

# NEWS

University Heights Community Association May 2024

## Rival Group Challenges Uptown Planners

BY MAT WAHLSTROM

On May 21st, the City Council will vote to replace Uptown Planners with Vibrant Uptown as the community planning group (CPG) for the Uptown area which includes the neighborhoods of University Heights, Hillcrest, Mission Hills, Banker's Hill, Middletown and Medical Complex.

This represents the culmination of a years-long effort to paint elected CPGs as not representative of their communities by virtue of the fact that the people elected can't be counted on to toe an ideological line.

Much like a shell game, in which an object is hidden under a number of covers which are shuffled around, the existing CPGs have been repeatedly tasked to guess how to meet first this qualification or that operating procedure. And just like a shell game, the mark is never right and the ringer in the audience who is clued in gets the right answer. It is a confidence trick rigged to perpetrate fraud — with the residents of San Diego the victims.

**“While the fix may be in for today, I urge everyone to call Councilmember Whitburn's office 619-236-6633 or email: StephenWhitburn@sandiego.gov as he considers voting on this matter at the May 21st City Council meeting.”**

It hasn't mattered how many times the motives behind CPG reform have been exposed as false or how the criteria for what the city means by “diverse representation” have been exposed as pro-developer conformity. Yet Uptown Planners has still been engaging in good faith in a bad faith effort, to prevent the evisceration of our most local level of democratic representation.

The broad outlines have been described and decried on this site and others, so let's look at what's specifically at issue for today's discussion.

Cont. on page 7.

## Hillcrest DMV to Drive Affordable Housing

BY PAUL KRUGER

AB 1635 will require the state to lease the land for the development of mixed-use housing. The housing part of AB 1635 was amended to match the state's 20% affordable unit requirement, removing the previous 25% minimum. It also no longer mandates awarding the contract based on the highest percentage of affordable units.

I'm glad the contract will not be automatically awarded based on a single aspect. This could be immediately subverted by simply designing a dormitory to increase the percentage of affordable units while leaving all other design aspects out of the selection criteria.

So what can we expect for rents as defined by state law? It takes a little unraveling, as state law refers to federal mandates and Area Median Income (AMI) is scaled according to the number of people in the household. For this estimation, I am calculating a 1-bedroom apartment with double occupancy. San Diego County specifies the AMI at \$93,450, and Federal statute specifies low income as 50% of AMI and very low income as 30% of AMI, \$46,725 and \$28,035 respectively.

The state law specifies at least 20% of units being affordable to lower-income households (\$46,725), of which at least 10% shall be available to very low-income households (\$28,035). As reasonable rent targets 30% of income (though we all know the average San Diegan is paying much much more) we could expect a third of the smaller apartments to be priced at \$700 and \$1,168 per month.

This is a much better deal for working families than the City's Complete Communities program which only delivers affordable housing at 3% to 6% of the final build spread between 50%, 120%, and 60% of AMI. The resulting rents in this example would be between \$1,168 and \$2,803 per month. You can easily see the city allows for much higher rents in their “affordable” housing program than under the State requirements for state-owned land leases.

## Rolling Hope: Giving Bikes to Those in Need

BY DOUGLAS C. HOFFMAN

Ever thought about how a simple bike can change someone's life? Let's pedal into the local non-profit SD Bicycle Collective to see how donating bikes can make a big difference for people who need them most.

Think about it: not everyone has easy access to transportation. Giving someone a bike opens up a whole new world of possibilities. Suddenly, getting to school, work, or the market becomes a whole lot easier.

SD Bicycle Collective provides access to affordable bicycles, education, and resources to empower individuals and promote a sustainable and bike-friendly San Diego. We work hard to ensure that our efforts make a lasting impact locally and beyond.

SD Bicycle Collective is dedicated to creating a diverse and inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome. Together, we are committed to building a thriving bicycle community and improving access to transportation for all. We are excited about this journey and grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.

So, how can you get involved? Easy! You can donate a bike, volunteer your time, or help us identify people and organizations that can benefit through bicycles. Every little bit helps, and together, we can spread hope, one pedal at a time.

Let's roll into a brighter future, where everyone has the freedom to ride and thrive!

SD Bicycle Collective is a 100% volunteer-run, donation-based, recycled community bike shop offering:

- BIKE REPAIR
- BIKE TUNE-UPS
- BIKE EDUCATION
- SUPPORT FOR GROUP RIDES
- EARN A BIKE PROGRAM
- Low cost and free bikes to those in need

Cont. on page 3

NEXT UHCA MEETING

**MAY 2**

6:45 pm 4345 Campus Ave

SAN DIEGO



## BICYCLE COLLECTIVE

Join us for our next meeting on Thursday, May 2nd, featuring guest speaker Doug Hoffman, one of the three founders of the San Diego Bicycle Collective, along with Juca Favela and Jim Hotchkiss.

Discover how you can learn bicycle repair skills and even earn a bike through their innovative program. Explore their shop, where you can find used parts and bikes, and learn about their donation-based, 100% volunteer-run community bike shop.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about this inspiring initiative and how you can get involved supporting a sustainable and accessible mode of transportation in our community!

## LOOKING AHEAD

**JUNE 6 MEETING**

The San Diego Floral Association will give a brief recap of their June 1 UH Garden Tour and their upcoming events and initiatives. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about their contribution to our community and how you can get involved!

## Jim Mumford

Hear award-winning owner and president of Good Earth Plant Co. speak about how living walls, green roofs, and rainwater harvesting can improve our lives and environment.





**OUR VISION**

UH is a rare community, a village within the larger city of San Diego. We take pride in our historic past. And for the future envision a new library, a secure and pedestrian-friendly community, considerate growth accompanied by well-planned infrastructure to sustain that development. Additionally, we foresee a remarkable transformation of the Board of Education property, featuring a substantial park to accommodate assured future growth. Our village aims to be renowned for its amicable and unique character, distinctive business community, commitment to canyon preservation, and active citizen participation.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Yearly Membership**

- ( ) Feather – give what you can \$\_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) \$36 Plume (Household)
- ( ) \$120 Golden Ostrich (Household)
- ( ) \$100 Business Plume

**Donor**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation for Keeping Up the Good Work (Donate as a member or non-member)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Referred by \_\_\_\_\_  
 NEW  RENEWAL

**NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS**

**GOLDEN OSTRICH**

Randi Dropkin & Phyllis Charlton, Daniel Huntley & Jennifer Malloch, Kate Tolan

**HOUSEHOLD**

Kathryn Albin, John Ross, Lee Schoenbart

**BUSINESS PLUME**

Kory Stetina (Vulture and Dream Boat Diner)

**FEATHER**

Naida Hindert



**JOIN, RENEW, DONATE, OR VOLUNTEER TODAY ONLINE AT UHSD.ORG.**

**OR BY MAIL:  
 UHCA PO BOX 33032  
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92163**

**Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!**

- Beautification & Planning
- Blockwalker/Deliver Papers on your Block
- Marketing / Merchandising
- UHCA News
- Program & Events
- Neighborhood/Zone Watch
- Membership
- More info @uhsd.org/volunteer

**OUR MISSION**

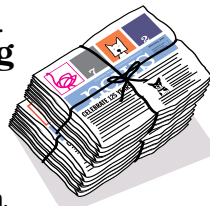
The University Heights Community Association (UHCA), founded in 1983, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, member-supported community association dedicated to improving the quality of life and the sense of community in San Diego's University Heights. A portion of your membership is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more info, email membership@uhsd.org

**UHCA NEWS**

Published 10 times per year by the University Heights Community Association. We welcome articles, letters, and announcements about issues and events relating to University Heights. Submission deadline is the first of the month. Send submission of articles, announcements etc. to: [news@uhsd.org](mailto:news@uhsd.org) See [www.uhsd.org/submissions](http://www.uhsd.org/submissions) for details.

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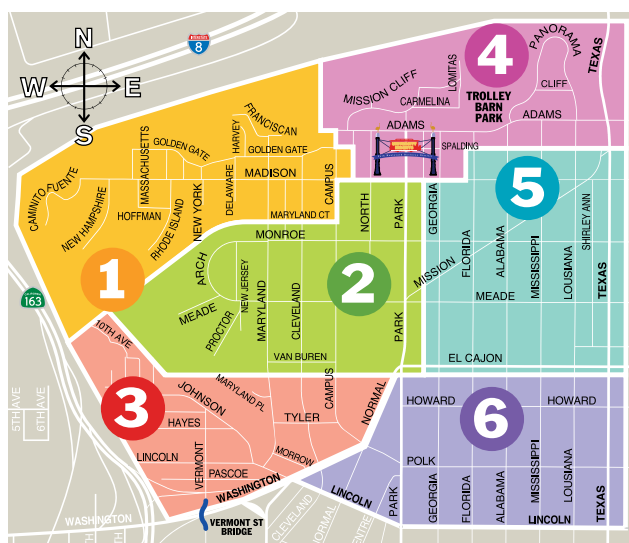
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**VICE PRESIDENT** Lisa Getz  
**SECRETARY** Nan McGraw  
**TREASURER** Mark Brlej



- WEBSITE** [uhsd.org](http://uhsd.org)
- FACEBOOK** @universityheightscommunityassociation
- INSTAGRAM** @universityheights\_sdcommunity

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH**



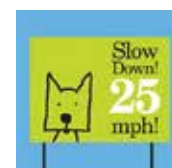
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Zone Watch Coordinators manage email lists of participants wishing to receive University Heights crime watch information and updates. Download more on the UH Zone Watch program at [uhsd.org](http://uhsd.org) or contact your zone's coordinator or Nan McGraw.



**CRIME WATCH SIGNS**  
 There are 60 signs in UH. If you know of a location that could use a sign, or one needing replacing please email [signs@uhsd.org](mailto:signs@uhsd.org).



**SLOW DOWN SIGNS**  
 Speeding in UH continues to be a problem. Shaving time off by speeding has small benefits and high risks. **PLEASE SLOW DOWN!**



**FILE A POLICE REPORT ONLINE WITH SDPD**  
[tinycurl.com/SDPD-Online-Report](http://tinycurl.com/SDPD-Online-Report)

**UH PHONE BOOK**

<b>Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical</b>	911
<b>Non-Emergency</b> Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc. Online: non-emergency problems: <a href="http://www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done">www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done</a>	619-531-2000
<b>SD City Services Emergency &amp; Non-Emergency</b> Street lights, pot holes, etc. Online: <a href="http://www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments">www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments</a>	619-527-7500
<b>Alert San Diego</b> Reverse 911 mobile phone evacuation emergency notifications	<a href="http://readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/">readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/</a>
<b>2-1-1 San Diego</b> Free Resources: CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc.	211 or 858-300-1211
<b>Alice Birney Elementary Office</b>	619-497-3500
<b>Brush and Weed Abatement</b>	619-533-4444
<b>Code Violations</b>	619-236-5500
<b>County Dept of Environmental Health</b> Public Health / Rats / Rodents	858-694-2888
<b>Crime Stoppers Tip Line</b>	888-580-TIPS (8477)
<b>Downed Power Lines / SDG&amp;E</b>	800-411-7343
<b>Domestic Violence Hotline 24/7</b>	888-385-4657
<b>Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes</b>	619-515-3525
<b>Get-It-Done</b> Download this City of San Diego app for reporting all non-emergency problems: abandoned vehicles, code violations, graffiti, over watering, potholes, and dangerous sidewalk issues.	<a href="http://sandiego.gov/get-it-done">sandiego.gov/get-it-done</a>
<b>Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)</b> 5am - 3pm M - F	619-446-1010

<b>Narcotics</b> Suspicious drug house / anonymous	619-531-2468
<b>People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)</b> <a href="mailto:path@epath.org">path@epath.org</a>	619-810-8600
<b>Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP)</b> Vacation home / welfare of home-bound check / Homeland Security support	619-692-4945
<b>National Suicide &amp; Crisis Lifeline</b>	988
<b>SDPD Community Relations Officers:</b> Officer Michael Hayes Officer David Surwilo	<a href="mailto:mfhayes@pd.sandiego.gov">mfhayes@pd.sandiego.gov</a> <a href="mailto:dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov">dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov</a>
<b>SDPD Western Division</b> 5215 Gaines Street	619-692-4800
<b>Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service</b>	800-252-4613
<b>UHCDC</b> University Heights Community Development Corporation	619-297-3166
<b>University Heights Public Library</b> 4193 Park Blvd	619-692-4912
<b>UH Zone Watch Coordinator</b> Nan McGraw <a href="mailto:nmcsan@aol.com">nmcsan@aol.com</a>	619-260-0668
<b>Graffiti</b> In Progress Emergency: Report Online: <a href="http://sandiego.gov/get-it-done">sandiego.gov/get-it-done</a> Graffiti Hotline:	911
<b>SD Vector Control</b> mosquitoes / ticks / rats Online: <a href="mailto:vector@sdcountry.ca.gov">vector@sdcountry.ca.gov</a>	619-527-7500 858-694-2888

**If all else fails, email Tompson Hsu** with Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's office. [thsu@sandiego.gov](mailto:thsu@sandiego.gov)



**DISASTER CONTACTS**  
 In a major disaster, have two out-of-area contacts handy. Landlines may not work in power outages. Keep cell phones charged. Call 211 for updated info.





King-Chavez Preparatory Academy BMX club with bikes donated by SDBC.



A typical Sunday session at SDBC with lots of volunteers fixing bikes.

Cont. from page 1

## SD Bicycle Collective

has provided bikes, repair services and education to:

- King Chavez Prep School bicycle club
- Project Mercy Baja students in Tijuana
- Father Joe's Village "earn-a-bike" program
- Mayor Taylor Bicycle Club San Diego
- Maasai community in Kenya
- Alliance for African Assistance
- Ghost Bike public memorials
- USCIS refugees
- 92130Cares.com
- University Heights bike clinics
- SANDAG "Ride Anywhere Day" aid station



Cisco leads student son a bike ride to Chicano Park with the King-Chave BMX club.

San Diego Bicycle Collective  
Instagram: @sdbicyclecollective  
Facebook: San Diego Bicycle Collective  
www.sandiegobicyclecollective.org

# SAN DIEGO



# BICYCLE COLLECTIVE

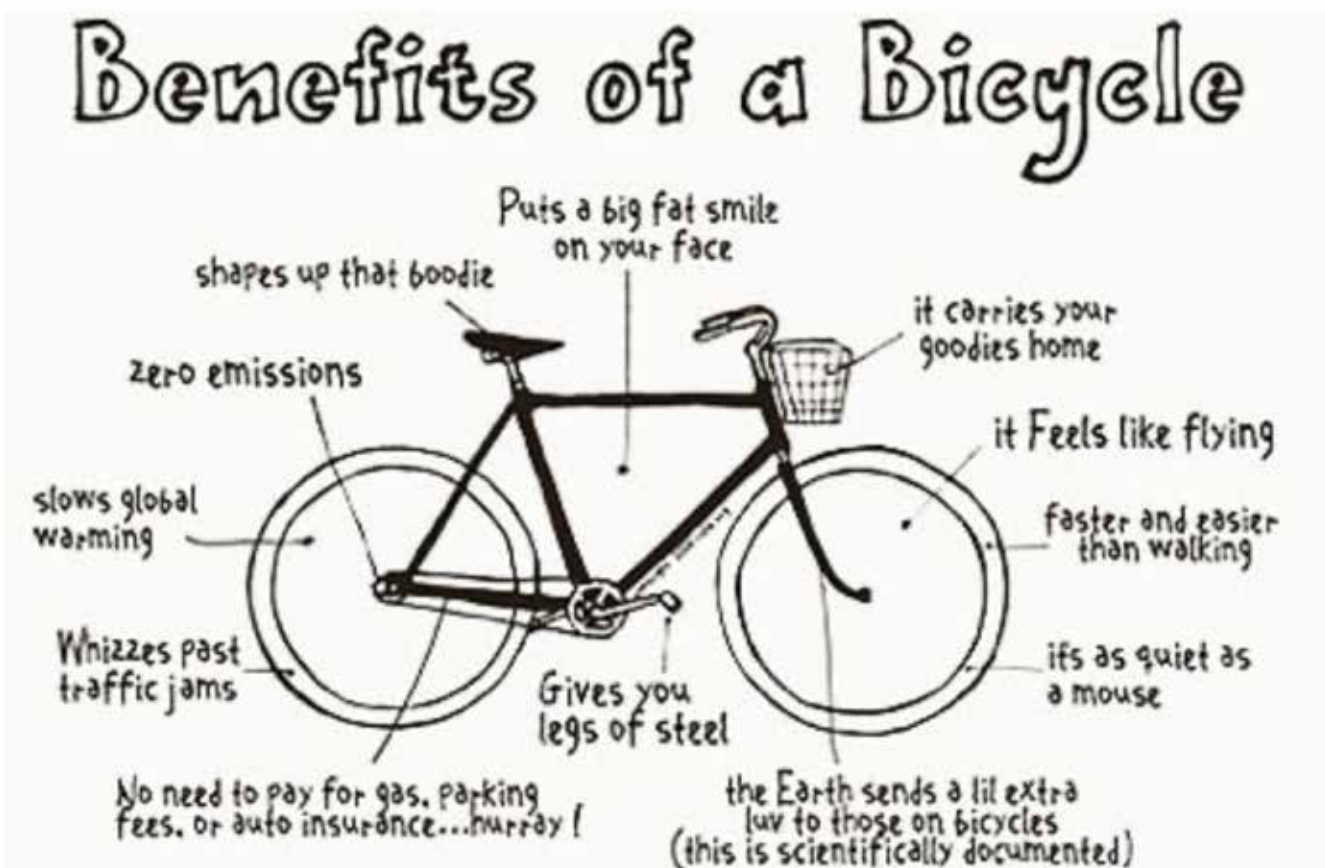


Super volunteer Hillary and SDBC founder Jim work on bikes at a SDBC Sunday session.

We are a 100% volunteer-run, donation-based, recycled community bike shop. Our mission is to rescue, repair, and distribute bicycles while creating community through education and advocacy.

We hope to empower individuals and promote a more sustainable and bike-friendly lifestyle. At San Diego Bicycle Collective, we believe in the power of bicycles to create positive change in our community.

Our collective is made up of passionate volunteers who work tirelessly to make sure that everyone has access to affordable, sustainable transportation.



## Benefits of a Bicycle

- shapes up that boodie
- zero emissions
- slows global warming
- Whizzes past traffic jams
- No need to pay for gas, parking fees, or auto insurance...hurray!
- Puts a big fat smile on your face
- it carries your goodies home
- it feels like flying
- faster and easier than walking
- it's as quiet as a mouse
- Gives you legs of steel
- the Earth sends a lil extra luv to those on bicycles (this is scientifically documented)



SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

# Walk it Off

BY JUDITH ANNICCHIARICO

One of the many benefits of the rainy winter / early spring we've had has been the fresh-scrubbed air after each storm. Lungfuls of particulate-free air are such a delight, especially added to one of our privileged pastimes here in UH – enjoying a walk in our neighborhood. And a walk is what many of us really need.

Anxiety is a legitimate response to the existential climate and pollution threats we face. So many of the changes that must be made seem out of our control. At some point, if we let it, that sense of doom can overwhelm us to the point that we give up, or maybe even never start fighting the good fight. There are ways to stanch the dread, though, including adding one new earth-friendly habit each month (doable, right?), as well as connecting more deeply with the place where we live.

Members of the UHCA Beautification team know how good it feels to nurture nature, especially when planting and watering new trees. As they help young trees to survive and thrive, these neighbors are gifting the rest of us with cleaner air, habitats for birds and bees, and future shady oases along stretches of sunbaked sidewalks.

The UH Garden Club, an amazingly energetic and engaged group, offers newbies and seasoned gardeners the opportunity to learn, share, and be inspired to grow their own plants in whatever space they may have available. The camaraderie among gardeners trading trial, error, and success stories is uplifting and well worth the time spent at the club's events.

Those of us without the time or ability to join in on UHCA Beautification Team or Garden Club activities can still nurture our psyches with a lovely walk. Trees leafing out, flowers budding and blooming can't help but lift us up. Spotting the occasional front yard (or even sidewalk easement) veggie garden reminds us that we're surrounded by smart people who care about the place where we live. It's hard to wallow in defeat while ambling past a patch of gorgeous Swiss chard, kale, or collards sprouting out of the earth, just waiting to be sauteed or chopped up and thrown into the soup pot of some industrious urban farmer.

Let's keep feeding our souls so we can muster the energy to do what needs to be done, in whatever ways we're able. We're not in this alone, thank goodness!

**UHCA Beautification Team**  
email: [beautification@uhsd.org](mailto:beautification@uhsd.org)  
Texts: 619-992-4060

**University Heights Garden Club**  
[www.instagram.com/universityheights-gardenclub/](http://www.instagram.com/universityheights-gardenclub/)

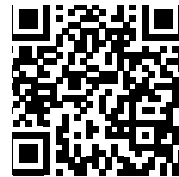


## GARDEN TOUR JUNE FIRST



Discover the lush landscapes and hidden treasures of University Heights at the upcoming Garden Tour, presented by the San Diego Floral Association. Save the date for Saturday, June 1st, 10 am to 4 pm for an unforgettable experience! Sponsored in part by the University Heights Community Association (UHCA). This tour invites you to wander through the neighborhood's enchanting gardens. From colorful flower beds to serene backyard retreats, each stop promises inspiration and beauty. Thanks to UHCA's generous sponsorship, enjoy convenient trolley service to hop between garden destinations effortlessly. Whether you're a gardening enthusiast or nature lover, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Learn from passionate gardeners, gather tips for your own green spaces, and immerse yourself in the sights and scents of the season. Tickets are available now at [sdfloral.org](http://sdfloral.org). Secure yours today and be part of this celebration of horticultural beauty. Join us on June 1st for a day of exploration, inspiration, and community spirit. Experience the charm of University Heights firsthand on the Garden Tour and support the San Diego Floral Association's mission of promoting horticultural appreciation and education.





# \$29 NEW PATIENT SPECIAL



SCAN TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT!



**INCLUDES:**  
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*Offer is valid at the NuSpine Chiropractic Hillcrest location and for only the first visit. This offer cannot be redeemed for cash or combined with any other offer.*

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[NuSpine.com/Hillcrest](http://NuSpine.com/Hillcrest) | [Hillcrest@NuSpine.com](mailto:Hillcrest@NuSpine.com)  
1262 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92103



# Jim Mumford

Our Guest Speaker, June 6th.

Jim Mumford began his career in 1977 with the opening of Good Earth Plant & Flower Company, a flower “bucket stand” in downtown San Diego.

More than four decades later, Mumford’s advocacy for bringing nature closer and enriching peoples’ lives with plants is central to his business and personal success.

Mumford is an award-winning workplace greenery expert, plant stylist, horticulturalist, and designer. He is a Certified Landscape Professional, Accredited Green Roof Professional, licensed contractor and a nationally recognized landscaper.

Sought after for his expertise in designing and installing green roofs, living walls, moss walls, replica walls, and for improving workplace environments and employee wellness through landscaping, Jim Mumford is acknowledged by industry peers as one of its most enthusiastic and knowledgeable leaders.

For the first 20 years, Mumford focused on improving interior environments with plants and floral designs. He also worked for event promoters and supported tours featuring Joan Rivers, ZZ Top, Jimmy Buffet, and Robin Williams. Mumford created a bridal bouquet for Madonna’s “Like A Virgin” concert tour.

In 2003, Mumford’s home in eastern San Diego County was destroyed by the Cedar Fire. Mumford reconsidered his focus and applied his skills to the potential for larger-scale biophilic design projects including green roofs and living walls to add to what he already knew about sustainable building. At their heart, green roofs and living walls are simply new ways of putting plants in containers and integrating them onto buildings.

In March 2008, Mumford launched subsidiary business GreenScaped Buildings. Mumford’s award-winning client projects include green roofs for the University of

California, Sharp Memorial Hospital, and Miramar College; living walls for Westfield Malls, Marriott and Loews Hotels, Qualcomm, Sempra Energy, Illumina, and several of the world’s largest technology innovators who decline being named.

Inspired by building the first commercial green roof using his own building as a successful example after being told it couldn’t be done in Southern California, the Good Earth headquarters now houses a talented team of horticulturalists, designers, installers, and technicians who share the Good Earth Plant Company passion for a simple, meaningful mission: making people happy with plants.

In a post-pandemic world, the new focus on the health of indoor environments puts Mumford’s lifelong work in focus. In conjunction with a group of workplace greenery professionals known as the Silverado Roundtable, the group produced a 2021 white paper titled The Nature of the Post-Pandemic Workplace, offering a new vision of the modern American workplace facilitating biophilic design-oriented spaces where people can gather, collaborate, and thrive.

Scientific research continues to find that plants improve productivity, reduce workplace absenteeism; speed the healing process from disease and surgery; lower stress and stress-related illness; and reduce heating and cooling costs for homes and businesses.

Mumford is a sought-after speaker and a recipient of numerous industry awards. He was named a California “Entrepreneur of the Year” by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; one of San Diego’s “Top Influentials” by the San Diego Daily Transcript; and one of the “Most Influential Business People” by the San Diego Business Journal. He was a featured speaker at the TED Youth Conference in San Diego. His weekly blog has been named the “Best Topic Based Blog” by the San Diego Press Club for four years (2018 – 2021) in competition with full-time professional journalists.



Top: Fashion Valley Mall. Middle: Encinitas Residence. Right: 655 W. Broadway, San Diego Bottom: Westgate Hotel, San Diego.

## DMV DEVELOPMENT

BY STU MCGRAW

Big changes may be decided in June about the future of the DMV site on Normal Street, when the California Senate votes on a bill introduced by our Assemblymember Chris Ward, who chairs the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development. In a noble effort to address the affordable housing crisis, Assembly Bill 1635 would develop housing and a replacement DMV on-site, aligning with the City of San Diego’s Community Plan. The bill would require the California Department of General Services (DGS) to negotiate and execute a minimum 55-year ground lease with a public housing authority within 18 months, after which the site can be open for bids to a local entity, City or County of SD, or a developer, which would have to contract through DGS. The bill was already passed by the state Assembly in January.

Asm. Ward invited the public to a “Community Conversation” at the LGBT Community Center in Hillcrest on March 27th to seek public input. Exciting ideas about integrating this project into the planned Normal Street Promenade gave way to more serious questions. The major concerns of Hillcrest residents and business

owners who attended the meeting include assurances of affordability, removal of the parking lot, and our local government’s demonstrated lack of responsiveness to community input.

“The state budget is contracting right now, including affordable housing programs,” admitted Ward, which puts the timing of this bill into question. AB-1635 reduced the proposed minimum requirement for affordable housing units from 25% to 20%. The current draft also removed the terms that would require the right to develop the property be awarded to the entity that will provide the highest percentage of units affordable to lower income households.

Asm. Ward couldn’t say whether the state would build affordable units off-site. Off-site affordable housing development is a rapidly growing building practice where developers are permitted to build affordable units off-site instead of alongside market-rate units. Critics warn that off-site affordable housing will exacerbate economic segregation, claiming that the new policy embedded in Mayor Gloria’s “Housing Action Plan 2.0” undermines California’s fair housing laws’ original intent of fostering mixed-income communities. Councilmember LaCava likened it to a return to racist practices like redlining.

Hillcrest business owners and residents expressed great concern over the removal of parking and the lack of mobility infrastructure to support the growing community. Currently, 82% of the 3-acre site is a parking lot, offering over 150 parking spots, mostly full on a typical day at the DMV and overflowing every Sunday during the Farmers Market. Free parking during evenings and weekends is enjoyed by visitors to Hillcrest residents and businesses. This parking lot is likely the primary reason why the DMV hasn’t already moved its office to another state-owned property. Asm. Ward conceded that “the CHP facility (at 4902 Pacific Coast Hwy) is only one acre and couldn’t accommodate the DMV operations.” When asked about the plan for parking after the majority of the DMV lot is developed, Asm. Ward assured the audience that the DMV “will meet minimum thresholds to satisfy DMV needs.”

Bicycle advocates were told the state couldn’t help with transit and mobility infrastructure that still isn’t in place to accommodate this planned density. The city-proposed Hillcrest Focus Plan Amendment of the Uptown Community Plan, aka “Plan Hillcrest,” re-zones this and neighboring parcels as “Very High” density at 110-218 dwelling units per acre. So,

as decided by our local government, this 3-acre DMV site could accommodate up to 650 units. Apply this metric to surrounding parcels and expect thousands more people living in a 600-ft radius.

The most prevalent concern among attendees was if developers would listen to the voice of the community after the bill is passed. “If it’s managed through a local housing authority, community input is often a guarantee as a part of that process. As opposed to the DGS which is not required to do so,” answered Asm. Ward. However, state legislation does not define development standards and “nothing at the state level requires community input.” Regardless of the preamble to the bill’s text, the state doesn’t have to follow the local community plan or meet public expectations. The bill also doesn’t require the housing authority to work with the Community Planning Group that represents Uptown.

A final reminder to Asm. Ward at the meeting was that, as we all know from past experiences, community input does not always translate to community influence. For a project of this scope and potential impact, our community just has to hope that developers don’t end up making all the important choices that we will have to live with for years to come.





# PAUL SANDBO

A Shoutout to Paul Sandbo: The Succulent Garden Superstar. Have you seen that gorgeous succulent garden on Park Blvd, across from the Winslow? Well, it's all thanks to our neighbor Paul Sandbo! He's the mastermind behind this green oasis, donating all the plants and putting in tons of hours to make it happen. Paul's love for our community shines through in every succulent he's planted. Thanks to his hard work, University Heights now has a garden that we can all be proud of.



## Harmony in Nature: UHCA's Native Milkweed Workshop

On April 13th, Park and Meade became the backdrop for a vibrant community gathering at the UHCA Earth Day event, where locals united for an immersive native milkweed workshop. Kicking off at 8 a.m., the UHCA Beautification team tended to the native garden, setting the stage for a day of environmental enlightenment. Led by Frank Santana, the workshop commenced at 9 a.m., captivating attendees with the vital role of milkweed in supporting pollinators like monarch butterflies. Participants left armed with newfound knowledge and native milkweed seeds, ready to cultivate green havens in their own spaces. The event wasn't just about learning; it was a chance to give back. UHCA's upcycled street banner totes flew off the shelves, with proceeds fueling the Native Plant Initiative, thanks in part to the generosity of MyPoint Credit Union. Even absentees contributed to the cause, as milkweed plants found new homes outside the event, fostering community engagement and native species conservation. This inclusive workshop not only educated but also empowered individuals to be stewards of the environment. By fostering a sense of responsibility and action, events like these are pivotal in promoting sustainable practices and safeguarding local ecosystems. As the workshop concluded, participants left with hearts full and hands ready to sow the seeds of change—one milkweed plant at a time.

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## Need help for loved ones with severe mental health illness?

**SAMANTHA MANGANARO, ESQ. & KELLY HEREFORD, ASW**  
LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO, INC.

The Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act created a new pathway to voluntary treatment for individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders. Starting on October 1, 2023, family members, first responders, behavioral health professionals, and other adults may file a petition with the court to request that a CARE plan or agreement be created for a qualifying individual (Respondent) located in San Diego County. The CARE plan will last for one year, with the possibility of being extended an additional year. Through the CARE plan, the Respondent will be connected to voluntary outpatient treatment and supportive services. The CARE plan may also include medication management and housing assistance. For an individual to qualify, they must be at least 18 years old, diagnosed with a schizophrenia spectrum disorder or other psychotic disorder (i.e., Brief Psychotic Disorder, Schizotypal Personality Disorder, Delusional Disorder,

etc.), experiencing severe symptoms that interfere with daily functioning, and not currently stabilized in ongoing voluntary outpatient treatment. The individual will be appointed a public defender to represent them throughout the process and can also appoint a volunteer supporter of their choice.

For information on the additional criteria, you can review the CARE Act Forms and Supporting Documentation on the Superior Court's webpage for the CARE Act at <https://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/care-act>. For assistance filling out the petition, please visit the self-help center located in Room 251 of the Hall of Justice at 330 W. Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101. The self-help center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If you think you or someone you know could benefit from the CARE Act, please visit our website at <https://www.lasdd.org/care-act-program/> for more information on how to get support. If you have questions about the CARE Act or how to start the petition process, please call 1-877-734-3258, option 6.

You may also contact the Consumer Center for Health Education and Advocacy (CCHEA) at 1-877-734-3258 to get free assistance on health-related matters, such as information on your health plan, Medi-Cal eligibility, share of cost, or if you have had health services denied, reduced, or terminated.

## Rival Group Challenges Uptown Planners

from page 1.

The existing Uptown Planners board is being challenged by a group called Vibrant Uptown, people who are “super enthused at the prospect of more diverse voices representing the Uptown neighborhood” — as their supporters’ public comments repeat verbatim.

All along, the Planning Department as an appendage of the mayor, has protested that it won’t put its thumb on the scale, that it would fairly and equitably present data related to each group and leave it strictly up to the City Council to decide.

Here are some of the many distortions in staff’s report for the March 2nd City Council’s Land Use and Housing Committee meeting:

- Vibrant Uptown would have quotas requiring an equal number of renters and property owners for our six neighborhoods, each of different populations and demographics and percentages of renters to owners, plus reserve a third of all seats for businesses and organizations.
- The income of 83% of reported Vibrant Uptown members already exceeds the income of two-thirds of the Uptown population, compared to only 21% of the incumbent Uptown Planners members.
- A full page devoted to Race and Ethnicity and Vibrant Uptown’s supposed superiority in this category, the data actually reveals that Uptown Planners is 14% non-white and Vibrant Uptown only 8% non-white.
- Similarly, the analysis of Household Income reveals Uptown Planners has 21% low, 57% medium and 21% high incomes, while Vibrant Uptown has 8% low, 8% medium and 83% high incomes.
- Regarding Age, they work from “the majority of the population” — which includes those under eighteen and thus skews the data toward that end. But even then, 21% of Uptown Planners members

are age 60-69 compared to 25% of Vibrant Uptown members.

And the results of the Uptown Planners election concluded on March 5 further increased the diversity of its original application, further strengthening its superior demographic representation over the Vibrant Uptown applicants

The worst lie comes at the end, where the staff concludes that Vibrant Uptown would be preferable for having a standing committee for community engagement, blatantly ignoring that Uptown Planners has had one for years, our Operations and Outreach Committee.

And of course, any appointed CPG would need to hold elections — supposedly within ninety days, but that still hasn’t been determined. So all the appointed groups’ information will fly out the window once those results are tallied.

Uptown Planners has always worked together to find the points of agreement needed to speak as one for the six neighborhoods in Uptown. By intentionally structuring themselves by neighborhood and business interests, Vibrant Uptown will Balkanize and weaken the effectiveness of Uptown’s CPG — a perhaps not unintended consequence.

And from what I understand, these same concerns regarding fuzzy numbers and cherry-picked conclusions also plague the analysis of the two La Jolla CPG groups to identical effect.

As in every shell game, the point is to keep people guessing: to believe in their ability to win at a game which specifically preys on their good faith efforts to follow rules that aren’t real enforced by those who are self-dealing.

While the fix may be in for today, I urge everyone to call Councilmember Whitburn’s office 1-619-236-6633 or email [StephenWhitburn@sandiego.gov](mailto:StephenWhitburn@sandiego.gov) as he considers voting on this matter at the May 21st City Council meeting.

### WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF MAY!

JON VON ERB

come the  
Naked Ladies  
quite the Belladonna  
dancing about in the spring  
touching the landscape with their  
lavender delight - such a contrast they waltz  
little fairies - if they seem to float it is no surprise  
seeing them nestled among garden pebbles and grey rock  
springtime reaches into our hearts and spirits with its repose  
they call into play the snowdrops and glory-of-the-snow to join in

Naked Ladies  
quite the flirts  
all happy and joyful that winter  
has nourished them into frolic once again  
dotting the landscape with merriment and exult  
making way for sunflowers to take to the helm strong  
together sprinkling the seeds of yet another season to come  
breaths of freshness that spears the love of life to all who accept it



# UH Community YARD SALE

**Save The Date ...**  
**Saturday, June 8, 7am-1pm**  
**Time to clean out the garage.**  
**Register & be included on the map.**  
**Email: [yardsale@uhsd.org](mailto:yardsale@uhsd.org)**

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# ROO NEWS



Photo by UH resident and teacher Tania O.

## SDUSD PINK SLIPS TO TEACHERS AND STAFF AT RMS

BY ALEXANDRA WEBBER

Two teachers and some classified staff at Roosevelt Middle School ("RMS") recently received pink slips. The RMS teachers are - are the 7th grade English and Associated Student Body teacher at Roosevelt and the 7th and 8th grade Math teacher at Roosevelt.

## RMS Student•Staff•Teacher March from Roosevelt to SDUSD Education Center

On March 25, 2024, the RMS Community marched from Roosevelt to the SDUSD Education Center to demand rescission of each pink slip. Participants included tenured teachers, staff, and students. Senior administrators did not participate in-person but did express words of solidarity for the shared goal of delivering educational excellence at Roosevelt Middle School.

**RMS BIKE CLUB.** One of the many free After School Education ("ASE") programs offered at RMS is the RMS Bike Club. This is a new ASE club. The RMS Bike Club is hosted by Mr. Mosler, who is an avid bicyclist. Mr. Mosler rides his bike through University Heights on his way to teach at RMS each morning.

The RMS Bike Club recently hosted on March 23, 2024, a safety program for RMS students and families. Some students rode their bicycles from home to school on a SATURDAY!

Presenters at the bicycle safety program included: Bike Coalition of San Diego, the San Diego Velodrome, and the Scripps Trauma Center.

## The RMS Bike Club

is planning to support RMS students to participate in the "SANDAG BIKE ANYWHERE DAY," on Thursday, May 16, 2024. The tentative plan is that RMS students can meet-up at each of the elementary schools that feed into RMS:

**Birney  
Florence  
Garfield  
Golden Hill  
Grant  
Jefferson  
McKinley**

Of course whether the plan can be realized at each elementary school will ultimately depend on the availability of both participating students and parent volunteers. If you wish to volunteer for this amazing morning bike ride from the various elementary schools, including Birney to RMS, please contact me at [awebber@atw-law.com](mailto:awebber@atw-law.com).

Please note that the event used to be known as "Bike to Work Day." SANDAG's Bike Anywhere Day is a local event that celebrates May as the National Bike Month. For more information visit [SANDAG.org/projects-and-programs/regional-initiatives/sustainable-transportation-services/bike-month](http://SANDAG.org/projects-and-programs/regional-initiatives/sustainable-transportation-services/bike-month).



## BIKE PARTY May 2, 2024

There will be a Bike Month Kick-Off Party & Ride, from 5 PM to 8 PM, at Quartyard. The event includes a group bicycle ride throughout Downtown San Diego. The ride will last about 1-hour and there will be music and festivities until 8:30 PM. Quartyard is located at 1301 Market Street, San Diego, California 92101.

# BIRNEY BUZZ



## Celebrating Coach Lord's Legacy at Birney's Run for the Green

BY SARAH LAYNE



The 2024 Run for the Green, Birney's version of a Jog-A-Thon, raised nearly \$70,000, with about \$68,000 from pledges raised by students and an additional \$2,000 from swag sales. The three classes that raised the most were Ms. Miller's 3rd-grade class, almost reaching \$6,000, and two kindergarten classes who raised about \$4,700 each—Mr. Samson's and Ms. K's (Kovelant). Ms. Miller's class set a new record for the highest-earning class in Birney's Run for the Green history!

This year's Run for The Green was not only a fundraising success; it held special significance as it was the last official event of its kind for Coach Lord, Birney's beloved PE teacher, and its founder.

After 31 years of teaching, 27 of those at Birney, Coach Lord has made the decision to retire at the end of this year. She says she will miss seeing the growth of her students, the smiles from her runners, and the joy when a student masters a new skill or tells her about their latest physical accomplishment.

As a teacher, Coach Lord has led by example, waking up every morning before dawn to get in a workout before school, which might include an ocean swim or a bike ride. She hopes that her active lifestyle instills a love for activity in her students.

In addition to Run for the Green, Coach Lord also started several other iconic events at Birney. Among these is the daily Running Club, in which students can arrive early before school to get in laps around the track and—if they log enough miles—



earn a medal at the end of the year. Another is the International Dance Party, which takes place annually on a Family Friday in the winter. Over the years, Coach Lord has included more and more dances from around the world, including Eritrean and Ethiopian dances. She said at this year's event she got choked up doing the Hopak (Ukraine), realizing that she wouldn't be running it next year.

For her retirement, Coach Lord plans to travel more, starting with a trip to the Gymnastics Olympic Trials in Minneapolis in June and a once-in-a-lifetime trip in September with her husband to Madagascar through the SD Zoological Society. She also plans to catch up on her Z's, moving up her 4:45 am alarm to an indulgent 5:30 am!

It will be hard to imagine Birney without Coach Lord MC'ing its events or inspiring students to get their bodies moving, but she leaves behind a legacy that will live on in the students, families, and colleagues who have had the good fortune to know her.

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# May at the University Heights Branch Library

**YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN, MISS HELENE**



Greetings! As the Youth Services Librarian for the University Heights Branch Library and a Star Wars fan I am thrilled about the library-wide "May the Fourth Be With You" Star Wars Day which this year will be on Saturday, May 4th. What is especially fun is it is also Free Comic Books Day! Kiddos can receive one free comic book while supplies last when they visit the library. To add to the fun, I will be providing a craft activity where the kids can make their own personalized comic book.

occasionally find me in costume for my storytime programs.

Last but not least, stay tuned for details about the upcoming Summer Reading Program starting in June with the most delightful must-see entertainers and presentations!

For further library program listings, please see UHCA's calendar of events and the library's Facebook page (@universityheightslibrary) or online calendar of events ([sandiego.librarymarket.com/events/month/2024/05](https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/events/month/2024/05)). Please note that all San Diego Public Library locations will be closed on Monday, May 27th for the Memorial Day holiday. Join us at the library for a variety of entertaining and educational activities!

*Helene Idels, Youth Services Librarian  
University Heights Library  
San Diego Public Library  
619-692-4912*



To get even more bang for your buck, be sure to come by early in the morning for our new "Children's Dance Pants Fun!" program at 10:30 a.m. where tykes get to wiggle and shake to some of their beloved songs while wearing a favorite super hero costume!

We continue to offer our usual programs which include ASL Signing Storytime, Kamishibai Story Performance, and Stories & Crafts. As I mentioned, I am a Star Wars "geek" and love dressing up for Comic-Con, Renaissance Faires, and Steampunk gatherings so you will



**Library Hours**  
Monday - Tuesday 11:30 am - 8 pm  
Wednesday - Saturday 9:30 am - 6 pm  
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Select branches now open on Sundays  
619-692-4912 / [UHStaff@sandiego.gov](mailto:UHStaff@sandiego.gov)

# BETWEEN THE COVERS

**ERIN WILSON  
LIBRARY ASSISTANT II  
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS LIBRARY**



## Hello UH neighbors! It's Erin here to bring you the news of what's happening in your little local library in May!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. If you or someone you know is experiencing mental health issues, there are many avenues to getting help. Calling 211 is the general number for information and 988 is specifically for suicide prevention. The library's website ([www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org)) is somewhere in between. With your library card, head over to the "Elibrary" tab where you can find a treasure trove of information under "Education & Learning" with Gale Courses and LinkedIn Learning and under "Health & Medicine" with Health & Wellness Resource Center. While in the library, you can look for the Dewey Decimal # 616. This is the main number for diseases, which includes mental illnesses. You can also find some help in # 158 (Psychology). If you'd like more assistance, come in or call us at the library and we can try to point you in the right direction for your specific needs.



### Oasis Presents:

Your Aging Journey Is Unique To You!  
Saturday, May 11, 10 am

What is your plan for aging? Who will make decisions on your behalf if you are unable to? What can you do now to support your ability to successfully age in your own home? What should you consider when considering Assisted Living? Don't wait for a crisis. Let's get started on planning YOUR aging journey!



### Bike Anywhere Day Pit Stop

Thursday, May 16, 7 am - 10 am

This year's pit stop will have a Sci-Fi/Fantasy theme! We'll be serving yummy snacks and refreshing elixirs. We promise it will be a WHEEL-y UH-mazing time!

Don't forget to honor your Mothers on Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12th (Someone tell my cats, please).

And all City libraries will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2024 for Memorial Day.

*Erin Wilson, Library Assistant II  
University Heights Library  
San Diego Public Library  
619-692-4912, [www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov)*



## FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

# SUMMER IS COMING

BY PAM ISAACS

Did you come to our Birthday Party on Saturday April 27 at our neighborhood University Heights Library? We celebrated 110 years of good books, reading and community. Sparkle the Clown was there, delighting us all, and, of course there was birthday cake!

Summer is coming which means the Summer Reading Program is starting up, time to sign up! This year's theme is sure to be a fun one: Read, Renew, Repeat. Open for all ages, that means you - the adults too!

I was able to attend a signing story time for babies and young children. Miss Jennifer read and signed the story at the same time. The little ones were delighted and tried some signing of their own. How lucky we are to have these signing story times.

These very special programs are provided free to families and individuals

at our library and are supported by the Friends of the University Heights Library. Please join our organization and help financially support these wonderful free programs. Go to our website, click on "Membership". Choose a membership level that is right for you. For as little as \$5 for student or senior or \$10 for an individual, you can join for one year. Your dollars provide services to our own UH Library, which it may not have otherwise.

Friends of the University Heights Library meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM. All members of the organization are welcome to attend. Go to Zoom. [us06web.zoom.us/j/5100631733](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5100631733)

### May Meeting Friends of the UH Library May 7, 6pm on Zoom.

Current members are invited to attend the monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of the month. Go to [www.friendsofuhlibrary.org](http://www.friendsofuhlibrary.org)

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# Mother's Day Brunch



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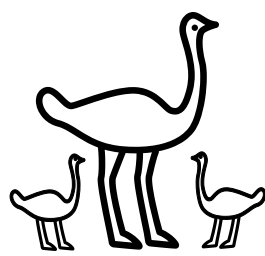


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**Plumeria**  
Vegetation Restaurant  
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269-9989



## Pet of the Month Huck

Despite being a self-proclaimed dog person, my next-door neighbor's Tuxedo kitten Huck won me over the "dark side" with a personality unlike any cat I have known. Right from the start after I moved into my apartment, he threw himself on the screen door to announce he was ready to come in for a visit. Since then, when his owner was away, he would regularly bang on the door or window for some quality hangout time. And just like his celebrity cartoon cousin "Sylvester" he tried to sneak past me on the patio once with a mouthful of feathers. I managed to get his mouth open and out flew a baby bird. With his dog-like demeanor and penchant for impromptu visits, Huck proved that sometimes, the best companions come in unexpected packages. Huck moved to Chicago a couple of months ago. I wonder how he's doing in the snow.




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BREWER.ANASTASIA@GMAIL.COM

## Just Listed in Hillcrest!

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