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Uptown News



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New restaurant in Golden Hill

Museum Month returns to in-person program



While the program features museums from across the county, many of the museums in Balboa Park, including the Fleet Science Center, are participating in the admission discount. *(Photo courtesy Fleet Science Center)*

By KENDRA SITTON

With San Diego museums fully operating once again, residents have the chance to visit these attractions for half-off admission throughout February.

The Museum Month program was growing in popularity before the pandemic. In February 2019,

more than 29,000 people visited a museum at a discounted price. The following year, that number increased to 37,000.

Since museums were closed in February 2021, the San Diego Museum Council took the month to highlight the virtual events museums put on to keep members connected. Much of

the virtual programming is still occurring, but with the return to in-person visits to museums, event organizers are overjoyed to welcome people back.

“Everyone has to come back into the museums and that’s the most exciting part,” said Bob

SEE MUSEUM MONTH, Page 15

North Park mini-park delivers big

Art on the Land

By DELLE WILLETT



A decade in the making, North Park’s mini-park celebrated its grand opening on Sunday, Jan. 16. Located along 29th Street and North Park Way, the \$5-million pocket park is more like a plaza or square than a traditional park, with a performance stage, a musical play area, seating areas with tables, chairs and benches, enhanced lighting, wayfinding

SEE NORTH PARK MINI-PARK, Page 7



North Park mini-park view from parking structure *(Photo taken by Josef Gutierrez of KTUA and Delle Willett, representing the American Society of Landscape Architects, San Diego chapter)*

Your District 3 Council member

Stephen Whitburn reflects on his first year in office.

By VINCE MEEHAN

San Diego Downtown/Uptown News sat down with District 3 Councilmember Stephen Whitburn at his Downtown office right before the New Year in 2021.



Whitburn in his office *(Photo by Vince Meehan)*

Stephen Whitburn is the eternal optimist. This goes beyond the idea of seeing the glass half empty or half full. Whitburn works hard everyday to keep that proverbial glass full no matter what comes along. And when that glass is full, he starts working to fill another. At the tail end of 2020 – which included the second wave of Covid 19 – Whitburn was elected Councilmember of District 3 which includes all of Downtown and Uptown. It was not an optimal time for an elected official to begin a freshman term, but Whitburn has succeeded in getting much done in the past year. This work ethic is apparent as he reflects on his first year as District 3 Council member in his Downtown office at City Hall.

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Tom Rommel
Owner

Pershing bikeway

Construction progress paved with blood

By KENDRA SITTON

After years of delays, the Pershing bikeway is under construction. Despite the vital connection it will provide for cyclists and pedestrians between Balboa Park and Downtown San Diego, the plan had been scuttled for years.

Activists slammed SANDAG last year after their delays cost at least two more lives. One of the cyclists killed in 2021 was SDSU architect Laura Shinn who was an advocate

of environmentally-friendly transportation alternatives. The other loss was Johnathan Sepulveda, who was struck by a teen driver while he was riding an electric scooter in Balboa Park.

The city installed temporary bollards to separate cyclists and scooter riders from cars in the aftermath of those back-to-back deaths.

The 2.3-mile project is an important part of SANDAG's regional transportation plan. Still, the estimated \$13.4 million project

funded by the TransNet half cent tax broke ground much later than initially intended.

Uptown News' former editor Ken Williams reported in 2016 that North Park Planning Committee supported the planned bikeway and noted the dangers posed by the street: "Because of the high speed limit and steep slopes, Pershing has a higher level of accidents than many city streets."

In 2017, *Uptown News* contributor Dave Schwab reported that the bikeway was expected to begin construction in December 2018 and be completed in 2020. However, construction began on Jan. 25, 2022 and will not be completed until 2024.

Part of the plan includes traffic-calming measures to reduce car speeds thus making the road safer for everyone. A two-way cycle track will be added that is separated from vehicles in addition to a landscaped median and walking path.

The bikeway will connect with the cycle track on C Street in Downtown and the Landis Bikeway in North Park. A major criticism of San Diego's current bikeways is that they are disconnected from each other and cyclists have to traverse dangerous streets to move about the region. The North-South bikeway will help fix that.

Encinitas Mayor Catherine Blakespear, SANDAG's chair, said at the groundbreaking ceremony,

"today is just the beginning. SANDAG is set to break ground on more than 19 miles of bikeways and open 11 miles of new bikeways in 2022. Each of these projects bring us one step closer to making Vision Zero a reality throughout the San Diego region."

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria has expressed commitment to building safer streets for all users.

"San Diegans should be safe when they choose to walk, roll, cycle or scoot to get where they're going. If you give folks a safe alternative to a car, they will take it," Gloria said at the event.

—Reach Kendra Sitton at kendra@sdnews.com.

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THE PROBLEM WITH HOLDING TITLE AS JOINT TENANTS

By: Dick McEntyre and Chris von der Lieth, Attorneys at Law

Many married couples in California hold title to their real and personal property as "joint tenants" which carries with it the right of survivorship in the surviving spouse upon the death of the first spouse to die.

Such a means of taking title does, indeed, result in the survivor of you (surviving joint tenant) receiving full title to the property on the death of the first of you, without requiring an expensive and time-consuming court administration ("probate") of the estate of the first of you to die. It is thus an efficient means of passing title.

On the other hand, here are some negatives:

(1) If you die together, you still must have a will or trust in place to indicate to whom the property will then go. If you have neither a will nor trust, then a court probate will be required; and who actually receives your property will be determined by statute (the laws of intestacy) – possibly a person or persons you had no intention of receiving it. Further, if you die leaving only a will (and no trust), probate will still be required, because the law generally requires that wills (but not trusts) be probated.

(2) Unless you can prove that the property is, in fact, your community property, on the death of the first of you, only the decedent's one-half (1/2) interest in the property will receive a "step-up" in basis for income tax purposes. This could be a tax hazard, resulting in greater income tax liability, should the surviving spouse decide to sell the property.


Fortunately, in California, to eliminate this problem the law gives you an alternative to joint tenancy while retaining the joint tenancy's survivorship benefit: for instance, a married couple could take title to their real property as "husband and wife as community property with right of survivorship."

The above statements are not to be taken as legal advice for the reader's particular situation. Richard F. McEntyre practices law in the area of estate planning and administration, having served the San Diego community as a lawyer for over 40 years. Chris von der Lieth is a lawyer who has worked with Dick for over 8 years. Affordable rates. Highest quality services. House calls available.


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