builders Club: Tuesdays, 3:30pm
Come build your creations while making new friends! All Legos will be supplied by the North University Community Branch Library.
Storytime Stomp: Wednesdays, 10:00pm
This lively and interactive program is designed for children of all ages to explore the joy of movement, music, and creative expression. Join the fun and enjoy watching your little one dance and sing in a playful and energetic environment.
Signing Storytime: Tuesday, November 17, 12:00pm
Join us for a joyful, interactive Signing Storytime filled with stories, songs, and American Sign Language!

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AND SENIORS

Chair Yoga: Thursday, November 5, 10:00am
Enjoy a gentle accessible yoga class that uses a chair for support to improve flexibility and balance.
**Chair Yoga is generously sponsored by the Friends of the N. University Community Library. Donations are welcomed.*
D.I.Y. Book Vase Workshop: Saturday, November 14, 11:00am
The DIY Book Vase Program is a creative hands-on activity where participants transform old or unwanted books into beautiful decorative vases. It's a fun and sustainable craft that encourages creativity, repurposing, and giving new life to materials that might otherwise be discarded.
Mindfulness Awareness: Friday, November 20, 2:00pm
Explore the application of this ancient teaching to reduce stress, anxiety, and suffering. The practice of mindfulness often leads to a sense of balance, connection and well-being.
Garden Share: Friday, November 20, 4:30pm
Join us with your friends and family to share your garden. Bring what you have to share; take home something you really want and bring a bag to take home your finds.

To search for or register for programs at the University Community and North University Community Libraries, search the Calendar of Events on the San Diego Public Library website or go to: sandiego.events.mylibrary.digital/

University Community Library

CHILDREN/TEEN PROGRAMS

Toddler Storytime: Fridays 10:30-11:30am. Ms. Ann shares fun stories and sings songs followed by craft time.
Children's Craft: Wednesday, November 4, 12:30 pm with Ms. Barb. Twisted wire trees.
Special Storytime: Mosquitos! Thursday, November 5, 10:30am. What goes bzzzz and loves the summer? We'll explore the lifecycle of mosquitoes, make a fun craft, and share essential tips on how to stay safe during mosquito season. Learn more at SDFightTheBite.com.
Children's Halloween-themed Take-home Craft: Wednesday, November 18 – Fall animal ornaments, all day while supplies last.

ADULT PROGRAMS

UC Book Buffs (book club): Thursday, November 12, 2:00pm.
Copies are held at the Circulation Desk. New members, please check with staff prior to attendance to ensure enough copies are available.
San Diego OASIS: U.S. Historical Novels: Thursday, November 19, 1:00pm.
What can we learn about history from historical novels? Blaine Davies describes U.S. historical novels and explains how they help us better experience the dramatic events that shaped our nation firsthand. History is a lot more interesting when you explore it from a "present" perspective when the people that were there didn't know the outcome. Professor Davies describes a wide range of U.S. historical novels dealing with almost every aspect of U.S. history and discusses how a well-written novel makes history come alive.
UC Book Club: Wednesday, November 18, 2:00pm.
New members, please check with staff prior to attendance to ensure enough copies are available.
Concert: Tuesday, December 1, 6:30pm.
Spirit Wind is back by popular demand!
Mahjong Club (open play): 1st Saturday of the month: November 7, 1:00 – 4:00pm. PLEASE NOTE: Mahjong will move to 2:00pm starting Saturday, December 5.
Qi Gong: Thursdays, 10:00am - 12:00pm, Community Room
Qi Gong: 2nd Saturday, 9:30– 10:30am, Community Room

NOW OPEN: The UC Seed Library is back with fall seed selections. Come pick up your favorite seeds today!

Exhibit: The Magic of Pastels
through early January 2027

The exhibit features the work of 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.



Thank You University City

by Marsha Harvey, President, Friends of the Library University Community Branch

A huge thank you to all who attended the October 10 University Community Branch Library Book Sale. Even though the weather was less than ideal, it was greatly rewarding to see so many of our friends and neighbors attend.

The Friends of the Library worked very hard to sort through all your donations and prepare them for sale. Please keep the donations coming as we prepare for our next sale – likely to be scheduled for this coming spring.

As in previous sales, our local quilting group, Popovers3, donated a beautiful quilt for our Opportunity Drawing. This year's winner was Barb Takahashi. Pictured along with Barb are Amy Barkan (right) and Susan Griffin (left) whose group made the quilt.

Even when we are not hosting a book sale event, please stop by the library and browse the selection of books for sale. We have shelves in the Community Room and front hallway with books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for sale. Remember - all proceeds go towards augmenting the services and programming of the University Community Branch Library.



UCUC Preschool Invites All to Community Potluck

by Rev. Iona Dickinson

As a society, we spend much of our time separated by age. Kids spend their days in classrooms of all the same age kids. Adults tend to have most of their friends in the same age range as themselves. For sure, we sometimes spend time with extended family, if we have them nearby. But church is intentionally not that way. At University City United Church and UCUC Preschool, we are striving to be a place where we purposely mingle among the generations.

To do this, we are having every other month potluck gatherings with our church community, our preschool community, and are inviting YOU – our neighbors. It is our hope that we can gather around a table, we can get to know one another, and we can share a meal.

UCUC invites YOU
November 16
5:15-6:30pm
2877 Governor Drive, San Diego 92122
(park in the lot off Gobat)
Bring a main dish or side dish to share
Upcoming Dates: January 28, 2027 & March 24, 2027

Kickball Game Brings UC Schools Together

by Ivan Gagne

Families from across University City are invited to a free community kickball game on Saturday, November 7, at 2:00pm at University Gardens Park, known locally as Dinosaur Park, 6431 Gullstrand St., San Diego 92122.

The event is a chance for younger kids to run around and have fun together. Middle and high school students will help organize and coach the younger players. Parents, guardians, caregivers and neighbors can meet, learn and share about each of the five schools to make the cluster even better.

The game is hosted by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee of the University City Cluster Committee and sponsored by UC Pride. The committee, which meets every other month, brings together parents, teachers, students and principals from Curie, Doyle and Spreckels Elementary Schools, Standley Middle School and University City High School, along with district leaders including a school board member and the area superintendent. Together, they navigate the issues that matter most to local schools.

Everyone is welcome, and food will be provided. No RSVP is required, but families who'd like to let organizers know they're coming can sign up at uccluster.com/kickball26. Learn more about the committee and its meeting schedule at uccluster.com.



VOLUNTEER CONNECTIONS

Help Plan the Holiday Lights Market

by Jemma Samala

Help UCCA plan the new Holiday Lights Market, scheduled for Saturday, December 12. The next planning committee meeting will be on Sunday, November 15, 9:00am at the Standley Rec Center. Come help us plan a new University City tradition! We are also looking for local crafters and community groups to participate. For more info and to show your interest, email: jemmasamala@gmail.com.

Newsletter Advertising Coordinator

UCCA is looking for someone to take over the Newsletter Advertising Coordinator role. This person will prepare the ad pages, using software of their choice. They will communicate with current advertisers and find new ones. As well as work with UCCA's Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. If you are interested, please email: jemmasamala@gmail.com.

Be A Neighborhood Watch Leader

by Barbara Gellman

Consider being part of the crime prevention solution as a Neighborhood Watch Street Captain in partnership with SDPD. They need us as extra eyes and ears of our community. If this sounds of interest to you, contact bggellman@yahoo.com. The following streets need a Captain/Co-Captains to step up and lead. Once this happens, a Neighborhood Watch sign will be installed. Streets: Araya, Arnoldson, Baeza, Briand, Branting, Carnegie, Carrena, Erlanger, Enders, Ferber, Fried, Finson, Gullstrand, Kantor, Maynard, Merwell, Occidental, Pennant, Pauling, Soderblom, Sandburg, Steinbeck, Werner, Wellesley, Whipple, and Willard.

UCHS Students Build Homes in Tijuana

by Noah Fernandes

I'm a student at University City High School and the treasurer for Casas De Luz Club. We are a group of students who travel to Tijuana to help build a home for a family in need. We are currently trying to raise enough money for our next build. The money we raise helps pay for building materials, transportation, and a place for our student volunteers to stay while we complete the project. We are reaching out to businesses in our community for donations. Whether the donation is large or small, it can make a big difference when a lot of people come together to help. We would be extremely grateful if your business would consider donating or sponsoring part of our trip.

Thank you for supporting local students who are trying to make a difference!
givebutter.com/casas-de-luz-uchs?s=KIFtnz (Link to Donate)
Instagram - @uchscasasdeluz

COMMUNITY SHORTS

FRONT PORCH PANDEMIC JAZZ JAM

The Front Porch Pandemic Jazz Jam (FPPJJ) continues to provide free live Jazz every Thursday afternoon, starting at 3:00pm to roughly 5:00pm (winter hours), at 5626 Bloch Avenue. Bring your own seating. Picnics and wine tasting are very popular events. Kids of all ages are welcome, as are dogs on a leash. They will be dark on Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve but will be jamming on New Year's Eve.

BE A UC BLOOD CHAMP

The UCUC San Diego Blood Bank Bloodmobile will be at the Sprouts/Starbucks Marketplace on Governor Drive, Saturday, November 7, from 8:00am-1:30pm. Sign up at: mysdbb.org or call 619.400.8251. Appointments are encouraged and walk-ins accepted, make sure to bring your photo ID. Future Bloodmobile Blood Drives are Saturdays: 1/9/27, 3/13/27, 5/15/27, 7/17/27, 9/11/27, and 11/6/27, all 8+ weeks apart.

Chabad of UC Holiday Events

by Rabbi Effy Kahn

I don't know about you, but every year the holiday season seems to sneak up on me. One minute it's summer, and the next, the lights are going up all over town.

For Jewish families, that season includes Chanukah, the Festival of Lights. It recalls a time, over two thousand years ago, when a small band of people stood up for their freedom, and when they rededicated their Temple, a tiny bit of oil kept the lamp burning for eight days. So, each night we light one more candle on the menorah, until all eight are glowing. Every year when I light that first candle, I'm struck by how small it is. One little flame. And yet that's the whole point.

It's a message for all of us, whatever our background: don't underestimate yourself. Each of us carries a light of our own. Whether it be physical, mental, or emotional, we each have a glow and spark that on its own can feel small, but light spreads. One flame kindles another, and the ripple affect reaches places we may never see. This year, we'd love to share that light with the whole community.

On Sunday, November 22 at 10:00am, we're teaming up with Home Depot on Genesee for a free hands-on workshop for kids, where little builders can make something bright of their own.

On Sunday, December 6 at 4:30pm, we'll gather at Westfield UTC for our 40th annual Menorah Lighting, four decades of light in the heart of our neighborhood. Everyone is welcome, and it's going to be a wonderful night. And plenty more for every age at every stage!

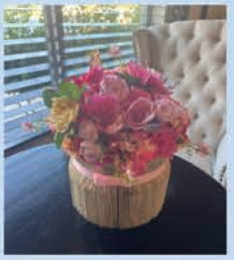
All the details are at chabaduc.org/chanukah87. We'd love to see you there. Happy Chanukah, and happy holidays!

Art Walk November 15th

La Jolla Avia, Paseo, & La Salita communities are hosting an Art Walk.

Come enjoy a wonderful display of **arts and crafts created by residents of these communities.**
Artwork and handmade crafts will be available **for viewing and for purchase.**

Date: November 15
Time: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Location: 6345 & 6340 Gullstrand St
Parking: Please park on Gullstrand Street





We hope you'll join us and support the creativity and talents of our residents.



Nobel Rec Center Holds Halloween Carnival

by Claudia Glenn, Nobel Rec Center Director

We had a wonderful event filled with arts and crafts, games, and, of course, our famous Halloween parade. At the end of the parade, the children received bags of candy, and it was wonderful to see how happy both the kids and their parents were. Lisa and Oscar did an amazing job coordinating the parade!



Thanks to Avani, we also had many volunteers from the San Diego Church of Christ who were incredibly helpful throughout the event. We invited North University Community Library and Abrakadoodle to participate as well. They brought arts and crafts activities and took the opportunity to promote and share information about their programs with our community.

After all the carnival activities, we hosted our Movie in the Park and showed *Hotel Transylvania*. Despite the hot weather, everything went smoothly, and we stayed on schedule for the movie. Once it started, our team worked together to bring everything inside while enjoying the movie alongside the community and making sure everyone stayed safe.



I want to give a special thank-you to our amazing staff: Avani Hughes, Lisa Daleo, Serenitie Rainey, and Dustin Bobo. They all did an outstanding job helping organize and bring this event together. Without their hard work, dedication, and teamwork, we could not have made this event such a success.

We also had a special moment to celebrate! Serenitie's birthday was the day before the event, and Avani kindly brought Halloween cookies for her. After we finished all the activities, we took a moment to sing "Happy Birthday" to Serenitie. It was a lovely way to end such a busy and exciting day!

Personally, I enjoyed the event so much. Even though it was very hot, seeing everything come together on time and watching our team work together to create a safe, fun, and welcoming experience for the community made it all worthwhile. Thank you.

Fall Pumpkin Crafts for all Ages

Thursday, November 12, 4-5pm
UC Library Community Room



Joins us for an afternoon of fun crafts for all ages. Make a chenille stick mini pumpkin and a fuzzy yarn pumpkin complete with a seasonally fragrant cinnamon stick stem.

No Registration required. While supplies last.

NORTH UNIVERSITY SEED LIBRARY PRESENTS

GARDEN SHARE
November
20th

Join us with your family and friends to share your garden. Bring what you have to share; take home something you really want.

Bring a plant,
Take a plant

All leftover plants should be taken away with you

SPIRIT WIND
CONCERT

SPIRIT WIND'S CONTEMPORARY, LATIN JAZZ INFUSED WITH IRRESISTIBLE GROOVES AS WELL AS ELEGANT, ETHEREAL MELODIES WILL LINGER WITH YOU LONG AFTER THE LAST NOTE.



DECEMBER 1 2026
6:30-7:30 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM

SD Public Library
University Community Branch Library
4155 Governor Dr. San Diego CA 92122
858-552-1655
@facebook.com/UniversityCommunityLibrary

UC People: Vanessa Walkowiak





Cultivating Care:

Inside the Curie Garden Project

by Vince Reardon

Nature never stops teaching. Even after the harvest, the lessons keep growing: seeds tucked inside a dried flower, worms turning scraps into compost, and the beginnings of a next meal pushing through the soil. In a year-round outdoor classroom, these discoveries are at the heart of the Curie Garden Project at Curie Elementary School, where Vanessa Walkowiak has helped turn a longtime campus garden into a place where all 560 students learn to grow, prepare, and share food.

Her attachment began while house hunting. Spotting the garden while imagining a life nearby, she and her family moved to University City in 2017. Raised near Philadelphia, Walkowiak grew up with a father who gardened and parents who taught her to preserve food and cook from scratch. Though she studied environmental science at Saint Joseph's University, some of her most enduring lessons came from home.

At Curie Elementary, she built upon years of work by dedicated teachers and families. In 2018, she gathered a community of parents and teachers to discuss how to sustain the garden and reach every child. Today, support from the Sage Garden Project, PTA funding, grants, donations, and volunteers keep the work thriving.

For about six years, Walkowiak has devoted Friday afternoons to the garden—a space where families weed, water, and repair irrigation while children help or play, and neighbors and grandparents share their knowledge. During school lessons, children handle tools and take responsibility for living things.

"I really do trust that kids are capable of these things," she says. That trust extends straight to the kitchen. Students chop vegetables, measure ingredients, and read recipes—with groceries costing less than a dollar per child, according to Walkowiak. "If they ever need to be resourceful, they're going to know how to feed themselves."

She has a name for these practical lessons: "Sometimes I think of the kitchen part of it as 'grandmother's school', because a lot of the things I'm teaching, my grandmother taught me." For Walkowiak, growing and cooking food gives children a direct connection to the environment. "Climate action starts by just cultivating that love of nature," she says. "So, all we really need to do here is fall in love with it."

That love takes root in ordinary acts: tending a seedling, sharing a harvest, and preparing something nourishing with your own hands. In the garden and kitchen, children learn that care is both practical and generous—that what they grow can sustain them and be offered to someone else.

Years from now, a former Curie student may stand at a cutting board, remembering how a handful of herbs brought a meal to life, how last year's plants made new ones, or how a harvest shared with a neighbor tasted even better. The lessons will travel with them: to notice what is growing, to make do with what is at hand, and to feed themselves—and one another. That is the quiet inheritance of a garden classroom.









UC Garden Club Decorates Pumpkins with Succulents

by Jemma Samala

Maria Cook hosted the October UC Garden Club meetup in her backyard, as her mother, Kathy Hargrove showed everyone how to create beautiful succulent pumpkin centerpieces for the holidays.

Kathy, pictured above with her beautiful sample, showed everyone how to spray mod podge all over the pumpkin first. Once dried, with glue spray put down your layer of moss, then begin to design your centerpiece with succulent cuttings using the thriller, spiller and filler method. And do not cut into the pumpkin. It can last many months uncut, just occasionally mist the succulents with a water spray bottle.

The pictures tell the story – so here are the succulent pumpkin pictures! And to get on the UC Garden Club email list, contact jemmasamala@gmail.com.











A Wonderful Day at EdUCate!'s Oktoberfest



Thank you to everyone who joined us for 2026 EdUCate! Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 3 at Standley Park. Despite the heat, the community came together for a day full of fun, laughter, and connection. It was wonderful to see neighbors, families, and friends enjoying the festivities.

We're grateful to everyone who came out to enjoy the fun and community spirit, and especially to our adult and student volunteers, entertainers, food vendors, booth vendors, and event organizers. You made the day happen, even as the temperatures tried to steal the show. Congratulations to Principal Ashley Duren of Curie Elementary for winning the Principals Challenge!

We like to give a big shout out to our sponsors whose generosity continues to allow us to put on this popular community tradition. They include Nancy Beck – Realty One Group, Cal Coast Credit Union, Coldwell Banker – University City, Katie Dunahoo – Dunahoo Realty Group, Steve & Terri Gray – Gray Loan Team, Klassen Painting, Noni's Senior Living Placement, UCCA, UC Service Center, and Valerie Upham – Compass.

If the heat kept you home—and you'd like to keep the Oktoberfest giving spirit going—you can still support our schools with a donation. **All net proceeds benefit University City's five public schools:** Curie, Doyle, and Spreckels elementary schools; Standley Middle School; and University City High School. It's for the kids!

To satisfy your curiosity about EdUCate!, go to uceducate.org.





















Thank you Kevin Nuibe for taking all the photos!

University City Improv 1 Update



Water & Sewer Main Installation

All water and sewer main installation work has been completed to date. Crews have installed approximately 3.7 miles of new sewer and water mains along the project corridor.

Curb Ramp and Cross Gutter Installation

Installation of new cross gutters and ADA-compliant curb ramps will be ongoing throughout the month of November along Governor Drive between Regents Road (pictured left) and Radcliffe Drive. This work also includes relocation and upgrades to existing pedestrian push button infrastructure to meet ADA standards. This work will require temporary closures of affected cross gutters and curb ramps to allow for concrete to cure.

Pavement Restoration and Resurfacing

The City's plan is to perform resurfacing along the entire project alignment, including curb-to-curb resurfacing on Governor Drive from the western end of the street to Genesee Avenue, pending funding approval by Council. This work is currently projected to take place this winter. We understand the community's interest in seeing the roadway fully resurfaced and will continue to share updates. These project updates will be shared at upcoming UCCA meetings.

Outreach Contract: Renee Chmiel, *RChmiel@sandiego.gov*



Pure Water University City Update

Progress continues on the Morena Northern Pipelines and Tunnels project. Crews are continuing to install traffic loop detectors throughout the project alignment as part of final road restoration activities. Traffic loop detectors are sensors imbedded in the roadway that detect the presence of vehicles. Traffic loop installation work is taking place at night in order to help minimize impacts to traffic.

Crews have also finished installing the stamped concrete at the restored Genesee Avenue medians located between April Court and Radcliffe Lane, Radcliffe Lane and Governor Drive, and Rose Canyon and Decoro Street. Landscaping will be planted towards the end of the year once soil amendments are complete at all medians. Additionally, appurtenance work (work at vaults, blow off valves, etc.) continued throughout the month along the project alignment. Lastly crews completed the connection between the I-805 tunnel and the receiving shaft located at the North City Water Reclamation Plant (NCWRP).

Construction schedules are subject to change at any time due to weather impacts or unforeseen operational issues. For the latest updates and construction notices, visit UTC.PureWaterSD.org.

For questions, email PureWaterSD@sandiego.gov or call 833.882.7973. Thank you to the University City community for its patience and support as this important work continues.

University City Planning Group Update

by Chris Nielsen, UCPG Chair

Cass Street Partners presented at our October 13 meeting due to a scheduling conflict on September 8. The UCPG meeting for September 8 lacked sufficient agenda items and was cancelled.

UCPG Meeting on October 13, 2026
High Street Village

Michael Yanicelli presented the update for High Street Village, the renamed old Costa Verde shopping center. Michael Yanicelli along with Luke Daniels are co-presidents of Cass Street Partners the master developers for the 13.2-acre High Street Village site. The zoning for the site is "RMX-3" under the approved University Community Plan. This zone allows for a mixed use of retail and housing, with housing the primary use. Cass Street currently envisions 7-8 story buildings which have a substantially lower cost than higher buildings. The total number of housing units on the site is currently estimated to be 1,750 – 1,800 with a theoretical zoning limit of 2,500 units.

Community serving retail will be on the ground floor. Examples would be a grocery store, pharmacy, café, gym, restaurants, and so forth. A US Post Office is unlikely but a "UPS Store" might be possible.

The site will be bisected north to south down the center with "High Street", the main street of the development. Water and utilities will be located under this street which Cass Street anticipates will be cobblestone. Ample space for pedestrians, bikes, and ground floor amenities is planned. The primary entry for the site will be at Esplanade Court on the north side of the site, with an additional entry along Genesee near the south end of the site and, an exit onto Nobel Drive and an exit to the west on Costa Verde Drive.

Generally, parking for a building's residents will be underground in the building, with parking for retail in a building located in that building or an adjacent one.

The Chevron Station / Car Wash and McDonald's will remail until at least the end of their leases.

Two of the initial buildings will be developed by Cass Street: an Affordable housing building with approximately 375 units, deed restricted at 50% - 90% AMI, with an additional building with yet to be determined housing types. Two more buildings will be developed simultaneously by a housing partner with the intent is to speed development of a core section of the site as soon as possible.

You can listen to the recording of this meeting using the link found on the UCCA News website.

November 10 at the UCPG

We will have a report by Kristin Camper, our representative from MCAS Miramar, on reducing fire risk on the base. Miramar Fire Chief Josh Allen will join the meeting. We hope to see you everyone there.

I hope to see you at the November 10 UCPG meeting. This will be a hybrid meeting on Zoom and in person at 9880 Campus Point Drive beginning at 6:00pm.

Easy and Important Help for the Monarchs

by Katie Dunahoo, UC Garden Club Member



I applaud those of you who have planted milkweed to help the monarchs thrive during their migration. I frequently see it growing at homes in University City. Tropical milkweed (pictured), thought by many to have prettier flowers, can hurt our butterfly friends. Native milkweed is a true perennial and dies off in the winter. The tropical variety winters over in our warm climate and allows a protozoan parasite to thrive and become dangerous for the monarchs and their caterpillars. There is an easy solution. Around Thanksgiving, cut your tropical milkweed to about 6" from the ground. If it grows again in the winter, cut it back again. Thank you for your help! For more info go to https://xerces.org/blog/tropical-milkweed-a-no-grow.

How to Pack a Go Bag and Create a Stay Box

by Diane Ahern, UC Fire Safe Council President

Join the Fire Safe Council on Saturday, November 14, at 11 am, at the University Community Library, 4155 Governor Drive, to learn how to Prepare for Disaster including Planning for Evacuation, Packing a Go Bag, and Creating a Stay Box.

Participants will learn how to prepare for disasters common to San Diego. You will also learn how prepare for evacuation and to shelter in place. All participants will receive a free Disaster Planning Guide, a complementary important document holder, as well as a pocket evacuation check list. In addition, participants can enter a drawing for a free starter Go Bag complete with a backpack, first aid kit, crank radio, and auxiliary charger.



Not Sure What to Pack in a "Go Bag"?

Here's what CAL FIRE San Diego Unit Suggests

Your wildfire 'Go Bag' should include:

- **A 3-day supply of non-perishable food & 3 gallons of water per person**
- **A map with at least 2 evacuation routes**
- **Necessary prescriptions or medications**
- **A change of clothes & extra eyeglasses/contact lenses**
- **Extra car keys, credit cards, cash, or traveler's checks**
- **A first aid kit & sanitation supplies**
- **A flashlight & battery-powered radio with extra batteries**
- **Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)**
- **Pet food & water**

If time allows, consider adding:

- **Valuables that are easy to carry**
- **Family photos and irreplaceable items**
- **Personal computer data on hard drives and disks**
- **Chargers for cell phones and laptops**

For more information from CAL FIRE, visit:
readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/emergency-supply-kit

How to *Pack a Go Bag* and *Build a Stay Box*



FIRE SAFE COUNCIL of San Diego County · SD Fire-Rescue Department · FireSafe Council UNIVERSITY CITY

Using the Disaster Ready Guide from Listos California, learn how to Pack a Go Bag and Build a Stay Box for yourself and your family.

- All attendees will all receive a free document holder, supply check list, and disaster guide with evacuation planner.
- All will have a chance to win a free Go Bag or a free smoke detector courtesy of the University City Fire Safe Council.

Saturday, November 14, 2026 at 12:00 PM
University Community Library
4155 Governor Drive, University City, San Diego

SD Public Library

Thank you to New and Renewing UCCA Members

GOLD
Tom & Diane Ahern (Board Member)
Linda & Christopher Beresford
Alan & Susan Brubaker
Valerie Crane
Bruce & Mary Murray
Motoju & Hiroe Otake
Ruth DeSantis
Jemma Samala (Board Member)
Terry Shaw
Jan Hansen & Don Southard
John & Mary Jayne Stoll

ANGEL
Moishe & Sura Leider

SUPPORTER
Tony & Judith Hugli
Tracy & Sheryl McAtee

INDIVIDUAL
Barbara & Sandy Rosenthal

Thank You to Westfield UTC for Being a UCCA Corporate Sponsor!

UCCA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE KICKS OFF NOW

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in or renewed their 2027 UCCA memberships. The UCCA membership drive officially begins now, and University City residents are encouraged to send in their 2027 paid memberships.

UCCA uses membership funds to help support neighborhood events and organizations. Those funds also help UCCA accomplish the mission of communications with neighbors about local issues and activities through hosting of general meetings, a website, social media platforms, and in publishing this local newsletter, delivered by an all-volunteer force.

Volunteers are needed to help deliver newsletters and become Neighborhood Watch captains. UCCA is also looking for a new Newsletter ads coordinator, plus help plan events and activities. If interested, send an email to: president@universitycitynews.org.

Support UCCA today by sending in your membership dues using the form below, going to universitycitynews.org or scanning the QR code below. You can also drop them off during the November Open Hours at Starbucks (Governor Drive) on Saturday, November 14 from 9:00-11:00am. Let's do our part to keep University City more than just a neighborhood!

UCCA's 2027 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE STARTS NOW!
SEND IN THE FORM BELOW OR THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, OR GO TO UNIVERSITYCITYNEWS.ORG

University City - You Know

- UCCA was founded by University City volunteers.
- UCCA's mission is to build community.
- UCCA is a non-profit.
- UCCA welcomes volunteers.
- UCCA produces the University City News.
- UCCA maintains a news site and social media sites.
- UCCA is supported by your donations.
- Your donations and membership dues help support local events and organizations, the print newsletter, and special projects.

2027 University City Community Association 2027 Supports *University City*

___$25 Individual | ___$50 Supporter | ___$75 Angel | ___$100 Gold

___$500 Business | $_____Additional Donation

Print Name

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Business

Phone E-mail

Mail to check to:
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3298 Governor Dr, PO Box 22574; San Diego, CA 92122
Payment is also accepted on our website at:
www.universitycitynews.org/join-ucca-today
Individual and Business members will be thanked in the newsletter.
Please indicate if you do NOT want to be listed. _____ Do NOT list.
Please email us at: UniversityCityNews@gmail.com

UCCA thanks you for your ongoing support. UCCA is a 501(c)4 organization; donations and membership dues are not tax deductible.

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*Limited space. **10 Issues per year.

www.universitycitynews.org/advertising

Next Issue:
Dec 2026 /Jan 2027 combined issue
Deadline: Nov. 22, 2026



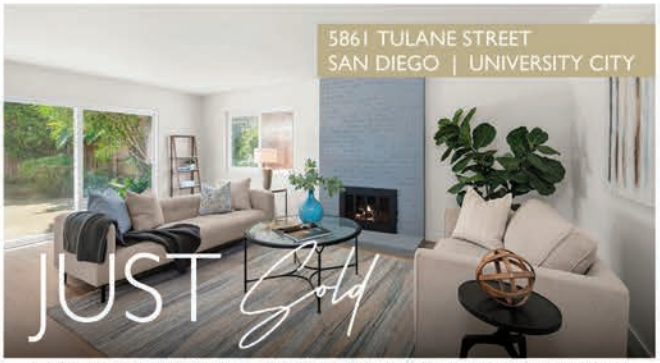
Nancy has been extra busy this October! She can help you, too!



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Nancy Does It Again! This Girl Is On Fire

Are you thinking about selling your home in 2026? Now more than ever, it's important to work with Nancy Beck, your University City Specialist.



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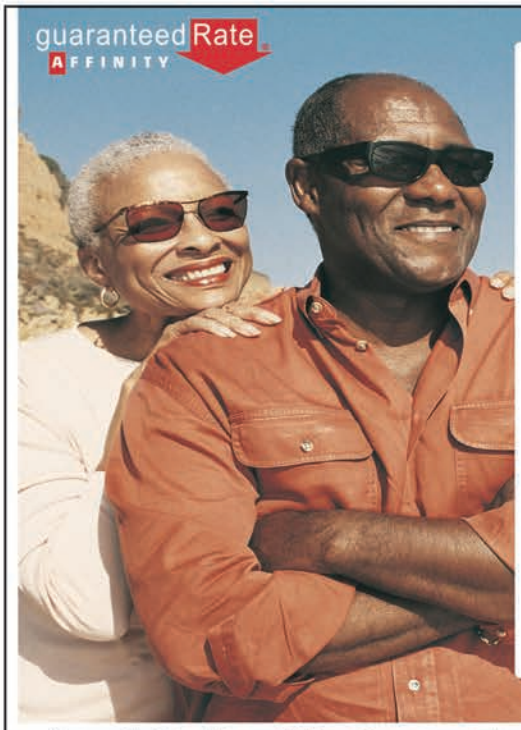
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