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Contact Us

Editorial/Letters
619-961-1952
hutton@sdcnn.com

Advertising
619-961-1958
mike@sdcnn.com

www.sdcnn.com

San Diego Community News Network

San Diego Uptown News



Let it shine

The majority of St. Patrick Catholic Parish's electricity now comes from solar power thanks to Rev. Michael McFadden (left). (Photos by B.J. Coleman)

St. Patrick Catholic Parish promotes carin' for the green with solar power

By B.J. Coleman

A famous Irish blessing runs, "May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand."

The leaders of St. Patrick Catholic Parish in North Park proved they have taken this message to heart — especially the passage about the worth of the sun shining warm upon the Uptown residents they serve. The church grounds now feature recently installed solar power panels to generate energy for the church's facilities.

Reverend Michael McFadden is an Augustinian priest and lead pastor at St. Patrick Catholic Parish. Previously, he spent around a decade as a teacher, and another decade serving in Central American refugee camps. He was transferred to the St. Patrick assignment nearly five years ago, after serving another parish in Ventura County.

It was at the Ventura parish that McFadden became interested in use of solar power.

"This really makes sense," he said, and he was instrumental in acquiring three or four grants supporting installation of 72 panels for the facilities, for which the parish paid out an additional \$75,000. The savings in energy bills began immediately.



"In any parish, money is not the most plentiful thing," McFadden said wryly.

He brought that wise sensibility into planning a similar project in his current parish at St. Patrick. McFadden describes the tandem problems here, however, are a relatively poor parish and only limited grants now available to offset costs of putting solar panels in place. One option was a lease agreement with a solar power provider, which would retain ownership and maintenance responsibilities.

McFadden chose instead for St. Patrick to buy the church its own solar generation equipment. He began saving up for the project, found grant money, and the church ended up paying \$119,000 to Sullivan Solar Power for purchasing two arrays. One set of panels tops a new carport

see Solar, page 3

Half a century of giving in Hillcrest

By Hutton Marshall | Editor

Every year, thousands of elementary children pack into a Hillcrest thrift shop to receive what many of them never have before: new clothes.

The thrift shop is actually the headquarters of the Assistance League of Greater San Diego (ALGSD), and they do a lot more than sell ugly sweaters during the holiday season.

ALGSD has provided clothes, school supplies, shoes and countless other needed amenities to schoolchildren throughout the county since the organization began in 1965. One hundred days every year, this all-volunteer nonprofit executes the intensely charitable "Operation School Bell."

ALGSD invites about 60 low-income, mostly immigrant students to their Hillcrest headquarters at a time. They come in through the back of the building during the thrift store's off hours, unseen by the bargain hunters that fund most of the Assistance League's activities. There, in the back of the store, these children are outfitted in sorely needed school clothes. They also get a personal hygiene kit, school supplies and a book of their choice.

Although the clothes are plain in appearance, they prove precious to many of their young recipients.

"Some of the children will tell us that this is the first new set of clothes they've ever owned," one ALGSD volunteer said.

The chapter's president, Maggie

see ALGSD, page 4

Cherry Blossom Festival hits double digits

By Lucia Viti

Balboa Park's Japanese Friendship Garden will feature its 10th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival on Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8. Celebrate the onset of spring in the Japanese custom of Hanami — flower viewing — and picnic under the pink-blossoming, nationally treasured beauties. Festival highlights will include dance and musical performances of Taiko drumming; a presentation of the Tea Ceremony from the Urasenke Association of San Diego; Japanese treats such as yakisoba, okonomiyaki, taiyaki and tacoyaki; and local vendors selling unique Japanese artifacts. The Friendship Garden will also host a children's zone for arts and crafts, as well as a sake and beer garden for the adults.

"The Cherry Blossom Festival is a popular celebration of the Japanese Friendship Garden," said Marisa Espinosa, operations assistant for the Japanese Friendship Society of San Diego. "The festival is

best described as a street fair within our gardens that highlights Japanese culture. Today more than 6,000 people visit 150 cherry trees that cover a four-acre span within the garden, their beauty glorified by their once-a-year, two-week blooming."

America's National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates Tokyo's 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees to Washington, D.C. The United States reciprocated in 1915 with flowering dogwood trees, and in 1981, America gave Japanese horticulturists cuttings from Washington's cherry trees to replace those in Japan destroyed by a flood.

The 2001 advent of San Diego's collection of cherry trees was not, however, without complications. The arrival of more than 200 trees from Orange County was stalled by funding required for transport, and tree survival in San Diego's coastal climate was questioned. Undeterred, Nuccio's Nursery of Orange

see Blossom, page 4



At the Japanese Friendship Garden's 10th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival, the brightly colored tree will be on full display. (Courtesy of the Japanese Friendship Garden Society of San Diego)

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\$555,000 1980 Boundary St



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\$700,000 3322-24 Upas St



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SOLD 4BR 2.25BA • 1791 sq ft
\$705,000 2254 Commonwealth Av



SOLD 3BR 2BA • 1350 sq ft
\$610,000 3689 32nd St

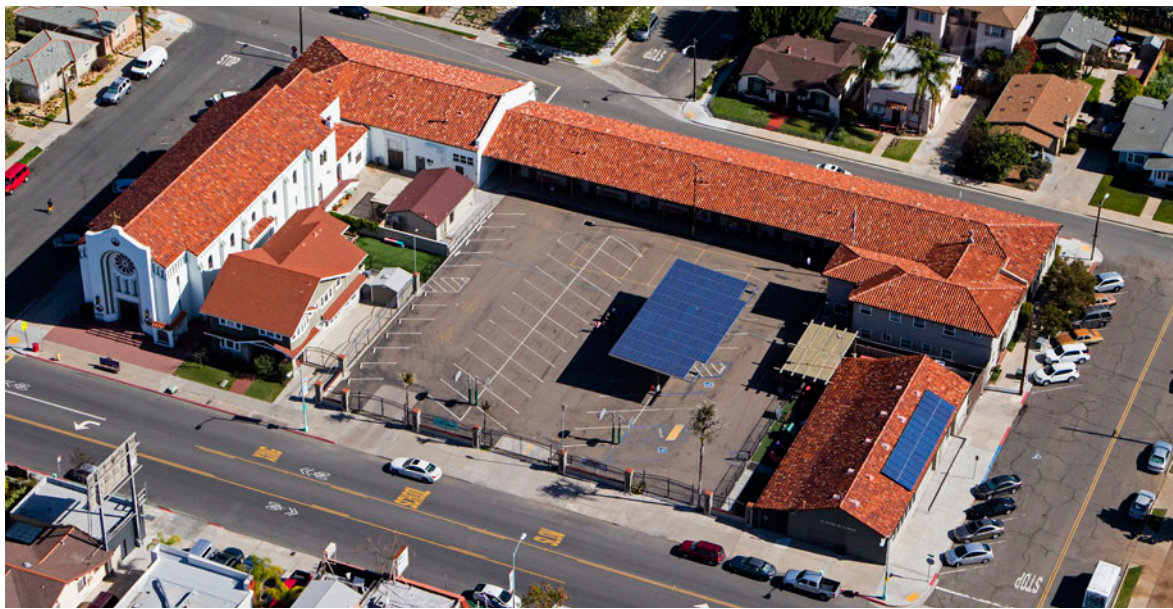


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The St. Patrick solar panels reduced the parish's electricity bill by 60 percent during the first month of operation. (Courtesy of Sullivan Solar Power)

FROM PAGE 1
SOLAR

over the blacktop that doubles as a playground on weekdays and church parking area on weekends. The other array is installed atop the preschool-kindergarten building of the church's school.

The project took about a year, starting in November 2013, with completion last December. McFadden estimates the project will cut the church's electricity bills by 60 percent. Before the panels, the church had been paying about \$2,000 per summer month and \$1,200-1,500 monthly during winter. For the first month since the solar panel installation, which is the first bill available for comparison, the church paid \$600. McFadden estimates the project will pay for itself within eight years.

"This really is about three prongs," McFadden said. "One, this is good for the environment. The Pope speaks highly of relating well to the earth, and we are supposed to be good stewards, taking care of it. Second, this saves dollars and promotes efficiency. Running a school, as we do, is expensive. This saves money for other church uses. And I believe this sets a good example for the community to embrace the earth."

Why Sullivan Solar Power?

Parishioner Steve Lachtman had had a good experience with Sullivan's installation of solar panels at his nearby home, and Lachtman gave a recommendation. Moreover, McFadden said he discovered that Sullivan had a very good reputation.

Daniel Sullivan, founder and president of Sullivan Solar Power, described the history of dealing with St. Patrick Catholic Church as beginning with exploratory discussions about four years ago.

"The current price of solar and the large California Solar Initiative rebate of \$23,738 helped St. Patrick Catholic Parish make solar pencil out," Sullivan noted. "Father Michael's inspiration started this project. He saw solar as a smart financial decision for the parish and something that was important to do for the environment. St. Patrick received multiple bids before signing a contract with Sullivan Solar Power in February 2014."

Asked about special elements or unique considerations in this particular project, Sullivan replied, "St. Patrick Catholic Parish didn't want to install solar on the church's roof, so we designed a solar carport in their parking lot and a second solar array on the roof of the school. The solar helps offset bills for both the church and school."

"North Park is a perfect location for solar power," he added. "There

is an abundance of sunshine and clear blue skies without marine layer nearly year-round. San Diego is America's top solar city per capita, per Environment America's 2014 Shining Cities report."

This project was Sullivan Solar Power's first installation for a Catholic church. (The company performed earlier installations for St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Poway, Mission Valley Church of the Nazarene in San Diego and Paradise Valley Seventh-Day Adventist Church in National City.) Sullivan said the 26,965-watt solar shade structure and roof-mounted solar power system will assist St. Patrick Catholic Parish in saving an estimated \$160,871 over the next 20 years, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2.2 million pounds.

Daniel Sullivan is a master electrician by trade, who by late 2000 had become intrigued by solar power



Rev. Michael McFadden's first foray into sustainable energy at places of worship was at his previous parish in Ventura County. (Photo by B.J. Coleman)

as a solution for spiraling energy problems. He started his company in 2004, on "a leap of faith with an old beat up Ford Ranger, set of tools and only \$2,500 in the bank." For the first year, Sullivan worked and slept out of a customer's garage. Today, the enterprise has 100 employees, more than 60 trucks, and satellite offices in Orange County and the Inland Empire, serving all of Southern California. The company foresees closing 2015 with over \$50 million in sales. For five consecutive years, Inc. Magazine has ranked Sullivan Solar Power as one of the fastest growing energy companies in the nation.

Father Michael McFadden isn't done yet with his commitment to recycling and energy efficiency. His next plan is to cool the St. Patrick Church sanctuary, built in 1925, with state-of-the-art commercial fans.

"This is financial, practical and a theological commitment of the heart," McFadden said of the energy efficiency projects he's championed.

The solar plans don't stop there though. During the spring, Tara Kelly, deputy director of community

development with Sullivan, will assist with designing simple age-appropriate lessons for the church school's kindergarteners. The studies should be interesting, if the youngsters' early responses are an indicator.

When the children's teacher gave an introductory overview of how some energy sources are being depleted but the sun's light and warmth are energy that can be used for people, one child asked, "What happens when we use it all up and there is no more sun?"

For the middle-schoolers, the church school's lead science teacher, Hernan Valdivia, will partner with Kelly for solar science-technology-robotics lessons related to participation in the Junior Solar Sprint, a racing competition of vying student-designed and built, solar-powered model cars, which is usually held during the first weekend in June.

"This was an investment in time, money and energy," McFadden said. "We're glad we did it."

—Contact B.J. Coleman at bar-shajo@aim.com. ♦

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FROM PAGE 1
BLOSSOM

County developed a double-hybrid cherry tree graft that would reliably blossom in the shore line environment and supporters poured in donations, most notably from the Asakwa family, caretakers of San Diego's original Tea House.

The Japanese Friendship Garden was originally a Tea House Exhibit during the Panama-California Exposition of 1915 and 1916. Japan

bonsai trees and a Fujidana — a wisteria arbor. Classes are offered in the art of making sushi, bonsai trees, Japanese calligraphy and conversational Japanese. Now, more than 100,000 people visit the Friendship Garden each year.

"The Japanese Friendship Garden is an expression of friendship between San Diego and its sister city of Yokohama," explained Luann Kanzawa, the garden's executive director. "The garden binds two cultures together in friendship while providing educational resources to the community."



The Cherry Blossom Festival will once again include a children's area. (Courtesy of the Japanese Friendship Garden Society of San Diego)

built and dismantled the Tea House (for shipping), which was reassembled in San Diego. The Asakwa family agreed to serve as the Tea House's custodians, so long as they could live in it. The family owned and operated a local nursery while they maintained the Tea House and sold snacks and tea. The Tea House closed in 1945 when the Asakwa family was sent to Japanese internment camps, and it was ultimately demolished in 1954. The site was rebuilt in 1990 as the first phase of the birth of the Japanese Friendship Garden as a valued asset to Balboa Park. The garden's winding paths include a Zen garden, a koi pond,

Japanese Friendship Garden Members and children six and younger will receive free admittance to the 10th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival. Cost for non-members is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, students and military personnel. Presale tickets are \$5 across the board. Tickets for food, beer, the sake garden and the children's area are all sold separately. The festival may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather. Hours of operation are Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

—Contact Lucia Viti at luciviti@roadrunner.com. ♦

FROM PAGE 1
ALGSD

Brasch, said Operation School Bell puts the needs and wants of the schoolchildren above all else. In fact, much to the dismay of some parents, only children are allowed in the room where they get to pick out their new clothes.

"The kids like that — having the freedom to decide for themselves. It's good for their self-esteem," Brasch said.

County schools have also learned to integrate the continuous flow of resources from ALGSD and other donors to supplement funding for children in need of basic amenities like clothes and hygiene products. J.D. Dyas is a project resource teacher in the Department of Children and Youth in Transition at San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), one of seven school districts served by Operation School Bell. He said initiatives like Operation School Bell are "vital" to SDUSD.

"We usually do [Operation School Bell] about three times a year," Dyas said, adding that ALGSD responds quickly to the district when students are in need of help on short notice.

"We were dealing with a case this morning ... where a family lost their home to a fire, so now they're doubling up [living] with another family, so we're doing what we can to help them," Dyas said.

This year, ALGSD volunteers ex-

pect Operation School Bell will serve as many as 3,200 students. But the program, started in 1980, is just one facet of the chapter's operations. In addition to running its popular thrift store, ALGSD provides scholarships, leads educational advocacy efforts and provides assistance to victims of medical and physical emergencies.

The National Assistance League, founded by Anne Ophelia Smith in Los Angeles back in 1871, calls itself the "first nonprofit, nonpolitical, nonsectarian organization founded in the West." Today, approximately 26,000 volunteers make up 120 chap-

this," Brasch said of the nonprofit's success. "The good news is that we have a record number of new members this year."

Last year, ALGSD's 216 members contributed more than 20,016 hours of volunteer time. The organization has zero paid employees.

During the open house, one fact will likely be apparent to outsiders: the ALGSD has outgrown its building. Its boardroom is now used as storage for high-value items. Between the children milling around for new clothes in the back and adults milling around for old clothes in the front, there isn't a square foot left to spare in the building. Their parking lot — small even by Hillcrest's standards — forces thrift store customers to comb the streets for a metered spot nearby.

Brasch hopes the organization can stay in Hillcrest, where it has thrived for decades, but local commercial property on the scale they seek is scarce, she said. They hope to keep their thrift store, Operation School Bell and office space all in the same building.

"If our budget allows it, our future space would be twice this size," Brasch said.

The ALGSD's 50th Anniversary Open House takes place from 5 – 7 p.m. on March 11 at their headquarters located at 108 University Ave. near First Avenue. For more information, find the chapter's page on assistanceleague.org or visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/algsl.

—Contact Hutton Marshall at hutton@sdenn.com. ♦



A local elementary school student picks out a book at Operation School Day. (Photo by Hutton Marshall)

ters throughout the nation.

The San Diego chapter will soon hit its 50-year mark. To celebrate the occasion, they will hold an Anniversary Open House March 11, offering locals an opportunity to experience what these volunteers do, as a way to recognize their efforts.

Brasch said volunteers typically work one regularly scheduled day a month, and an additional day to help out with Operation School Bell.

"We have some flexibility with our wonderful volunteers, otherwise we would never be able to do

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Kath Rogers (black and gray blouse) addresses the audience at a local environmental advocacy event. (Courtesy of Kath Rogers)

How will San Diego's climate plan shape our city?

By Hutton Marshall | Editor

Last year, Mayor Kevin Faulconer unveiled his draft Climate Action Plan, a legally binding blueprint for creating a more environmentally friendly San Diego over the next 20 years. Environmentalists praised the document as a meaningful way to combat climate change locally.

The overarching goal of the CAP is to put the city on a path to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050. The CAP would guide the city to hit this reduction target using renewable energy, active transportation and sustainable city planning. The plan is expected to go before the City Council in late 2015 or early 2016.

Nicole Capretz drafted the first iteration of the CAP as a staffer for then-Interim Mayor Todd Gloria. That version was largely preserved in Faulconer's draft. Capretz now leads a newly formed, University Heights-based nonprofit, Climate Action Campaign (CAC), created specifically to advocate for "the strongest possible Climate Action Plan for San Diego."

Capretz and CAC's other staff member, Kath Rogers, currently occupy many of their evenings by visiting community organizations around the city to explain what the climate plan is and why it's important. This advocacy is important not just for public awareness, Capretz said, but because much of the plan's critical details are still subject to debate.

statewide mandate. Rather, the climate plan calls for the city to develop its own measures and standards to apply to projects large enough to trigger an environmental review, which vary depending on what or where the development is.

These additional measures, known as the "CAP Consistency Review Checklist," would evaluate how proposed projects would impact and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The city will also factor in water and energy efficiencies, as well as access to biking, walking and transit, according to Brian Schoenfisch, senior planner with the city of San Diego.

In addition to increased scrutiny on individual projects, Capretz said the city will have to be cognizant of how development takes shape on a larger scale. The CAP calls for stricter adherence to an existing planning strategy known as "City of Villages," which encourages populating communities near transit corridors where residents can work, live and socialize

without straying far from their community. The city may have to guide long-term city planning using the invisible hand of discretionary review for this to occur.

"[The CAP] isn't binding on a specific project, but in principle it's binding on the city to implement the 'City of Villages' strategy to reach its goals," Capretz said. "So it's going to be a tool for every individual project."

Capretz said this will likely make private developments more alluring to city planners if they're shown to promote tenets of the CAP, such as smart growth and mass transit promotion.

"Developers are obviously going to rely on this in their lobbying, right?" Capretz said. "They'll say, 'You have to approve this. How else can you meet your mass transit goals?'"

CAP and community plans

Uptown, Greater North Park and Greater Golden Hill are currently updating their community plans, documents updated every 20 to 30 years



to guide future developments and projects in their respective communities. These updates are done by the Planning Department with the local community planning group providing input throughout the process.

Community plans fit into a broad-based document known as the General Plan, which outlines planning and development practices across the city. Included in this is a section called "Climate Change and Sustainable Development," which Schoenfisch said will now be implemented using community plans.

Like the CAP, this section also calls for implementation of the City of Villages strategy, which among other components, suggests increasing density in San Diego's urban core near transit lines.

Increasing density, especially in Uptown, has not always been a popular notion in community planning groups. In Hillcrest, for example, many locals advocated for a low building height limit in order to prevent what some saw as overdeveloping the neighborhood.

The CAP doesn't name specific projects or neighborhoods to be developed, so Capretz said it will be largely up to the city administration (i.e. the mayor's office and the Planning Department) to apply this policy on the micro level.

For instance, if a community advocates for a plan that would limit density increases, that could create a situation where the city would have to go against the desires of the community to ensure it hit its greenhouse reduction targets outlined in the CAP.

Capretz said this could pressure elected officials like Faulconer, a Republican who campaigned on giving individual neighborhoods a voice in City Hall, to play a more interventionist role in community planning in order to meet the CAP's target greenhouse reductions.

"The mayor has to convey, in my opinion, why this vision is so important," Capretz said. "It's also not enough just for him to just say that he supports the climate plan without explaining what it means on the ground."

That's why advocacy and community outreach is critical at this stage in the CAP's approval process, Capretz said, to acclimate the public to the specifics of the plan prior to its implementation.

"You can't just go to communities and say after they developed a community plan ... 'we read all your community input about not increasing density, but too bad' — no, you can't do that."

Rogers will present on the CAP at the Uptown Planners March 3 at 6 p.m. at the Joyce Beers Community Center. To read the CAP in its entirety or to learn more about the CAC, visit climateactioncampaign.org.

—Contact Hutton Marshall at hutton@sdcnn.com.

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The CAP wouldn't change this

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Editorial

Banner year in community planning ahead

Neighborhood elections could set vision, have impact on community development for a generation.

By Chris Ward

Nearly 10 years ago, a proposed 12-story residential, commercial and public parking development at Third and University avenues sparked a firestorm of conversation in the Hillcrest neighborhood about the future of the community. Exchanges about character, infrastructure, traffic, parking and quality of life arose from passionate urbanists and preservationists and those in-between. Interestingly, many on both sides pointed back to one guiding document as their evidence it was or was not appropriate: the Uptown Community Plan. Ambiguities from a 1980s plan, coupled with the positions of those that spoke up, left the question very much open to interpretation, and answers were ultimately evaluated by a group of elected neighborhood leaders at the local community planning group, Uptown Planners, who voted to oppose the project. It was never built.

Planning groups provide a remarkable sounding board for some pretty exciting work as well — pedestrian improvement plans, identification of opportunity sites for tot lots and community parks. They also keep participants up to date about major initiatives like the Climate Action Plan, airport plans, bicycle infrastructure and more. Topics like these can be broad in concept, and then the agenda can turn to a very specific question — for example, whether to put a stop sign there. Speaker Tip O'Neill probably never attended a planning group when he stated "All Politics is Local," but his observation underscores the energy when the context becomes hyperlocal. And that politics is driven by the people.

Essential to the success of these groups is public participation. Even with the best plans in place, there is a degree of subjectivity involved in determining qualitative impacts. Whether your opinions prevail, or those of neighbors with opposing views, depends on



Community planners weigh in on developments of all sizes in their neighborhoods. (sandiego.gov)

Community planning groups are the city of San Diego's recognized organizations of volunteer individuals tasked with reviewing proposed projects and plans. Planning groups examine compatibility with community goals and vision, and provide recommendations to city staff, the Planning Commission, and the City Council. Members serve two- to four-year terms and can significantly influence the conversation of neighborhood priorities and the future of communities. Residents and local business owners know their communities best. Planning groups share their expertise and give guidance to decision-makers at the city. The community planning process also helps link the public to the project proponents, answering questions about proposals and gaining insightful feedback which is often incorporated into final projects.

who shows up. In 2015, there has never been a better year to be in the room because of two major events on the horizon.

First: Who are the deciders? Elections for new, or renewed, planning group members will determine the makeup of these neighborhood advisers. Residents, business owners and property owners are eligible to serve on planning groups, and to vote in elections. You can show up and help decide your community's future. See the schedule in the box below for your community's March election meeting.

Second: What is guiding the deciders? In Uptown, North Park and Golden Hill/South Park communities, we are expecting to finalize a multi-year effort to update and renew community plans to culminate

see Planning, page 8

Letters

Tallying two-wheeled trauma

While I found this article written by the editor of the SD Uptown News to be quite informative and helpful [see "How dangerous is bicycling?" Vol. 6 Issue 4], it neglected to address two pertinent issues regarding safety and bicycling.

First, as stated in an article written in the U-T San Diego on Nov. 22, 2014, "According to the 2,515 accident reports on crashes between cyclists and motorists resulting in injury or death of a bicyclist in SD County from 2011-Sept. 2014, it was the cyclist who was most often found at fault, when fault was determined."

It goes on to state that in 2012 cyclists were 60 percent at fault, in 2013 they were 56 percent at fault, and in 2014 they were 57 percent at fault. While the Marshall article discusses many accidents, it never mentions this fact.

Secondly, the article lists several ways a cyclist can protect himself, such as helmets, mapping out routes ahead, etc.; it never mentions the most important fact (law) that a cyclist is supposed to follow. The cyclist is supposed to follow the same laws the motorist follows, including stopping at stop signs, riding with the flow of traffic, stopping for pedestrians crossing streets and roads, not weaving in and out of traffic, not riding on sidewalks, and using turn indicators (or hand signals) to indicate their intent. Many times I have driven in San Diego and watched bicyclists dart in front of me, swerve around a pedestrian in a crosswalk or on the sidewalk, or blatantly ride right through a stop sign without even a hint of stopping. If bicyclists start follow the laws, I wonder how many accidents will be prevented?

W. Reed,
Bankers Hill

TargetExpress and its future neighbors

I hope you will print this letter regarding the Target debacle in South Park [see "South Park TargetExpress delays opening" Vol. 6 Issue 4].

While Target claims to want to be a future good neighbor in South Park, their positioning of a TargetExpress is merely corporate greed. I have to ask why, when there is so much opposition, Target would still insist on locating on the corner of Grape and Fern streets. Agreeing to stock belts, sunglasses, hardware and organic vegetables will not compensate for the fact that a traffic nightmare and safety hazard will result from a Target at this location.

At noon on Friday, Feb. 13, I tried to visit the Mission Valley Target store. I say "tried." Apparently the parking lot was full. I could not get anywhere near the place, and it took me 20 minutes to re-route myself to Texas Street.

Aren't there other locations that would welcome Target and where their presence would be welcomed? Why push — unwanted — into the South Park community? However Target veils its motivations and bends over to provide organic vegetables (when possible), it's still nothing but corporate greed. Be a good neighbor, Target and please leave. It's just not a good match for our community.

Connie Dahl,
South Park

San Diego Uptown News

123 Camino de la Reina, Suite 202 East
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 519-7775
Twitter: @SD_UptownNews



PUBLISHER

David Mannis
(619) 961-1951
david@sd cnn.com

EDITOR

Hutton Marshall
(619) 961-1952
hutton@sd cnn.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Morgan M. Hurley, x110
Jeremy Ogul, x119

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Jen Van Tieghem, x118
jen@sd cnn.com

COPY EDITOR

Dustin Lothspeich

CONTRIBUTORS

Charlene Baldrige
B.J. Coleman
David Espinoza
Katherine Hon
Frank Sabatini Jr.
David Smollar
Catherine Spearnak
Lucia Viti
Chris Ward

ART DIRECTOR

Vincent Meehan
(619) 961-1961
vincent@sd cnn.com

PRODUCTION ARTISTS

Todd Kammer, x115
Suzanne Dzialo

SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR

Mike Rosensteel
(619) 961-1958
mike@sd cnn.com

ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS

Sloan Gomez
(619) 961-1954
sloan@sd cnn.com

Frank Lechner
(619) 961-1971
Frank@sd cnn.com

Andrew Bagley, x106

Lisa Hamel, x107

Yana Shayne, x113

Ilka Weston, x105

ACCOUNTING

Priscilla Umel-Martinez
(619) 961-1962
accounting@sd cnn.com

WEB DESIGNER

Kim Espinoza
kim@sd cnn.com

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NORTH PARK YOUTH WINS \$100,000 CHEF AWARD

On Feb. 24, North Park 13-year-old Nathan Odom won the third season of "Masterchef Junior." As the winner, Odom received \$100,000 from the Fox reality cooking show, reported San Diego's Fox 5.

Both Odom and his opponent, Andrew Zapple, prepared a three-course meal for judges Gordon Ramsay, Graham Elliot and Joe Bastianich. Odom roasted fennel gratin and French ham with a side of shaved fennel and grapefruit salad for the appetizer. His entrée was an herb encrusted lamb chop with fava beans and white asparagus puree. And for dessert, he made an Earl Grey tea tart with Meyer lemon and blood orange coulis.

Odom has been cooking since he was 6.

In a Q&A with U-T San Diego, Odom said his ideal weekend in San Diego is hanging out with some friends, going to the beach or arcade and eating some of San Diego's local fare. His favorite San Diego restaurants include City Tacos, The SafeHouse, Santouka Ramen and Luigi's At the Beach.

GEORGIA STREET BRIDGE TO BE RENOVATED

Councilmember Todd Gloria announced the Georgia Street Bridge is one step closer to receiving \$9.5 million in federal funds to fix its structural deficiencies. The City Council's Infrastructure Committee recently approved the funding plan, and the full council is expected to take up the issue for final approval in March.

The Georgia Street Bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. It now requires seismic retrofitting and rehabilitation, as well as other structural improvements. San Diego has been working with Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration to find the best engineering alternatives.

"This is a key infrastructure investment," Gloria stated in a press release. "Today's action ensured the historic Georgia Street Bridge will be repaired and preserved to remain a landmark between North Park and Hillcrest. I am grateful to the Infrastructure Committee for their support of this project and for the federal funds that are making the renovations possible."

The project will focus on the bridge and the existing walls on University Avenue between Florida Street and Park Boulevard. The bridge will be partially reconstructed; vertical clearance will increase; new curbs and gutters will be added, the sidewalk on the southern side will be replaced; and bike sharrows will be added to the outside lanes.

Construction is anticipated to begin this fall and take approximately one year to complete.

CITY TO RECONSIDER PLASTIC BAG BAN

The city of San Diego will once again consider its own plastic bag ban now that the statewide ban has been put on hold until a referendum vote decides the law's fate in 2016.

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla certified the signatures gathered to put a

referendum on the November 2016 ballot to repeal the state's plastic bag ban (SB 270) that Governor Jerry Brown signed into law last year.

According to the American Progressive Bag Alliance, more than 800,000 signatures were submitted by Dec. 29, which is the deadline to qualify the referendum.

According to the Surfrider Foundation, Mayor Kevin Faulconer instructed the city staff to restart the environmental review process needed to bring a plastic bag ban to the City Council for a vote. Council President Sherri Lightner reaffirmed her support for the measure.

"The citizens of San Diego treasure our vibrant communities and beautiful coastline, as well as a healthy ocean, and that's why the pollution caused by billions of these single-use plastic bags simply can't continue," Lightner stated in a press release.

To date, 138 California municipalities have enacted a plastic bag ban.

HBA PRESENTS 'PRIDE PLAZA' DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS

At the February meeting of the Hillcrest Town Council (HTC), Hillcrest Business Association (HBA) Executive Director Ben Nicholls and Walter Chambers of the Hillcrest Community Development Corporation (HCDC) presented redevelopment plans for the Normal Street corridor, also known as "Pride Plaza." Nicholls said the plan, which has been unanimously approved by the HBA's executive committee, involves creating a civic space within Hillcrest. Normal Street, he continued, with its extra-wide configuration, is the perfect solution.

Nicholls pointed out that not only is Normal Street used for the Hillcrest Farmers Market, the LGBT Pride Parade and several annual HBA events, but that crowds attending various events throughout the year at the informal gathering space around Pride Plaza generally "spill out into the street and police have to close it."

He said development plans would extend the public space out into the area of University Avenue / Normal Street intersection. Three options were presented at the meeting, each incorporating ideas from SANDAG bicycle lane requirements, input from the newly formed HCDC, and taking into account the needs of the Uptown Community Parking District and local businesses, something of great importance to the HBA.

"To pay for a project like this, a variety of funding sources will need to be tapped," Nicholls said. "Some decisions will require creative funding solutions. We may not get all that we want, but we may have to make sacrifices and trade-offs."

The plan would be addressed in phases, Nicholls said, with phase one encompassing the short block between University Avenue and Harvey Milk Street, the area closest to the business district.

"HBA and parking district money can pool funds for this phase one — there is a lot of money available if we format [the plans] in the right way," he said.

Phase two would be the long block between Harvey Milk Street and Lincoln Avenue.

Phase three would be the final block between Lincoln Avenue and Washington Street. Options presented included a variety of configurations, incorporating bike lanes, using café-style tables, light canopies, movable bollards to create a "flex-space" that could be used for parking by day and a gathering space by night, movable planters to create green space and the use of textured pavement to denote multiple use areas.

Nicholls pointed to the fact that the wide median currently in place forces those in wheelchairs to "go all the way around." Textured pavement would provide delimiters for the multi-use areas and still allow for wheelchair accessibility.

"None of these ideas are fixed," Chambers said. "These are concepts and nothing is written in stone."

Chambers added that the HCDC is encouraging community input through their Facebook and Twitter accounts. Nicholls said the HBA will display renderings of the Pride Plaza in their information booth at the Hillcrest Farmers Market — viewable throughout March and April — where community members can offer ideas and suggestions. Next, they will create a "paint and planter pilot," a temporary, replicate version of the plan and install it on the street for six months, inviting traffic reviews and community and city involvement.

For more information, visit hillcrestbia.org or find the CDC on Facebook under "Foundation for the Public Realm" or @HillcrestCDC on Twitter.

NORMAL HEIGHTS FINANCIAL CONSULTANT AWARDED

Taylor Schulte, a Normal Heights resident, the founder and CEO of Define Financial, has received SD Metro's 2015 Metro Movers award for his contributions to the financial planning profession.

"I am honored to receive the Metro Movers award and be part of this select group of San Diegans making a difference in their professions and in the community," Schulte stated in a press release. "I started this company to provide objective, financial advice and help clients build a successful financial future, and I am thrilled to be recognized for my work."

The award is given to those in the San Diego community who have made outstanding con-

tributions to their jobs and are poised to add to their achievements in 2015.

Schulte founded Define Financial in June 2014, which specializes in financial planning and wealth management for people and small businesses. Before that, he worked as a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley and previously launched the San Diego operations for Beverly Hills Wealth Management. He is also a regular contributor to Uptown News sister paper San Diego Downtown News. ♦

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Mission Hills Town Council update

By David Espinoza

At the annual trustees retreat on Jan. 24, the Mission Hills Town Council (MHTC) reinstated the research of a full and permanent closure of University Avenue (between Ibis and Front streets) as a top agenda item for 2015. This discussion evolved from a single-lane closure design that was initiated by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) on this same stretch of the University Avenue artery connecting Mission Hills to Hillcrest. Modification to University Avenue is part of SANDAG's Uptown Bike Corridor Project planning already underway in Bankers Hill and Hillcrest. This is just one of many topics that were discussed.

The MHTC trustees retreat each January for a year-in-review and year-at-glance planning session. Some of the 2014 achievements include representing the community voice on the bike corridor project at town hall meetings, a successful summer concert series in Pioneer Park, a Fourth of July community parade and BBQ contest, an American Veteran public art mural installation, a town hall discussion regarding a new Mission Hills Branch Library, and coordination with the San Diego Police Department and Mission Hills Business Improvement District (BID) on crime and homelessness prevention and protocols. Some of these items will roll over into the 2015 agenda and will be discussed at an upcoming town hall.

There will be three town hall meetings in 2015. The first is scheduled at 6 p.m. on April 9 at Francis Parker Elementary School. The MHTC proudly invites the community to attend and take part in the voice and vision of Mission Hills. These meetings are organized by the Town Council and provide a forum for Mission Hills residents, businesses and local and state level government representatives to meet and participate in the discussions. In 2014, Councilmember Todd Gloria, Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins and Beth Robrahn from SANDAG's Bike Corridor Project were just some of the government representatives who attended town hall meetings to engage with residents.

The Town Council greatly encourages residents and business owners to participate and stay informed by becoming a member of the MHTC, signing up for the monthly newsletter and following updates on MissionHillsTownCouncil.org. The MHTC is currently accepting sponsorships for the 2015 Friday night concert series at Pioneer Park in June, July and August. For questions, comments and for information on how to get involved, please reach the MHTC by email at Info@MissionHillsTownCouncil.org.

—David Espinoza is a Mission Hills Town Council board member. ♦

FROM PAGE 6 PLANNING

in drafts and feedback this year. Want high-density buildings with affordable housing? Preservation of the historic character around you? Streetcars and bicycle lanes? All these planning goals and more are under debate, and when the process is finished, we will have a vision for 20-30 years that outlines our agreed upon goals and objectives for each community. Future projects, plans and conversation will tie right back to that work.

Decisions are made by those that show up. To be sure, nowhere is that more important than right in your own backyard. Just like national policies change at the whims of Democrats and Republicans voting or staying home, your own community is shaped by those that participate.

—Chris Ward is a member of Uptown Planners, which represents the communities of Bankers Hill/Park West, Middletown, Mission Hills, Hillcrest and portions of University Heights. He is a resident of University Heights and a 2016 candidate for the City Council in District 3.

Upcoming Meetings and Community Planning Group Elections:

Uptown Planners: Tues, March 3 – 6:00pm
Joyce Beers Community Center, 3900 Vermont Street
7 of 15 positions up for election (4 year term)

Normal Heights Planning Group: Tues, March 3 – 6:00pm
Normal Heights Community Center, 4649 Hawley Boulevard
7 of 15 positions up for election (2 year term)

Old Town Community Planning Group: Wed, March 11 – 3:30pm
Whaley House Courtroom, 2482 San Diego Avenue
5 of 15 positions up for election (3 year term)

Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee:
Wed, March 11 – 6:30pm
Balboa Park Golf Course Clubhouse, 2600 Golf Course Drive
8 of 15 positions up for election (2 year term)

Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group: Wed, March 11 – 6:30pm
Copley-Price YMCA, 4300 El Cajon Boulevard
8 of 15 positions up for election (2 year term)

North Park Planning Committee: Tues, March 17 – 6:30pm
North Park Christian Fellowship, 2901 North Park Way 2nd Floor
8 of 15 positions up for election (2 year term) ♦

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Farrell says AVACEN improves her sense of well-being and helps her sleep. She uses it for 30 minutes, twice a day, usually in the evening. "When I do the machine in the evening, my sleep comes faster and it is definitely, definitely more restful,"

Farrell says she was skeptical about AVACEN when she started using it a year and a half ago. As a test, she stopped using it for a month and her pain returned. "I stopped for awhile and the proof was that everything came back. A sharp pain in my fingers or stiffness. When I don't use the machine, my fingers become very stiff. And I don't play the piano well because I don't have mobility in my fingers," she said.

AVACEN Medical is dedicated to the innovation and development of drug free alternatives to treat pain associated with diseases such as arthritis, fibromyalgia and migraines. For more information and video testimonials go to AVACEN.com.



The famous Stevens building at the corner of University Avenue and 30th Street (Courtesy of the Hartley family)

First and tallest at North Park's 'Busy Corner'

By Katherine Hon

For more than 100 years, the intersection of University Avenue and 30th Street has been North Park's "Busy Corner." While buses dominate the public transport scene today, the No. 2 and No. 7 lines were originally streetcars. The San Diego Electric Railway Company cut through the ridge at Georgia Street and laid track along University Avenue out to Fairmount Avenue in 1907. This became the No. 7 line. In 1909, the No. 2 line along 30th Street reached Upas Street by spanning Switzer Canyon on a steel truss bridge; by 1911, the No. 2 and No. 7 lines connected at University Avenue. At last the prediction made in the San Diego Union on Aug. 11, 1907, came true: "The beautifully located territory at the intersection of that [University] Avenue and 30th Street is sure to be the most valuable of that section ... With two lines of transportation, [the area] is to become a highly favored section."

What is now the Western Dental Building on the northwest corner was among the first and is still the tallest of all commercial buildings at the Busy Corner. Carter Construction Company built the three-story structure in 1912 for the real estate partnership of William Jay Stevens and John ("Jack") Hartley. The original architecture featured transom windows at the first floor and a projecting tile roof above the third floor windows. A pharmacy dominated the first floor for more than 80 years, starting with J.L. Haggard's soda fountain, then Joseph Hallawell's North Park Drug Store, and later Robertson's Pharmacy and Pioneer Pharmacy. Through the 1920s, a special counter in the drug store served as the U.S. Post Office for the community.

Stevens & Hartley opened an office in downtown San Diego in 1905 and moved to their new office building in North Park in 1913. Jack was the eldest son in the Hartley family. In 1893, his father James bought 40 acres between Ray and 32nd streets from Univer-

sity Avenue to Dwight Street and named it "Hartley's North Park," starting what eventually became the collective name for the general area. The Hartley family provided land for the community's first fire station, developed the row of shops on the south side of University Avenue between 30th and Ray streets ("Hartley Row"), and later operated a service station on the southeast corner of University Avenue and Ray Street. Will Stevens was Jack Hartley's brother-in-law, having married Hartley's sister Delia Anna in 1901. From their prominent office at the Busy Corner, Stevens & Hartley sold commercial and residential properties.

In 1926, Carter Construction Company built an arcaded, Mediterranean-style annex that extended to the west along University Avenue. A two-story tower unit roofed in red tile anchored each end of the annex, with four units in between. Henry and Daisy Leighton operated their cafe on the first floor and lived on the second floor of the western tower. Dan Harmer and Robert Dent operated a shoe store in the eastern tower. Other early businesses included Mrs. Head's confectionery shop and Lee Millikan's men's haberdashery. When his partnership with Jack Hartley ended in 1927, Will Stevens took an office in the annex, keeping his name on the three-story commercial building.

After 1945, a smooth "slip-cover" modernized the original facade of the 1913 building and its ornate annex. But the tops of the two towers are visible from an upper floor of the North Park parking garage. Imagine how grand it would be to see the whole annex restored to its original arcaded glory!

For a detailed history of the commercial area and the Hartley family's extensive role in the development of North Park, go to Paras Newsstand at 3911 30th Street for Donald Covington's book, "North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946," published by the North Park Historical Society. Also available at Paras Newsstand (among other North Park stores includ-

ing Pigment, Kaleidoscope and North Park Hardware) is the North Park Historical Society's latest book, "Images of America: San Diego's North Park." This summer, the North Park Historical Society (NorthParkHistory.org) and North Park Main Street (northparkmainstreet.com) will present a commercial walking tour focused on the Busy Corner. Watch their websites and email blasts for date, time, and tickets.

—Katherine Hon is secretary of the North Park Historical Society. ♦

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A tandoori oven in an unlikely place



(l to r) Rogan josh, basmati rice and lamb curry (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)



(above) House-made samosas; (below) Chicken shish kabob plate (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



Restaurateur and aircraft engineer Mayur Vadhwana brings Indian cuisine to areas where people least expect it.

In the late '90s he introduced to the citizens of Duluth, Minnesota, that city's first Indian restaurant, which endures today under different ownership. More

recently, he opened Indian Grill on Old Town's main drag, where nut-stuffed naan bread and vindaloo curry are a first in a neighborhood flocked by tacos and burritos.

Yet from the look of things, nobody's proclaiming culinary sacrilege.

The bright, colorful space with its spacious outdoor patio has attracted a steady patronage by locals and tourists since opening a few months ago. A growing number of Brits have also come knocking for curry dishes they've grown accustomed to in their homeland, such as yogurt-laced

rogan josh and classic tikka masala cooked as such by Indian immigrants across England.

As a result, Vadhwana plans on adding more English-upheld Indian fare to the menu, focusing perhaps on jalfrezi-style dishes in which vegetables and marinated meats are cut into long strips and stir-fried in a riot of spices.

Vadhwana is a native of Gujarati,

India, and works by day at his engineering job before warmly greeting dinner-time visitors at the restaurant. His menu is co-authored by New Jersey-based chef Arvind Panchal, who helps open Indian kitchens around the country.

Aside from goat appearing as a protein option, the menu features familiar dishes seen at most Indian restaurants around town. The house-made samosas, however, rank among the best. They're available in veggie or chicken and boast crispy casings with onion seeds embedded into them.

The raita scores high points, too. As a condiment for naan bread or a dipping sauce for meat, this yogurt-cucumber-mint admixture typically takes on overloads of salt. Here, the sodium is eliminated and shredded carrots are added, resulting in a sweet-sour flavor that had us spooning every last speck from the bowl.

A clay tandoori oven imported from India serves as the cooking source for most dishes, including lamb or chicken shish kabobs. We chose the latter, which featured a few necklaces of succulent thigh meat brushed with tamarind, garlic, mint and cilantro. It's a recipe that Vadhwana proudly calls his own — and certainly a cut above most others.

Heat levels for the curry-based dishes are available in

mild, medium or hot rather than a 10-scale number system.

"We don't use that kind of razzmatazz," Vadhwana quipped. "It's too difficult to calibrate all those levels."

For madras curry with lamb that my companion chose, it came mild as requested and was a tad oily. The sauce is among the thickest since it embodies coconut milk and dense measures of turmeric, coriander, cumin and cloves. Though in Indian restaurants that don't cater as much to American palates, the recipe unleashes a good dose of chili peppers.

I ordered rogan josh with shrimp at medium heat level, which fell slightly below the spiciness I expected. The tomato-yogurt sauce was nonetheless tangy and brightly spiced with turmeric, though without obliterating the flavor of several large shrimp contained within. The sauce was abundant, with plenty leftover to juice up the fluffy long-grain basmati rice served alongside.

Other categories on the menu featuring a choice of proteins include daal saag (spinach and lentils), korma (creamy sauce with nuts), kadai (onions and bell peppers) and vindaloo (vinegar-based curry sauce). Minced lamb or chicken, known as keema, and what Vadhwana calls "a short-cut version" of spiced biryani rice, are also available along with a dozen vegetarian entrees.

Dishes are made to order, including excellent naan bread topped or stuffed with various ingredients such as meat, onions, nuts or garlic. In other words, the food takes several minutes longer to arrive at your table compared to other Indian restaurants that keep pots of cooked meats simmering all day on the stove. But as we found when savoring the exotic flavors lingering on our tongues between courses, it's worth the wait.

—Contact Frank Sabatini Jr. at fsabatini@san.rr.com.

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Sangria encounters at a neighborhood gem

(l to r) Pineapple-pomegranate and orange-pear sangrias; Fontina cheese fondue with assorted dippers (Photos by Dr. Ink)

Come On Get Happy! Dr. Ink

We were overdue to descend on one of my favorite neighborhood hotspots for a sangria bath.

Previous visits to Café 21 in Normal Heights have always involved diving into full meals cooked by chef extraordinaire Layla Javadov, who owns the darling café with her husband, Alex. The couple is from Azerbaijan, and they also run a second location in the Gaslamp District as well as the cocktail-focused Zymology a few blocks away on Fifth Avenue.

For some time now, they've been concocting a variety of house-made sangrias accented with every fruit and spice imaginable. During happy hour, four

flavors are available: two reds and two whites. A generous serving of the stuff, ladled into hefty wine goblets, costs only \$4 a glass.

Chablis was the basis of the white sangria I ordered, made with muddled pineapple and spiked with a splash of vodka and a touch of agave. Fleishy pomegranate seeds bobbing within added prettiness, although the amalgamation of soft, fruity flavors put to shame many of the

classic sangrias I've slurped at Spanish restaurants. This was teasingly sweet and more refined.

My drinking cohort ordered the orange-pear spiked also with vodka, but using a dark-red table wine. Here, the grapes from the vino were prominent, a wine lover's sangria revealing only faint nuances of the orange and pear. Though not fruity enough to qualify for a punch bowl, it nonetheless went down in big, easy sips.

Several draught beers are also discounted for happy hour, ranging from \$3 to \$4.50 a pint. On this particular day they included Mama's Little Yella Pils, Six Killer Coffee Stout and Smoked Porter from Stone Brewing — a tempting lineup but one that we easily resisted in the face of titillating sangrias.

It's difficult to pass up gorging on Café 21's food. Luckily a discounted tapas menu is in place that lends restraint. Each small plate is priced at \$5, and there are many to choose from.

Fontina cheese fondue served with apples and veggies

Café 21

2736 Adams Ave. (Normal Heights)
619-640-2121 Happy hour: 3 to 6 p.m.,
daily



was outstanding. A hint of Gorgonzola and Parmesan cheeses added zip to the mixture. We also ordered a buttery potato pancake topped with shredded short rib meat that was braised in figs and Chai tea. Our final wash-down was flourless chocolate cake with berry compote, which rose above your everyday variety with balanced, layered flavors similar to the liquids in our glasses.

Hurray for Café 21. Even when prices drop during happy hour, the establishment upholds an eye for quality and detail on everything you put into your mouth. ♦

RATINGS

DRINKS: ★★★★★

Four different sangrias are available each day. The pineapple-pomegranate was our favorite while the orange-pear tasted more wine-y than fruity.

FOOD: ★★★★★

The food at Café 21 is consistently excellent no matter when you visit. Standouts from the happy hour menu include tapas-size fontina fondue, a potato pancake with braised short rib and Gorgonzola cheese and molten, flourless chocolate cake.

VALUE: ★★★★★

A lot of heart and soul goes into the sangrias and tapas, yet nothing costs more than \$5.

SERVICE: ★★★★★

Customers are greeted quickly with a specific menu of happy hour specials by staffers who are fast, friendly and knowledgeable about the drinks and food.

ATMOSPHERE: ★★★★★

A cozy and hip vibe pervades inside and on the outdoor patio. And we loved the "world radio" music program playing on Pandora



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Civic boosterism and the 1915 exposition

By David Smollar

There was nothing subtle in promotion brochures enticing Americans to venture west for the Panama-Pacific Exposition, which opened Jan. 1, 1915, in Balboa Park.

"At least in a thousand ways, it is the greatest of expositions, because it is so original in its conception and execution, so absolutely unique and so different from all other like enterprises that have been heretofore attempted," began the purple prose of the exposition's official guide.

The promoters promised an unmatched story of the Incas, Aztecs and Mayans to rival the history and mythology of Europe and Asia.

"Know you that in the last decade discoverers have learned a vast amount concerning the mighty races of red men who went out of existence centuries ago; that explorers for the Smithsonian Institute and the School of American Archaeology and the San Diego Exposition have uncovered ancient cities and brought to the Exposition for first exhibit the priceless relics they found?"

No boredom was possible at the San Diego extravaganza, promoters continued. With industrial exhibits, a staple of world fairs in the early 20th century, "a new idea has been carried out whereby there is an effort to make each exhibit interesting ... not a carpet, but the making of a carpet, not a utensil, but the making of that utensil, so that products which are seen every day, and in themselves are not particularly interesting, are made interesting by study of how they are made."

Even the agricultural displays were trumpeted with a twist to promote a popular back-to-the-land movement at the time.

"The model [farm] bungalow? Well, that is for the wife of the prospective farmer, who feels that the problem of keeping the boy on the farm is no more serious than keeping the girl on the farm. That potential farm-wife is going to see that just as machinery has cut down the labors of the farmer of a generation or two ago, so it has removed the drudgery which fell to the lot of the old-time farm-wife."

Of course, would-be visitors would be looking for more than simply intellectual stimulation in undertaking a major rail or motor trip to the nation's southwest corner. So the exposition touted the Isthmus, a carnival-like midway that paralleled today's walkway between the Natural History Museum and Roosevelt Middle School.

"A mile of clean, genuine entertainment ... San Diego claims the best amusement street in the history of world's fairs!"

And lest visitors fear a run on their pocketbooks while on exposition grounds, there was a promise that the many restaurants along the Isthmus would have prices controlled by the authorities, "whereby extortion is prevented."

Not just the exposition was painted in glowing terms. Travel brochures held nothing back as well in their depictions of San Diego itself as nature's ultimate paradise.

"An all-the-year Exposition, with doors and windows thrown wide, and most of it all in the open, were possible nowhere in America except

in California," marveled promoters. "And nowhere in California were it so ideally possible as in San Diego, where January is the same as June, where summer never dies, where skies are always blue."

The Balboa Park site "is where myriad flowers and shrubs and trees are forever in bloom and blossom — a hill of 250 acres that looks down on sea and shore and the sunny waters of the sunniest of harbors that stretch to the tumbling seas ... a spot ravishing in its beauty."

With such unparalleled attributes, San Diego "is now, as it must forever be, the first port of America at which ships will call as they cleave the continents with buoyant sails from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

Not to be outdone, the County Board of Supervisors issued its own publicity efforts, touting the climate as unquestionably the best in the nation: "It may have its equal in the world, but no superior."

Supervisors extolled San Diego as "a city of homes and a sportsman's paradise." The beaches were incomparable. The backcountry mountain areas were equaled only by Yosemite National Park. The library was among the nation's finest. The city had more automobiles in proportion to its population (80,000) than any other city in America. The politicians predicted that two transcontinental railroads would soon terminate in the city, and that San Diego was destined to become "the future New York of the Pacific Coast."

Tourists thoroughly tempted at this point were given the additional nudge of special rail fares for 1915.

Between Chicago and San Diego, round-trip tickets on the Santa Fe or Southern Pacific routes were set at \$62.50 in coach (\$1442 in 2015 dollars. Amtrak round-trip fares today begin at \$412). The cheapest sleeping berth would run an additional \$5.60 round-trip (\$129 in 2015 dollars. Amtrak's cheapest round-trip room berth now starts at \$1524). For an additional \$30 (\$692 in 2015 dollars), a traveler could make a circle route from Chicago to San Diego, then to Los Angeles, San Francisco (with its Panama-Pacific International Exposition), Portland, Seattle, and back to Chicago.

The Santa Fe Railway recommended accommodations at The US Grant hotel with its "reinforced concrete and steel construction," at rates of \$1.50 to \$4.50 per night (\$34.60 to \$103.60 in 2015 dollars. Actual rates today begin at \$199 per night.) The US Grant was one of 76 hotels sanctioned by the Exposition itself for promotion to visitors — "all signing contracts to maintain normal rates during 1915, averting extortion common in previous world's fairs."

Eight of these hotel buildings still exist today, and four — the Grant, the New Southern, the Sanford and the Golden West — have the same name as a century ago. The Wilsonia, at 1545 2nd Avenue, the Keystone at 10th and Broadway, and the Carnegie, on 9th between Broadway and C, are now apartments. The Polhemus, on C near 7th, is today the C Street Inn.

In 1915, the Golden West was the cheapest, with rates from 75 cents to \$1.25 (\$17.32 to \$28.84 in 2015 dollars). The poshest rooms

were to be found at the Sanford for \$6 (\$138.84) and at the Barbara Worth, "a hotel for your wife, your mother, your sister, and yourself," on the Horton Plaza side of today's Westfield Mall, where a suite with two rooms and bath would set a visitor back \$7 (\$161.51 in 2015 dollars).

While most out-of-town visitors would come by rail, the exposition made arrangements for the growing popularity of the automobile, and especially for members of various motor club organizations around the country to receive gasoline and repairs at shops strategically located along a southwesterly route from Kansas City, roughly paralleling what later became U.S. Route 66 a decade later.

As if anticipating a future betenour about Balboa Park, the fair arranged parking for 3,500 vehicles at both north and south exposition entrances. "Checkers will furnish the owner with a ticket in exchange for which, later, the car will be returned with the necessary attentions in the way of oil, water, gasoline and minor repairs. Uniformed guards will protect the contents of the cars from pilfering."

For exposition and San Diego officialdom, there was no doubt to be had in 1915: "By land or by sea, all roads lead to San Diego and the Exposition."

To them, "The year 1915 is one of America travel," given the four-month-old war in Europe. "San Diego is the loadstone."

—Contact David Smollar at djsmollar@yahoo.com. ♦



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'A rare and magical project'

Ascending the California Tower

By Catherine Spearnak

For the past 80 years, a superb view of San Diego has been limited to philanthropists with hundreds and thousands of dollars to donate to the Museum of Man in Balboa Park.

Now anyone with about 20 bucks can see it.

"We all agreed it was too important a public asset to reserve for VIPs," said Micah Parzen, CEO of the Museum of Man, the showcase museum that houses the California Tower.

Reopened to the public with plenty of fanfare on New Year's Day, the tower boasts 25-mile views to Mexico, the Pacific Ocean, and the mountains east of Downtown.

Now, 120 museum visitors walk up the tower's 125 steps every day, seven days a week to enjoy the 360-degree outdoor view.

The tour sells out almost daily and guests need to reserve tickets two to three weeks in advance for tours on the weekends. Groups of 12 walk up 10 separate times during the day, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., accompanied by two museum guides.

Tickets are \$22.50 for adults.

The colorful tiled, domed tower is an iconic San Diego landmark and can be seen from both Downtown and Uptown neighborhoods. It rises about 150 feet from the base of the Museum of Man, one of the park's 15 major museums, and is located next to The Old Globe Theatre.

The California Tower is a permanent structure originally built for the 1915 Panama California Exposi-

tion. It closed to the public in 1935 for unknown reasons and wasn't reopened until this Jan. 1.

Plans to refurbish and reopen the tower began three years ago, said Parzen, who called the stairwell the museum's "attic."

"The planning was three years in the making and 80 years in the imagining," Parzen said, referring to the amount of time the tower was closed.

For those three years, Parzen and museum staff wound their way through a maze of city meetings, historic building regulations and planning board hearings, working to get the tower open to the public.

"But this was one of those rare and magical projects everyone wanted to see happen," he said.

Last Sept. 14, the museum was awarded its building permits from the city, and in just over three months, put the tower staircase project together in time for the New Year's Day centennial celebration of Balboa Park.

"Of all the renovations and restorations in Balboa Park this year, I am perhaps most personally excited about the reopening of the California Tower," said Councilmember Todd Gloria, whose district includes Balboa Park. "I have climbed the tower several times and am confident all visitors will be amazed with this renewed feature."

One visitor who fits that description is Bart Yarmouth, a graduate of San Diego High, located across the street from the park, who was visiting recently with his son.

"All my life I've wanted to climb

up in that tower," he said. "Now it's finally open. When I heard about it, I knew I had to be one of the first to climb it."

"It's somewhat equivalent to climbing the Empire State Building or the Sears Tower in New York," said North Park resident Wendy McNeill. "It gives tourists and residents a chance not only to see our city, but get behind it, too."

Parzen called the final ascent to the tower observation deck "one of those 'wow!' moments visitors will take home from their trip."

"The view of your city is breathtaking," noted Swiss tourist Stephanie Cavegn.

The tower tour begins at a side door on level one of the museum. Visitors wind their way up painted cement stairs. As they climb, they see the cement insides of the tower. No effort has been made to decorate, Micah said, because the museum wanted visitors to experience the tower as it was when it was built in 1915.



(left) Views from the California Tower, which recently opened to the public for the first time in 80 years; (right) the California Tower (Photos by Ron Sanchez)

Near the top of the tower, visitors climb a small, windy

black iron staircase, reaching the observation deck and an amazing view of San Diego, the ocean and Mexico. There are two levels above the observation deck, but the museum deemed it would cause a safety risk to open the small upper stairway to visitors.

Restoration of the tower cost the museum \$750,000, which was donated by the Legler Benbough Foundation.

The museum is still involved in a \$3 million fundraising campaign that, in addition to funding the tower restoration, includes \$1 million in funds to shore up the

museum over the coming years, and another \$1 million contribution toward museum education and exhibits.

Now, the tower will help raise those funds. In fact, the money from the 120 \$20 tickets the Museum of Man sells each day to those making the ascent goes directly into the coffers of the museum. That's approximately \$2,500 per day.

In addition, Parzen said since the tower opening, the museum's patronage has risen 30 percent. He called it a bonus for all the park's exhibitions.

"A rising tide lifts all ships," he said.

—Catherine Spearnak is a San Diego-based freelance writer. She can be reached at catherine.spearnak1@gmail.com.

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UPTOWN FOOD BRIEFS

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.



A stylish, new food emporium in Little Italy (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Little Italy’s culinary explosion continues with the recent opening of **Pan Bon** (“good bread”) by sibling bakers Luciano and Giancarlo Anselmi. The brothers previously ran a bread shop in Verona, Italy, although their U.S. venture on the ground floor of Ariel Suites is a massive 10,000-square-foot market of gorgeous confections, deli specialties and prepared foods reminiscent of the displays you’d find at indoor markets throughout Europe. There’s also breads made with wild yeast imported from Italy plus pizzas and various pasta dishes made onsite. *1450 Kettner Blvd., 619-373-5780.*

The Los Angeles-based chain eatery, **Lemonade**, will debut two locations in San Diego; first in Hillcrest and then inside University Town Center. Company reps, however, remained vague on their openings, with one of them telling us “summer or late fall” and adding “we don’t want our lemonade to become a consumer focus.” With six hard-to-ignore flavors in the offing, such as cucumber-mint and ginger-peach, the seasonal food menu will encompass a giant selection of “market” ingredients for custom-made salads, plus crafty sandwiches and “land and sea” proteins for meal plates. Its Hillcrest spot will go into the double-storefront vacated earlier this year by **Amici’s East Coast Pizzeria**. *3958 Fifth Ave., lemonadela.com.*

The recently opened tasting room in North Park by **Rip Current Brewing** now offers salads, sandwiches, pizzas and small plates from **Sublime**, a local vendor that operates the property’s kitchen. In addition, the San Marcos-based brewer has just re-introduced its lauded double IPA, Red Flag. The tasting room will officially hold its grand opening sometime in March and plans to add five more handles to the dozen-plus lineup. *4101 30th St., 619-793-4777.*



Chef and beer aficionado Oz Blackaller (Courtesy Cueva Bar)

Chef Oz Blackaller of **Cueva Bar** in University Heights is kicking off a four-part “Meet the Brewer” series beginning March 7 at his restaurant. The featured beers will be paired to various tapas created by Blackaller such as pork belly chilaquiles, rockfish tostadas and crab-stuffed piquillo peppers. First up is New English by **Sorrento Valley Brewery**. Brewmaster Simon Lacey will be on hand from noon to 3 p.m. to discuss the product. The series continues in April, May and June on dates to be announced. *2123 Adams Ave., 619-269-6612.*

—Frank Sabatini Jr. can be reached at fsabatini@rr.san.com. ♦

Selina Khan says of her new Pakistani-Indian restaurant in Hillcrest: “It’s a campaign for real curry, the way we make it at home in Pakistan.” Since opening **House of Khan** in early February in the space formerly occupied by **Mama Testa**, the full-service restaurant has been serving lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. The big sellers so far are kabob rolls and chicken curry plates. “Everything’s made in-house,” assures Khan, who started the business several years ago as a pop-up eatery in the College Area. In her new space, she’s installed industrial lighting and artwork from the subcontinent. *1417 University Ave., 760-580-9024.*

San Diegans can soon add “Canadian” to their list of ethnic dining options when **Mess Royale Poutine & Bagels** opens in Hillcrest in late March (and hopefully no later). The much-anticipated eatery, conceived by an entrepreneur from northeast Canada, will offer poutine made in classic French-Canadian style, which translates to cheese curds and light-brown gravy lopped onto a pile of French fries. Fancier versions using lobster and grilled chicken will be available as well, along with sandwiches made with bagels shipped in from a Montreal bakery. *142 University Ave*

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5		3	1	6		4		
						7		
	6		2		4	1		
	4				2			
7		1				6		9
			8				1	
		5	3		6		4	
	3							
		6		4	8	2		7

9/6

Uptown’s Sudoku Puzzle

Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

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Answer key, page 16

Uptown Crossword

Musical Chairs

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20					21						22			
				23			24		25					
26	27	28	29			30		31			32	33	34	
35					36		37		38					
39					40				41		42			
43				44		45					46			
47					48		49			50				
				51		52		53						
54	55	56			57		58				59	60	61	62
63					64					65				
66					67					68				
69					70					71				

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 '60s song, e.g.

6 Organic-orchard no-no

10 Pizza baker

14 Charo's rope

15 Group of badgers

16 Exec's car

17 Golden Horde member

18 Surprise attack

19 Water pipe

20 Gypsy song

22 Countertenor

23 Torn Paper artist

24 Sea swallow

26 Gene Autry's horse

31 Cared for

35 Lord Byron poem

36 Letter drop

38 Carpenter's box

39 Help a hood

40 Mah-jongg pieces

42 ___ Beach, FL

43 Home on the range

45 Stuff

46 Fiendish

47 Breathing disorder

49 Theater feature, once

51 Garden pest

53 Former NRC

54 Bible book

57 Girl Crazy song

63 View

64 Della's creator

65 Basketry willow

66 Stud's place

67 Groovy!

68 Henri's earth

69 Pt. of VISTA

70 Eye sore

71 Cornered

DOWN

1 Food bits

2 Novelist O'Flaherty

3 Info

4 Luigi's lang.

5 Montero feature

6 Greek hill

7 Edward or Evelyn

8 Slanted

9 Embarrass

10 Show Boat song

11 Medicine bottle

12 Radiate

13 Forbidden fruit

21 Sweatband's place

25 Baba ingredient

26 David Copperfield's

mother

27 Cantina beans

28 ___ We All: 1929 song

29 Fiddler on the Roof tune

30 Golfer Henke

32 Eydie's partner

33 Preternatural

34 Witty

37 Private talk

41 Dressmaker

44 Clinic letters

48 Sigourney sequel

50 Marge, of the Reds

52 Everglades bird

54 Poet ___ Wheeler Wilcox

55 Kind of lens

56 Kimono

58 Oil of ___

59 Crossword river

60 Service-station item

61 Roll-call reply

62 Early TV sitcom

Answer key, page 16

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1421 University Ave.
4070 Centre St.
1010 University Ave.
350 University Ave.
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4180 Park Blvd.
120 W. Washington St.
412 Washington St.
640 University Ave.
3702 Fifth Ave.
3960 Normal St.
110 W. Washington St.
805 W. Washington St.
734 University Ave.
4019 Goldfinch St.
1017 University Ave.
3628 Fifth Ave.
141 University Ave.
3965 Fifth Ave.
4033 Third Ave.
3845 Front St.
529 University Ave.
120 University Ave.
141 University Ave.
451 University Ave.
3361 Fourth Ave.
1112 Fort Stockton Dr.
220 Washington St.
804 University Ave.
3172 Fifth Ave.
4021 Falcon St.
3995 Fifth Ave.
3940 Fourth Ave.
1414 University Ave.
4048 Goldfinch St.
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1010 University Ave.
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4077 Fifth Ave.
302 Washington St.
3940 Fifth Ave.
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784 W. Washington St.
3801 Fifth Ave.
1240 University Ave.
1080 University Ave.
3909 Centre St.
3610 Fifth Ave.
1271 University Ave.
1010 University Ave.
301 W. Washington St.
200 W. Arbor Dr.
4168 Front St.
3900 Fifth Ave.
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Sudoku
Puzzle from page 15

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8	6	7	2	5	4	1	9	3
3	4	9	6	1	2	7	5	8
7	8	1	4	3	5	6	2	9
6	5	2	8	7	9	3	1	4
2	7	5	3	9	6	8	4	1
4	3	8	7	2	1	9	6	5
9	1	6	5	4	8	2	3	7

Musical Chairs
Crossword from page 15

OLDIE	ALAR	OVEN
RIATA	CETE	LIMO
TATAR	RAID	MAIN
SMALL	WORLD	ALTO
	ARP	TERN
CHAMPION	NURSED	
LARA	SLOT	MITER
ABET	TILES	VERO
RANCH	SATE	EVIL
ASTHMA	NEWS	REEL
	MOLE	AEC
EZRA	IGOT	RHYTHM
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Audience participants in La Jolla Playhouse's Without Walls presentation of "The Grift" at the Lafayette Hotel
(Photo by Jim Carmody)

Theater Review

Charlene Baldrige



Little Ben is the love child of Lana Turner and Bob Hope, conceived at the Lafayette Hotel in the days when both film stars had reputations to lose. So Little Ben was hidden from public view, his mother having given birth to him in one of the hotel suites. He never saw her again. The boy lived all his life at the Lafayette.

If you believe that one, playwright/director Tom Salamon, whose "The Grift" is playing at the hotel through March 22 as part of La Jolla Playhouse's WoW (Without Walls) Festival, will tell you another. Old hotels have legendary stories and this one, perhaps based in fact, is a doozy. Think of Eloise.

Filmed on his deathbed, Old Ben (Jim Chovick) charges the color-coded teams of audience members, each equipped with its own set of casks that contain clues, to learn cons that allow them to catch and bring to his knees a notorious grifter who bilked Ben's caretaker's grandmother out of her fortune. His name is Killer Joe (Bernard H. Kopso), and his downfall is effected through a series of cons, which we learn while meandering all over the vintage hotel, from a cabana off its famous swimming pool, to the life-sized chessboard, to the room in which Ben was raised by a series of nannies, lifeguards, bellhops and bartenders, and to the hotel restaurant for refreshments. No

wonder the kid himself grew up to be a latter day grifter.

Audience members are cautioned to wear comfortable shoes and bring their brain cells. The fortunate, as this writer was, will have team members who prove to be fleet of foot, acute of axons and dendrites, and un-cowed by being part of the action. (There is plenty of room for those who are cowed to hang back.) The smoothly timed arrivals and departures are the essence of immersive discoveries and disclosures. For the final con, an art auction with a switcheroo, we wind up once again in the ballroom.

Other acting company members and con teachers are Matt Thompson as the narrator, Yvette Angulo as the chambermaid's daughter, Lucas Coleman as the bartender's grandson, Dana Lau as the nanny's great-granddaughter, Scott Nickley as the lifeguard's grandson (my favorite scene) and Cris O'Bryon as the bellhop's grandson. By the end of the two-hour traipse, one feels like booking a room and falling into the hotel's glorious swimming pool.

The feeling of wanting to jump in must be attributed to writer/director Salamon, who is a specialist in developing immersive entertainment. Pun intended.



(left) Dana Lau as "The Nanny's Great-Granddaughter" with audience participants; (below) Scott Nickley (green poncho) as "The Lifeguard's Grandson" with audience participants
(Photos by Jim Carmody)



All praise to producing partner Diabolical Muse, and to the Playhouse design team, Laura Zingle, Amy Chini, Jennifer Brawn Gittings, Sergio Lopez, Michael Latimer, Jacob Bruce, Lisa Chan-Wylie, Sarah Wheeler, Sofia Zaragoza and Marie Shelton.

In case you're wondering, the Red Fox Steakhouse and Piano Bar, connected to the Lafayette Hotel, is alive and well in all its retro wonder.

—Contact Charlene Baldrige at charb81@cox.net. ♦

"The Grift" at the Lafayette Hotel

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Ian Lowe and Joe Kinosian. Photo by Joan Marcus.

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CalendarofEvents

FEATURED EVENTS

‘Big in Japan’
Friday, Feb. 27 – Thursday, March 5
The film, playing at Digital Gym (2921 El Cajon Blvd., North Park), is part comedy, part rock ‘n’ roll odyssey. It tells the story of a struggling rock band from Seattle, Tennis Pro (played by the real members of the band), as they take a journey to Tokyo for one last shot at success. “Big in Japan” premiered at last year’s SXSW Film Festival, and has shown at various other film fests, where it has garnered high praise. The storyline is loosely based on actual events, and the film was partly funded by a successful Kickstarter campaign by director John Jeffcoat (Outsourced). Visit digitalgym.org for showtimes and to purchase tickets.

Great Hillcrest Spring Clean
Saturday, Feb. 28
This annual event is co-sponsored by The Hillcrest Town Council (HTC), Hillcrest History Guild (HHG) and the Hillcrest Business Association (HBA) along with UCSD Medical Center. The event will start at 8 a.m. in two different locations; the “core/medical district” group will meet at the Hillcrest Shell Station, located at the northwest corner of Fourth Avenue and Washington Street. Ben Nicholls, executive director of the HBA, will direct that group. The group tackling

the eastern side will meet at Heat Bar and Kitchen, located on Park Boulevard near Essex Street, and Luke Terpstra, chair of the HTC, will lead that charge. The cleanup will begin at approximately 8:30 a.m. and end around noon. There will be coffee and donuts at each location, and all necessary supplies will be provided “HTC Clean T.E.A.M (together everyone achieves more)” T-shirts will be provided to new volunteers as long as supplies last. Previous volunteers are encouraged to wear their shirts. Happy hour will be held at Hillcrest Brewing Company (1458 University Ave.) after the cleanup. For more information visit hillcresttowncouncil.com or find “The Great Hillcrest Spring Clean” event on Facebook.

Read Across America Day
Wednesday, March 4
In honor of Dr. Seuss’ birthday (March 2) Franklin Elementary STEAM Magnet (4481 Copeland Ave., Kensington) will hold their own “Read Across America” event. It gives community members the chance to interact with students and parents by volunteering to be a reader for the day. Attendees are invited to wear a red or white top with black pants. The fun will take place from 9:30 a.m. – noon, starting with registration and refreshments. The scheduled events include a principal’s welcome at 9:45 a.m., recess at 10 a.m., a school tour at 10:15 a.m., classroom readings at 10:45 a.m., a Dr. Seuss parade at 11:15 a.m. and a school picnic at 11:30 a.m. For more information visit sandi.net/franklin.

Jaime Valle Latin Jazz Ensemble with Alex Acuna
Friday, March 6
The Athenaeum Jazz at The Studio series will wrap up with this final concert before the Studio of the Athenaeum School of the Arts (4441 Park Blvd., University Heights) moves to a new location. Jazz guitarist Jaime Valle — winner of multiple San Diego Music Awards — leads an ensemble for this show that includes Otmaro Ruiz (keyboards), Rene Camacho (bass) and Allan Phillips (percussion). They’ll be joined by special guest Alex Acuna (drums), a bandleader in his own projects and a well-versed session musician. Doors open at 7 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. For information and tickets visit ljathenaeum.org/jazz.html or call 858-454-5872.

Joe Marson at Lestat’s
Sunday, March 8
Rock/soul musician Joe Marson, one of five finalists in Guitar Center’s singer-songwriter competition, will soon perform at The Troubadour in Hollywood for a shot at a four-song EP produced by Don Was, a mentoring session with Colbie Caillat, \$25,000 and a performance on “Jimmy Kimmel Live.” But before Marson competes, he’ll appear in San Diego at Lestat’s (3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights) to flex his pipes and strum his guitar. The show starts at 8 p.m. For more information visit lestats.com and facebook.com/joemarsonmusic.

RECURRING EVENTS
Mondays:
Singing Storytime: 1:30 p.m., learn what’s going on inside your baby’s mind, strength-

en your bond and sing songs together at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org.
Open Mic Night: 7:30 p.m., the mic is open to you at Lestat’s Coffee House, 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, free. Lestats.com.
Tuesdays:
Curbside Bites: 5 – 8:30 p.m., gathering of gourmet food trucks at 3030 Grape St., South Park. Curbsidebites.com.
Tasty Truck Tuesdays: 6 – 9 p.m., Smitty’s Service Station hosts several food trucks under their well-lit shade structure, 3442 Adams Ave., Normal Heights. Sdfoodtrucks.com.
Open Mic Charlie’s: 7 – 10 p.m. (except the third Tuesday), open mic night at Rebecca’s Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. Rebeccas-coffeehouse.com.
Wednesdays:
Wang’s Trivia: 7 p.m., free trivia competition for prizes, tournament for \$1,000. Drink specials during trivia range \$3 – \$6. Wang’s North Park, 3029 University Ave., North Park. Wangsnorthpark.com.
Wednesday Night Experience: 7 – 8 p.m., uplifting and spiritually inspiring experiences for all, weekly at Universal Spirit Center, 3858 Front St., Hillcrest, love offering requested. Universalspiritcenter.org.
Young Lions Music Series: 7 p.m., each week features a new “young rising star” chosen by Gilbert Castellanos. Castellanos will also join in during the first set, the Expatriate Room, Croce’s Park West, 2760 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, \$5 cover. Crocesparkwest.com.

Storytelling: 7 – 8:45 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month featuring members of Storytellers of San Diego at Rebecca’s Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, donations welcome. Ages 12 and up. Storytellersofsandiego.org.
Wednesday Jazz Jam Session: 7:30 p.m., Gilbert Castellanos hosts the Jazz Jam Session with special guest musicians at Seven Grand, 3054 University Ave., North Park, free. Sevengrandbars.com.
Thursdays:
Gentle Yoga for seniors: 2:45 – 3:45 p.m., presented by The Center and Silver Age Yoga Community Outreach (SAYCO) at The San Diego LGBT Center, 3909 Centre St., Hillcrest, free. Thecentersd.org.
North Park Farmers Market: 3 – 7 p.m., in the parking lot behind CVS at 32nd St. and University Ave., North Park, free. Northparkfarmersmarket.com.
Kornflower’s Open Mic: Signups at 6:30 p.m., open mic (no poetry or comedy) 7 – 10 p.m. Family friendly event at Rebecca’s Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. Rebeccascoffeehouse.com.
Kirtan Musical Meditation: 8:15 p.m., chant and sing contemporary mantras celebrating love and life at Pilgrimage of the Heart Yoga, 3287 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, donation requested. Pilgrimageyoga.com.
Fridays:
Preschool Storytime: 10:30 a.m., at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org.

see Calendar, page 19



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FROM PAGE 18

CALENDAR

Fridays on Fifth: 4 – 9 p.m., various restaurants and bars offer discounts and specials for a social hour on Fifth Avenue between Washington Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Hillcrest. Fridaysonfifth.com.

Cinema Under the Stars: 8:30 p.m., Classic movie screenings at 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. Tickets start at \$15. Topspresents.com.

Saturdays

Old Town Saturday Market: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., on Harney Street and San Diego Avenue, Old Town, free. Oldtownsaturdaymarket.com.

Golden Hill Farmers Market: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., on B Street between 27th and 28th streets, Golden Hill, free. Sdmarketmanager.com.

Children’s Craft

Time: 10:30 a.m., at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org.

Melodies in Balboa Park: 1 – 5 p.m., the San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory ensembles fill Casa del Prado with classical music, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, free. Sdys.org.

Celebrity Book Readings: 2 p.m., local celebrities will visit the “Ingenious! The World of Dr. Seuss” at the San Diego History Center on the second Saturday of each month to read their favorite Seuss stories to those in attendance, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park, free. Sandieghistory.org.

Comedy Heights: 8 – 10 p.m., local comedians take the stage next to Twiggs Coffeehouse at 4590 Park Blvd., University Heights, free. Comedyheights.com.

Sundays

Free Pancake Breakfast: 8:30 – 9:45 a.m., every second Sunday this neighborhood breakfast precedes worship service and Sunday school at Normal Heights United Methodist Church, 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights. Email nancy@nhunited.org.

Hillcrest Farmers Market: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., under the Hillcrest Pride Flag, Harvey Milk and Normal streets, free. Hillcrestfarmersmarket.com.

—Email calendar items to Hutton@sd cnn.com. ♦

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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

- Bankers Hill Parking Committee**
5 – 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of the month
Merrill Gardens,
2567 Second Ave.

Old Town Community Parking District
10 a.m. on the first Tuesday
The Hacienda Hotel, 4041 Harney St.

Hillcrest Business Association Beautification Committee
2 p.m. on the first Tuesday
1419 University Ave. Suite D.

North Park Main Street Design Committee
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday
North Park Main Street Office,
3076 University Ave.

Uptown Planners
6 p.m. on the first Tuesday
Joyce Beers Community Center,
3900 Vermont St.

Normal Heights Community Planning Group
6 p.m. on first Tuesday
Normal Heights Community Center, 4649 Hawley Blvd.

Mission Hills Business Improvement District
3:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday
Ascent Conference Center, 902 Fort Stockton Dr.

University Heights Community Development Corporation
6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday
4452 Park Blvd. Suite 104

University Heights Community Parking District
6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday
4452 Park Blvd. Suite 104

University Heights Community Association
6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday
Alice Bimey Elementary School auditorium, 4345 Campus Ave.
- Uptown Community Parking District**
5 – 6:30 p.m. on second Monday
Joyce Beers Community Center,
3900 Vermont St.

North Park Maintenance Assessment District
6 p.m. on the second Monday
North Park Adult Activity Center,
2719 Howard Ave.

Normal Heights Community Association
6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday
Normal Heights Community Center, 4649 Hawley Blvd.

Hillcrest Business Association Board of Directors
5 p.m. on the second Tuesday
Joyce Beers Community Center,
3900 Vermont St.

Hillcrest Town Council
6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday
Joyce Beers Community Center,
3900 Vermont St.

Old Town Community Planning Group
3:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday
The Whaley House,
2476 San Diego Ave.

Ken-Tal Community Planning Group
6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday
Franklin Elementary auditorium, 4481 Copeland Ave.

Greater Golden Hill Community Planning Group
6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday
Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse in Balboa Park

Burlingame Neighborhood Association
7 p.m. on the second Wednesday
Mazara Pizza and Italian Deli,
2302 30th St.

Mission Hills Town Council Trustees Meeting
6 p.m. on the second Thursday
Francis Parker Lower School,
4201 Randolph St.

- Bankers Hill Residents**
6 p.m. on the third Monday
San Diego Indoor Sports Club,
3030 Front St.

Normal Heights Community Planning Group, Ad Hoc By-laws Subcommittee
6:30 p.m. on the third Monday
Adams Recreation Center, 3491 Adams Ave.

North Park Planning Committee
6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday
North Park Christian Fellowship,
2901 North Park Way

Talmadge Community Council
6:30 p.m. on third Tuesday of odd numbered months
4760 Miracle Dr.
(residential address)

El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association
9 – 10:30 a.m. on the third Thursday
Blvd Office, 3727 El Cajon Blvd.

North Park Historical Society
6:30 p.m. on third Thursday
Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Blvd.
- Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation**
6:30 – 8 p.m. on the third Thursday
Golden Hill Recreation Center,
2600 Golf Course Dr.

Talmadge Maintenance Assessment District
6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday
Franklin Elementary Room #2,
4481 Copeland Ave.

North Park Community Association
6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday
Lafayette Hotel,
2223 El Cajon Blvd.

North Park Action Team
5:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday
North Park Adult Activity Center,
2719 Howard Ave.

Mission Hills Heritage
7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday
Call 619-497-1193 or email info@MissionHillsHeritage.org for meeting location.

Email hutton@sd cnn.com for inclusion of your organization or committee meeting. ♦



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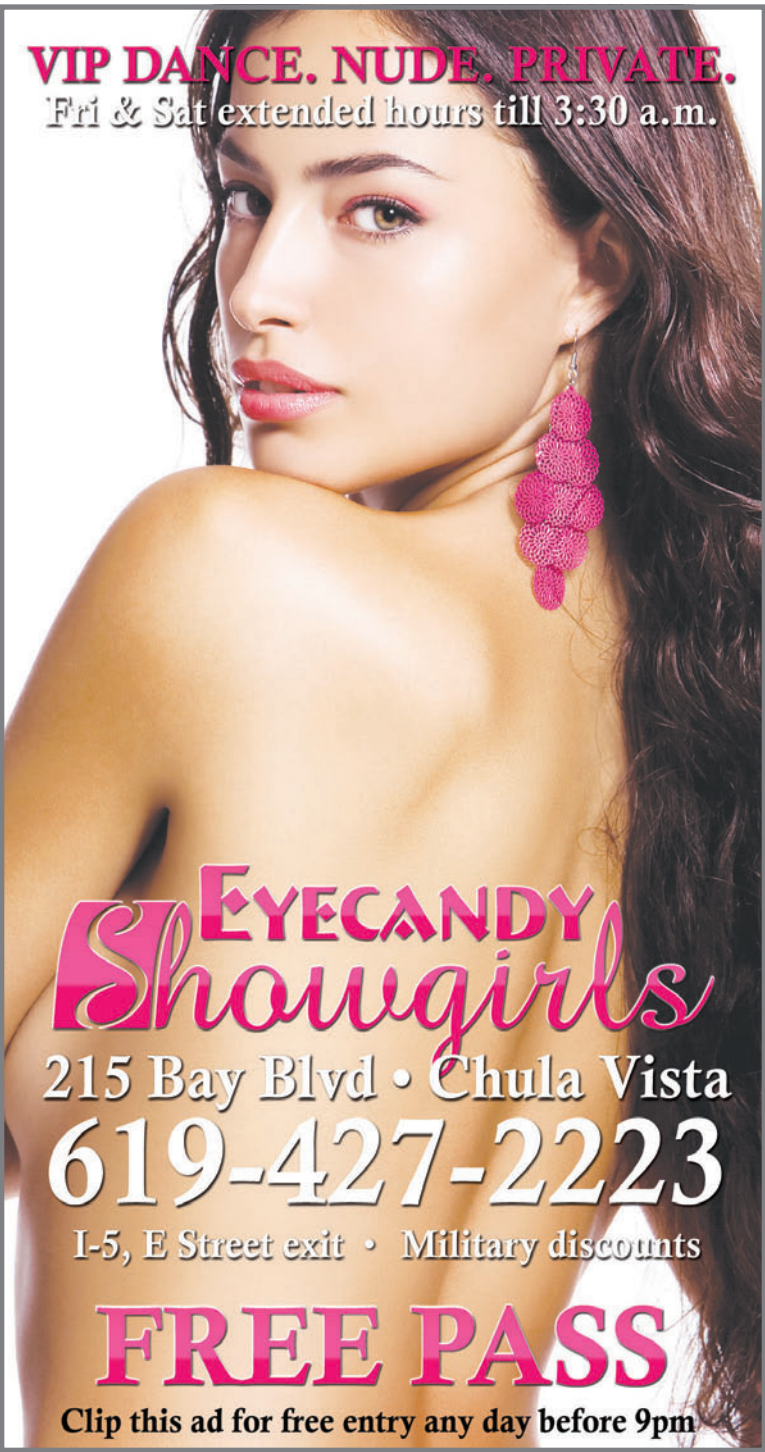
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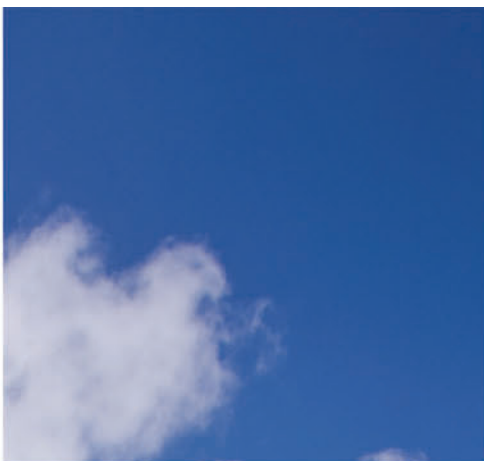
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