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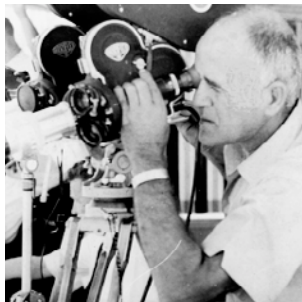
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Big changes underway at iconic 'Mister A's building'

A restored mid-century élan is slated for the lobby of the Fifth & Laurel building. (Courtesy of BBL Commercial Real Estate)

By Frank Sabatini Jr.

The 12-story building in Bankers Hill that was technically on record as the Fifth Avenue Financial Center is celebrating its 50th birthday with a new name and fresh look designed to attract a greater portion of the community into the mid-century structure.

The center's recent acquisition by San Diego-based BBL Commercial Real Estate and the San Francisco branch of Westbrook Partners has resulted in a current remodel to the building's lobby and common areas. Some of that space is earmarked for two ground-level restaurants yet to be announced.

In addition, the building has been renamed to Fifth & Laurel.

"We liked Fifth Avenue Financial Center, but it sounded more Downtown than Uptown. And we also came away from that because of the diverse mix of tenants," explained BBL President Casey Brown, who spearheaded the purchase of the property for \$42 million from Bud Alessio, son of the late, original owner, John Alessio.

The 160,000-square-foot building is currently 74 percent leased to a variety of commercial businesses that include Mister A's, the acclaimed rooftop restaurant that opened when the tower first appeared on the landscape in 1965.

Brown acknowledges that San Diegans have long referred to the property as the "Mister A's building," but he's confident the new name will take root in the Bankers Hill community because it duly defines the area.

Mister A's, he assures, will remain "the anchor restaurant" at Fifth & Laurel as it too has been making gradual upgrades independent of the building project.

"I was born and raised in San Diego, and everyone has experienced Mister A's for one celebration or another," he said, noting that the restaurant was named originally

see **Changes**, page 19

Gilman talks about his property and Pernicano's

Ken Williams | Editor

Morgan Gilman has been in the news lately, and it hasn't been his doing. The longtime owner of the Gilman building, located at the Hillcrest gateway intersection of University and Sixth avenues, tells San Diego Uptown News his side of the story about whether his property could be part of any redevelopment at the Pernicano site.

Pernicano family representative Sherman D. Harmer Jr., president of Urban Housing Partners, has been speaking this summer before community groups in Hillcrest to float ideas for the long-vacant property and gather input on what people want to see on that site. Harmer stunned listeners at the Uptown Planners meeting on Aug. 4 when he said potential buyers of the Pernicano property were also negotiating to purchase the Gilman building.

Gilman, a real estate developer who heads the Morgan Gilman Co. in Carmel, California, acknowledged that several developers who have been looking at the Pernicano property have contacted him. He also dropped the big news that he just signed a lease to rent out the old Harvey Milk's/City Deli site, which anchors the Gilman building and takes up more than half the block on University. Gilman said he was not

see **Gilman**, page 20

25th Street project is done, but some say city 'missed an opportunity'

By Dave Schwab

Some Golden Hill residents, while pleased that infrastructure and pedestrian improvements on 25th Street are now complete, are insisting the work didn't go far enough.

The nearly \$3 million project replaced an old water main, as well as installed new pedestrian, bike and roadway amenities and features, such as reverse-angle parking.

"Yes, they did the infrastructure but not the enhancements, which is what we really wanted," said David Strickland, a retired Caltrans landscape architect and vice chair of the Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC). "It seems that the city had the opportunity to complete the project if they didn't lose over \$1 million in Transportation

Enhancement (TE) funds, due to their procrastination in developing plans. The city extended the application two times and was denied an extension the third time, therefore losing the funding."

TE funding is allocated through the Federal Transportation Act and requires an application submitted to the state's Department of Transportation for review and approval, Strickland said, noting there's a deadline required by all TE's.

"Only with special circumstances can the funding be extended past the original deadline," Strickland said. "Because the city lost the TE funding, the only money they had was to do the infrastructure, which needed to be done due to the age of this section of the city."

Strickland believes the city



Improvements to 25th Street include pop-outs designed to protect pedestrians and calm traffic, plus enhanced crossings. (Photo by Dave Schwab)

"missed an opportunity by not allocating enough funding to include crosswalks, which would be necessary to install lighting and irrigate planter boxes and tree wells as part of the improvement project."

Speaking on her own behalf and not the group's, GGHPC chair

Ruchell Alvarez concurred with Strickland that 25th Street improvements could have worked out better.

"I'm not excited about the alleged improvements," she said. "Reverse-angle parking does not

see **Project**, page 20

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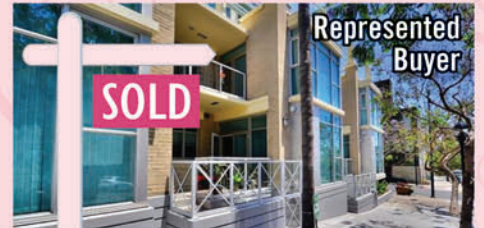
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Emilio Nares of Mission Hills died of leukemia in 2000 at age 5, but his memory lives on. (Courtesy of Emilio Nares Foundation)

Emilio Nares’ memory and a spirit of service at heart of upcoming fundraiser

By Dave Fidlin

With a beaming smile and an unmistakable laugh that could lighten the mood in almost any setting, Emilio Nares was known for the joy he brought at such a young age.

But Emilio, who succumbed to leukemia in 2000 at age 5, had another character trait — bravery — that will be forever etched in the minds of the people who interacted with him. That spirit of joy and giving are at the heart of the upcoming Harvest for Hope fundraiser.

Drawing from first-hand experience, Emilio’s parents, Mission Hills residents Richard and Diane Nares, established the Emilio Nares Foundation in his honor. The foundation offers assistance, including hospital transportation and meals, to families of children battling leukemia and

other serious illnesses. “After (Emilio) passed away, my wife and I really wanted to give back, knowing what we know,” Richard said. “We just wanted to share our experiences.” Since its inception in 2003, one of the cornerstones of the Emilio Nares Foundation is Harvest for Hope, an event designed to bring the community together and raise money that benefit the assorted services offered by the organization. Harvest for Hope, which debuted the same year as the foundation itself, is entering its 12th year. This year’s benefit — scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 13 — will be held on the outdoor deck of the Central Library Downtown. As has been the case the past 11 years, Harvest for Hope is designed to be a fun, breezy affair that dually shines the spotlight on the serious is-

sue of severe childhood illnesses and what goes into the treatment process. “It’s a difficult journey,” said Diane, who has worked in the food and beverage industry for more than 25 years. “Hearing your child has cancer is one of the most difficult words you can hear from your pediatrician. Everyone’s hopes and aspirations come to a stop at that point.” While the Nares took a brief sabbatical after Emilio lost his brave battle, they have spent the past dozen years building up the foundation. Within the past year, Diane gleefully said the organization has evolved.

“We have been able to grow our transportation program, which we’ve been very excited about,” Diane said. “There has been a huge need, and we’ve realized there are some people that aren’t being cared for.” Learning a loved one has a condition such as leukemia obviously is a weighty hand dealt in life — a reality the Nares know all too well — and the goal behind the transportation programs is to assist with some of the everyday issues.

Some of the families transporting children diagnosed with serious medical conditions to and from Rady Children’s Hospital — the same venue where Emilio received his treatments, when it was still known as Children’s Hospital of San Diego — have struggled with transportation issues, particularly those who rely on public transit as their sole mode and contend with added bus fares. After the most recent expansion of the transportation program, the foundation operates two service vans and employs two full-time drivers in San Diego. On average, the foundation transports about 40 families to and from the Rady facility.

More recently, the foundation also has expanded in a northerly direction, forging a relationship with Children’s Hospital of Orange County. Families in Orange and Imperial counties have been privy to some of the foundation’s services through a passenger van. While transportation is one of the foundation’s main focal points, it is not the sole service. The Nares have created a resource center within Rady where families can gather important

the spotlight on local restaurateurs and other food service providers. The itinerary includes food and beverage stations and a live and silent auction. The Snake Oil Cocktail Company, located downtown, is a newcomer to this year’s fundraiser. Bartenders will serve an assortment of craft beers, spirits and wines that span the globe. Local musicians Lori Bell and Ron Satterfield will provide entertainment. This year’s food participants replicate the disparate eateries that dot San Diego’s landscape: The list includes Acqua A1 2, AR Valentien, Brooklyn Girl, Café Chloe, Carnitas’ Snack Shack, Croce’s Park West, Don Chido, Jsix, Rustic Root and Toast Enoteca. Diane said this year’s fundraising goal has been notched upward to \$130,000. Alongside that benchmark are grander visions of expanding the Emilio Nares Foundation’s programs and mission statement even further.

“Every family should be able to take care of their most basic needs when their child is receiving treatments,” she said. “It should be done in an honorable way.”

—Contact Dave Fidlin at dave.fidlin@thinkpost.net. ♦



(l to r) Randi Hosking, an honoree at the 10th annual Harvest for Hope benefit, with Diane Nares and Richard Nares (Courtesy of Emilio Nares Foundation)

information, including housing, financial assistance and other weighty issues families might contend with upon hearing serious news.

As the Nares pause briefly to focus attention on this year’s Harvest for Hope, Diane said she is excited about this year’s program, which puts

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Congressional Watch

By Andy Cohen

Welcome to the San Diego Congressional Watch, 2015 summer recess edition! Congress has been on vacation for most of August, but San Diego's Congressional delegation has been rather busy.

We begin with the Iran nuclear deal. As you may recall, in July, Juan Vargas (D-51) penned an Op-Ed in the San Diego Union-Tribune in opposition to the diplomatic agreement with Iran to restrain that country's nuclear weapons ambitions. This month sees two other San Diego area reps come out in

favor of the deal. Last month Scott Peters (D-52) and Susan Davis (D-53) both came out in support of the pact between the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China, and Iran.

"After weeks of study, it is clear to me that the JCPOA [joint comprehensive plan of action] is our best tool to prevent Iran from building a nuclear weapon for at least the next 15 years. I will vote to support the agreement," Peters wrote in his own UT opinion piece.

"Congressional disapproval will not realistically force a better deal, as some opponents have asserted," Peters wrote. "The leverage for negotiations was created by the cooperation of other countries that share our goal of preventing a nuclear-armed Iran. Our allies support the JCPOA and want to resume trade with Iran, with or

without our blessing. As former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson stated, it is 'totally unrealistic' to expect multilateral sanctions to stick should the United States reject the JCPOA."

While Peters acknowledged that the pact will not affect Iran's support of recognized terrorist organizations or end its civilian nuclear program, without the support of our allies, U.S. sanctions alone will have little to no effect in curbing the behavior of the Iranian regime. The military option is still squarely on the table, he said.

"As another difficult decision approaches, I am convinced that after an extensive number of discussions and reviewing materials, the Iran nuclear agreement creates a viable path to reducing Iran's nuclear weapons capability now and for the future," Davis wrote in her opinion.

"The pending vote on the Iran nuclear deal, for me, is like the 2002 vote to invade Iraq, which is still changing the course of history and countless people's lives," she continued, drawing parallels between the 2002 vote to enter into a ground war in Iraq and the decision to support the Iran deal. "I opposed invading Iraq because I was convinced we had not exhausted all diplomatic options and questioned our lack of planning for the aftermath."

Like Peters, Davis recognizes the damage that would be done to the U.S.'s credibility throughout the world and the diminution of its leadership role, particularly in economic matters, creating a distinct advantage for the Iranians. Both members point to the agreement's basis in mistrust, rather than trust in the regime's willingness to fully honor their responsibilities under the accord, and both agree that any notion that the U.S. maintains enough influence to force a "better deal" is pure folly.

Darrell Issa (R-49) was caught stretching the truth again by CNN's Wolf Blitzer. "It's not an accident to have 300 emails become retroactively, if you will, determined to be classified," he told Blitzer in an August interview, referring to the controversy over Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server during her time as Secretary of State.

"Well my understanding is, those 300 emails they are looking at now, that they haven't definitively ruled it was classified information," noted Blitzer. "They're going over it right now. There seems to be a dispute going on between the State Department and other agencies of the U.S. government what should have been classified, even if it had not been classified at the time. Is that your understanding as well?"

Issa reluctantly admitted the case while decrying the State Department's determination of what was and what was not considered to be classified material during his term as Chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform committee. In the meantime, he has called for a criminal investigation into Clinton's use of a private email server.

"If any other American had shown the same disregard for securing classified information that Hillary Clinton showed, the United States government would move quickly and decisively to hold them responsible," Issa stated in a press release. "Months after we learned about Clinton's secret email server, the FBI and DOJ have finally mustered the motivation necessary to take it into their custody."

"The only reasonable path forward is a criminal investigation," he said.

Peter Bobby, aide to Duncan Hunter (R-50), was arrested by Capitol Police on Aug. 4 for bringing a loaded, unregistered, unlicensed handgun onto congressional property, according to CNN. Bobby is an active-duty Marine assigned as a fellow to Hunter's congressional office. A spokesman for the Marines insisted that the



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incident was merely a mistake on Bobby's part, and is no way a reflection of his service in uniform.

Meanwhile, Hunter and Montana Republican Senator Steve Daines have introduced legislation to arm military recruiters in the wake of the deadly shooting of four Marines and a Navy sailor at two military recruiting centers in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on July 16. Military policy prevents recruiters from carrying firearms in recruitment centers.

"What happened in Tennessee is an absolute tragedy," Hunter said. "All the talk about security upgrades to recruiting offices is fine, but the simple act of arming qualified personnel in these spaces presents the most effective line of defense."

In reality, however, armed personnel in Chattanooga would have done little, if anything, to prevent the attack.

It is doubtful Congress will act anytime soon to make it more difficult for the wrong people to obtain firearms, even in the aftermath of the June massacre in a black church in Charleston, South Carolina, by a white supremacist, or the Aug. 26 on-air murder of a TV news reporter and her cameraman in Moneta, Virginia, by a disgruntled former colleague.

—Andy Cohen is a local freelance writer. Reach him at ac76@sbcglobal.net. ♦

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Letters

‘Deathtrap conditions’ for pedestrians

I am about to turn 80 but am no creampuff, being as built as I was when I was a boxer in the Army, among similar occupations. I wish to address the deathtrap conditions facing pedestrians in this general area of North Park, Hillcrest and Mission Hills.

For one thing, our dog lovers (and I like dogs in general) are oblivious to the security and comfort of elderly, handicapped, mothers with children, and others who need to be respected. Twice in one week, a dog (luckily on a leash) lunged at me. Other times, I’ve escaped being bitten by angry dogs. This is intolerable. I did not want to kick the dog in the mouth. I prefer to do that to the owner, except many of them are female.

Another thing, the speeding by imbeciles down the hill that leads to Interstate 5 is intolerable. These imbeciles often are texting and oblivious of pedestrians. Several times, by the grace of God, I have not been run down.

Letters to our police chief are ignored. Ditto the mayor.

Skateboarders, hikers and others on various canyons dominate the sidewalks. Insolent vagrants try to muscle you for money. At night, if you walk around Mission Hills or other areas, you may end up with a broken skull. As far as I am concerned, because I am somewhat skilled in the martial arts, I feel confident. But as I turn 80, I am still conscious I am slower than a fellow 60 years my junior. I am not kidding myself. I want action by the city.

I demand that Chief Zimmerman get off her soapbox and PR duff and address pedestrian safety. The next tramp that tries to muscle me is going to have his head handed to him.

When is the city going to stop its absurd bragging and self-identity and protect decent people? The answer is that the city of San Diego will not protect us. Therefore, it is every man for himself. Citizens, rise up! Make your voices heard. Don’t sit on your duff and do nothing!

—Max Steel of Mission Hills, via handwritten letter

Why the Chargers should stay in San Diego

America’s philosopher John Dewey found little need in religious dogma despite having been brought up in a church-going family. The professor from the University of Chicago understood the significance of the divine upon culture and society. To those who say we do not need the San Diego Chargers football team, consider the big picture through the lens of social-psychology and Dr. Dewey’s stance on the merits of religion upon the masses. We ought to all recognize the concept of public good in keeping

the Bolts in our town.

Much has been written about the power of the purse and a taxpayer revolt but there has been scant mention of the emotional and psychological import of losing a professional sports franchise. Just as Professor Dewey understood the value of organized religion within the common man, we ought to recognize the social need of maintaining a professional sports team and what it brings to a community.

America is an athletically driven nation. Most little boys and girls for that matter grow up on sports. I still remember the 1963 Milwaukee Braves starting lineup 50 years later. That shows how emotionally close kids become to their sports teams. Many adults also find solace in bonding with and following their local sports team. Dare I say that this relationship is almost religious in nature complete with rituals such as tailgating, flag waving, face painting and other types of mutual adulation. Understanding that not everyone likes football and recalcitrant taxpayers, it is by keeping the Bolts in San Diego that we promote the greater good.

When the Major League Baseball’s Braves left Milwaukee in 1965 it devastated the morale of children and adults alike. When the NBA San Diego Rockets moved to Houston in 1971 it likewise affected our city by casting a pall over many sports enthusiasts.

Mayor Faulconer is knee-deep in an untenable situation. San Diego Charger’s ownership however is playing by the rules of our free market. The National Football League is a business and we live in a capitalist economy. This is our culture and society, yet some of the same people benefiting from its very inherent qualities rail against wealthy ownership of professional sports teams. Perhaps we should equate the extra taxes as earmarked for a public park, which essentially is true except one pays a fee for entertainment. There will be some long faces in San Diego if the Chargers decide to bolt.

—Daniel Smiechowski via email

What about biking through Hillcrest?

Re: Uptown parking district explores news ways to ‘Access Hillcrest’ [Volume 7, Issue 18 or at bit.ly/1NnSmdp]
Rent-a-bike not even mentioned?

—Benny via email

Planning the future of Uptown district

Re: Getting down to brass tacks [Volume 7, Issue 18 or at bit.ly/1M8Jubk]

see Letters, page 20

Poll

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Readers Poll

Poll Results

Do you agree with the Community Plan updates for North Park, Uptown and Golden Hill that call for greater density?

57%

39%

4%

Yes

No

Unsure

New Poll:

Is the city doing enough to preserve Balboa Park’s historical buildings?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

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PGK Dance Project to perform at Lyceum

The PGK Dance Project, which is based in Middletown and known for performing in unique spaces, will be heading Downtown to perform Sept. 18-20 on the Lyceum Theater’s spacious Main Stage.

The works of nine choreographers from across the U.S. will be featured.

“And then, one day...” will have its premiere at the dance recital. The work created by Boroka Nagy of Irvine is called an unexpected, physically demanding work for the women of the company.

Kevin Jenkins of San Francisco has created a contemporary ballet duet for PGK dancers Jennifer Puls and John Paul.

Lawson Andrew Pearson of Los Angeles premieres a stylized and “groovy” work.

Blythe Barton, director of Blythe Barton Dance in San Diego, restages “Cinema of a Certain Tension,” returning after three sold-out shows at San Diego Dances at Bread & Salt.

Artistic Director Peter G. Kalivas presents premieres and audience favorites. “Don’t Touch” is a fun, clever look at temptation and was created in collaboration with PGK dancer/choreographer Alyssa Junious. “Stay with Me” premieres with “live vocals” by Kalivas, who is also an accomplished singer, and is a duet featuring new PGK members Jenny Henkel and Ron Davis. “Ode” is created for new PGK Natalia Hill. Kalivas’ group work “There & Back” (2009) returns, inspired by the company’s first tour to Central Asia and getting caught up in a sandstorm. “Listen,” a duet that is premiering, was created and will be performed by new company member James LeMaster and apprentice Nicole Lee in collaboration with Kalivas.

“The Sound of Dance” is conceived and directed by Kalivas, created with Kristina Cobarrubia (flamenco), Divya Devaguptapu (classical Indian) and John Paul Lawson (tap). It puts together forms that rely on sound production for their expression and is a returning hit with audiences following its premiere at Bread & Salt.

“Beginning to End” (2011) displays a gay and a lesbian couple, one at the beginning and the other simultaneously at the end of their relationships. This work was originally commissioned by The Diver-sionary Theater.

Sean Curran’s (1997) “Folk Dance for the Future” will close out each show. The company dons Scottish kilts and lets Irish folk and modern dance collide.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 18 and 19 and at 2 p.m. Sept. 20. Tickets are priced from \$10 to \$20. Parking is free if stamped at the theater.

Tickets available at ThePG-KDanceProject.org. ♦

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

- San Diego Uptown News encourages readers to make a difference in the community where they live. Here is a list of community organizations that meet in your area:
- Adams Avenue Business Association Board of Directors**
8 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month
Normal Heights Community Center, 4649 Hawley Blvd.
- Bankers Hill Community Meeting**
6:30 – 8 p.m. on the third Monday
San Diego Indoor Sports Club, 3030 Front St.
- Bankers Hill Parking Committee**
5 – 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday
Merrill Gardens, 2567 Second Ave.
- Burlingame Neighborhood Association**
7 p.m. on the second Wednesday
Mazara Trattoria, 2302 30th St.
- El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association**
9 – 10:30 a.m. on the third Thursday
3727 El Cajon Blvd.
- Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation**
6:30 – 8 p.m. on the third Thursday
Golden Hill Recreation Center, 2600 Golf Course Drive
- Greater Golden Hill Community Planning Group**
6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday
Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse, 2600 Golf Course Drive
- Hillcrest Business Association Beautification Committee**
3 p.m. on the fourth Monday
3737 Fifth Ave., Suite 202
- 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.
- Ken-Tal Community Planning Group**
6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday
Copley-Price Family YMCA, 4300 El Cajon Blvd.
- Mid-City Community Parking District**
11:30 a.m. on the fourth Thursday
3727 El Cajon Blvd.
- Mission Hills Business Improvement District**
3:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday
Visit missionhillsBID.com for meeting location.
- Mission Hills Heritage**
7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday
Call 619-497-1193 or email info@MissionHillsHeritage.org for meeting location.
- Mission Hills Town Council Trustees**
6 p.m. on the second Thursday of alternating months
902 Fort Stockton Drive
- Mission Hills Town Council Town Hall**
6 p.m. on the second Thursday of alternating months
Francis Parker Lower School, 4201 Randolph St.

- Normal Heights Community Association**
6 p.m. on the first Tuesday
Normal Heights Community Center, 4649 Hawley Blvd.
- Normal Heights Community Planning Group**
6 p.m. on first Tuesday
Normal Heights Community Center, 4649 Hawley Blvd.
- North Park Community Association**
6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday
Lafayette Hotel, 2223 El Cajon Blvd.
- North Park Historical Society**
6:30 p.m. on third Thursday
Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Blvd.
- North Park Main Street Board of Directors Meeting**
7:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday
North Park Main Street Office, 3076 University Ave.
- North Park Main Street Design Committee**
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday
North Park Main Street Office, 3076 University Ave.
- North Park Maintenance Assessment District**
6 p.m. on the second Monday
North Park Adult Activity Center, 2719 Howard Ave.
- North Park Planning Committee**
6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday
North Park Christian Fellowship, 2901 North Park Way
- Old Town Chamber Organization Committee**
11 a.m. on the second Wednesday
The Tequila Factory, 2467 Juan St.

- Old Town Community Planning Group**
3:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday
The Whaley House, 2476 San Diego Ave.
- Old Town Community Parking District**
Meetings scheduled as needed

- South Park Business Group**
8:30 a.m. on the last Wednesday
Eclipse Chocolate, 2145 Fern St.

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

- Talmadge Maintenance Assessment District**
6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday
Copley-Price YMCA, 4300 El Cajon Blvd.

- 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 Birney 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.

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

Email ken@sdenn.com for inclusion of your organization or committee meeting. ♦

Expert ADVICE

To read advice and information from the experts, please go to:
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WHERE DOES IT BEGIN?



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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

‘Strength for the Journey’ — annual HIV/AIDS retreat

“Strength for the Journey” is a five day retreat providing a safe, caring, and healing community that fosters spiritual and emotional growth. In addition to providing the physical needs of a retreat, the program also offers various group workshops on health and wellness, medication adherence, nutrition, and diet and exercise.

One of the main intentions of the retreat is to provide the circumstances in which people can inspire and encourage one another to develop new attitudes about living with HIV. This year’s retreat will take place September 14 – 18 at Camp Cedar Glen near Julian, California.

“San Diego Strength for the Journey 2015” is made possible with the generous support of the United Methodist Church and San Diego AIDS Walk.

All of the staff and planners are volunteers. This retreat is open to anyone with HIV/AIDS without regard to religion, race, gender or sexual orientation. Camp Cedar Glen is not wheelchair accessible. Use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited. Any smoking is extremely limited due to fire danger. We may not be able to accommodate companion animals.

Register online at regonline/2015sftjtd.

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Toni G. Atkins

Speaker of the Assembly



This past year has seen some big successes for California workers.

We passed a historic water bond that not only addresses water infrastructure needs, but puts people to work in good paying jobs. The water bond also creates the opportunity for apprentices who can work to become journeymen and move ahead on the path to the middle class.

We extended and expanded the film-production tax credit — to keep industry jobs in California and bring back those that have left.

We provided protections for temporary and contract workers who work in agriculture, warehouses, and goods movement, so that large corporations can't walk away from liability when their contractors don't pay their workers or provide meal and rest breaks.

We also passed a law that will shed light on California employers who have workers who earn so little that they qualify for Medi-Cal.

And California became only the second state in the country to provide millions of workers with the right to paid sick days. No longer will a single parent have to make the choice of caring for a sick child or going without pay or, worse, losing their job.

This year, the Assembly has continued creating policies to fix the future. The budget passed in June reflects core goals we fought for, including the Assembly Democrat-championed state Earned Income Tax Credit, which will benefit 2 million working Californians and their families. We keep college affordable through our Middle Class Scholarship and by directing more funds to community colleges and California State University and University of California campuses, as well as expanding Cal Grants by 15 percent.

The Legislature and the governor must ensure that as the economy continues to grow, it's not at the expense of working people. Economic growth has to flow to working people and to those struggling to make ends meet.

As we celebrate Labor Day, we can celebrate all the progress that's been made to make life better for California's working people. It's important to remember that all the changes have been made possible by all groups working together to achieve better parity for workers — and that creates a stronger California!

Around the District: The "I Love a Clean San Diego" cleanup takes place from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 19 and I will be a part of it with our Team Toni. Please join us at one of the 100 sites where thousands of volunteers will clean our beaches, canyons, rivers

and creek beds. To be part of Team Toni, email us at speaker.atkins@assembly.ca.gov. We'd love to have you! For more, see cleanupday.org ... Happy 25th anniversary to Mama's Kitchen! The charity has provided meals to those with HIV, AIDS or other serious ailments throughout our communities and I'm proud to join with our entire San Diego state legislative delegation in congratulating their staff and volunteers on this milestone.

—Toni G. Atkins is the Speaker of the California State Assembly. For more information, please visit her website, asmdc.org/speaker where you can sign up for her e-newsletter or get the latest news on legislation and other activities. You also may follow her on Twitter, @toniatkins. ♦

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UPTOWN COMMUNITY PARKING DISTRICT

Bankers Hill | Hillcrest | Int'l Restaurant Row | Mission Hills

The Uptown Community Parking District is contracted by the City of San Diego to reinvest 45% of the parking meter funds back into the neighborhoods of Bankers Hill, Hillcrest, Mission Hills and International Restaurant Row.

This non-profit public benefit organization is guided by a board of directors representing each neighborhood's business and residential communities. This year the District is seeking new board members to represent Bankers Hill and International Restaurant Row.

If you are interested in learning more about the parking district or running for a board seat, see www.ParkUptownSD.org or contact Elizabeth@ParkUptownSD.org or 619-846-5754

Bankers Hill Neighborhood Parking Committee

One seat representing Residents

One seat representing Businesses

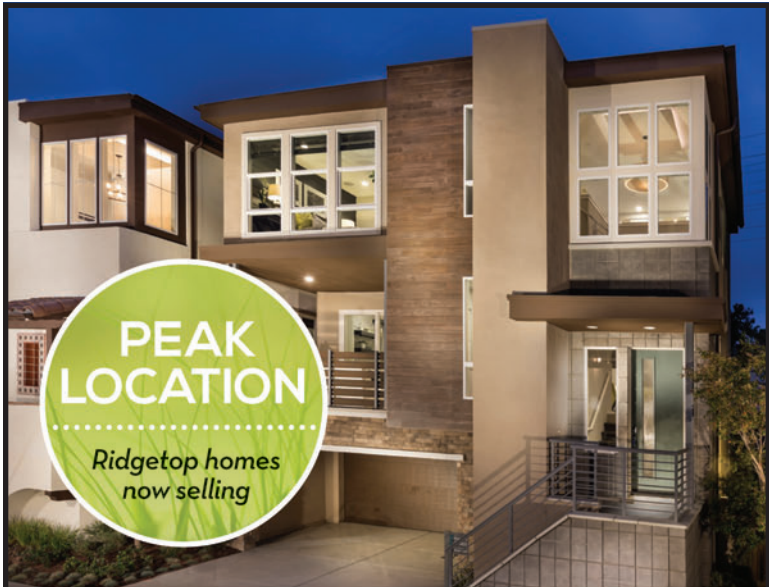
Elections hosted by the Bankers Hill Community Group
Indoor Sports Club; 3030 Front Street, San Diego 92103
Monday October 19, 2014 - 6:30 PM

International Restaurant Row (Five Points)

Parking Advisory Committee

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3731 India St, San Diego 92103
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The little Spanish house that couldn't

It was almost the first modern California Ranch House, then some narrow-minded bullies got in the way

House Calls Michael Good

Among the popular myths San Diegans hold particularly dear is the one about America's most popular architectural style — Spanish Colonial Revival — and the 1915 California-Panama Exposition got it started. We want to believe our beloved Balboa Park Spanish-style museums inspired a century of architects to build little red-tile-roofed, stucco-sided bungalows all across America.

This connection would be a little easier to make if there had been an actual residential structure, a Spanish-style model home, for example, built in Balboa Park for the 1915 Expo.

As it turns out, there was a model home built for the 1915 Exposition. The Model Bungalow was part of the Model Farm, a 5-acre citrus grove and demonstration farm in the middle of the park, complete with chicken coops and a vegetable patch. Today it seems a bit retro to plant a farm as a way to celebrate the Panama Canal, one of the seven engineering wonders of the modern world. You can imagine Washington's reaction to San Diego's gesture: How quaint. We spanned two great oceans with 50 miles of hydraulic gates and locks. You planted a zucchini.

But this wasn't just any farm. It was a thoroughly modern operation with irrigation, electricity, hot and cold running water, and flush toilets. (In 1920, only 20 percent of American homes had a flush toilet.) For the average American, the Model Bungalow was a vision of the future. The buildings along the Prado presented a romanticized picture of city life free of horse manure, with wide promenades and transportation via clean electric carts. The Model Farm was much closer to home, literally. It embodied a more believable myth, where science and intellectual labor would result in a life free of backbreaking toil. No longer would the lady of the house have to go to the well with a bucket to pump her own water.

In 1915, not only did most Americans live on a farm, there was actually a back-to-the-farm movement. Everyone at the Expo was a farmer, used to be a farmer or was thinking about becoming a farmer. The Model Bungalow was centrally located, in the middle of the Expo, between the Prado and the Isthmus (the mile-long entertainment area). The case could be made that the Model Farm was the main attraction, what the Expo was really all about.

In fact, Sunset magazine said just that in the December 1914 issue. "The actual purpose of the Panama-California Exposition is to show that there is room in the Southwest for 700,000 new farms, and to show that by selective demonstration. In this day of unsatisfied land hunger and ever rising food prices, such a purpose is a service to the nation."

Maybe. But it was surely a service to real estate developers such as Ed Fletcher, John D. Spreckels, John F. Forward, G.A. Davidson, Carl H. Heilbron, D.C. Collier and L.J. Wilde. They were among the 31 directors or trustees who signed the articles of incorporation for the Panama-California International Exposition. For these boosters, the Expo wasn't about building a future home for San Diego's cultural institutions. It was about business. Their business. D.C. Collier, who was developing suburbs in Ocean Beach and Mission Beach at the time, said the exposition would "build up San Diego and adjoining territory." G.A. Davidson, who was director of a local bank, said the Exposition was "meant to call



The Model Bungalow, surrounded by the Model Farm and caretakers cottage (Courtesy of David Marshall Collection, Panama-California Exposition Digital Archive)

the attention of the world to the possibility of millions of acres of land that have been peculiarly blessed by nature and that have awaited through the centuries the touch that will transform them into the paradises of the Western Hemisphere."

This was a white-people-only paradise, however. The Alien Land Law of 1913 specifically prevented people of Japanese ancestry from purchasing rural land. Mexicans need not apply, either. As Matthew F. Bokovoy writes in "Inventing Agriculture in Southern California" (The Journal of San Diego History, Spring 1999), "Childlike" Mexicans were believed to be suited for only simple agricultural tasks, such as picking cotton (a job so simple even a child could do it). Intensive farming, on the other hand, required an educated man of science. According to the Official Guidebook of the Panama-California Exposition, a "settler in the West ... on a small tract of five acres or even less can make a good living for himself and family and provide for an annual surplus." Bokovoy sees something sinister amid all this boosterism. The Model Farm promoted the idea of the 20- to 30-acre farm, he says. But these farms failed. "Then, the land was purchased by developers in Mission Valley, Grossmont and Clairemont."

The Model Farm and Bungalow were built by the same consortium that constructed the Southern Counties Building. They, unlike most of the Expo participants, had almost complete control over their building. The manager was C.L. Wilson. Wilson had several claims to fame. He was there when President McKinley was shot at the Buffalo Exposition in 1901 (he offered the mortally wounded President a shot of whiskey). He also broke new ground by planting a citrus orchard at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. Wilson's job was to plan and manage displays for fairs and expos. He was also credited in The San Diego Union as architect of the Southern Counties Building (and seemed to have a fixation on reworking the plans, according to reports). This means he would have had a hand in the Model Bungalow's design. More tellingly, when a request was sent out for bids for the Southern Counties Building, prospective contractors were told to submit their bids to C.L. Wilson, at the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Wilson didn't work for any of the seven counties (Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego and Imperial). He worked for the L.A. Chamber of Commerce.

There's no evidence that Wilson was an architect. Bertram Goodhue, the architect of record for the Expo, said that Carleton Winslow designed the Southern Counties Building (with input from him). Frank P. Allen,

see HouseCalls, page 19



The Model Bungalow under construction, with the California Tower rising in the background (Photograph by Stineman, San Diego Library Public Collections)



(above) Joe Maestro using a Auricon sound movie camera during the 1950s; (top right) Joe Maestro (left, behind announcers) filming a parade in the mid-1950s; (bottom) Joe Maestro filming a Chargers game in 1963 with his two-camera system (Photos courtesy of Pat Maestro)

Making film history: A tribute to Joe Maestro

By Pat Maestro

It was 50 years ago Sept. 14, 1965, when my father passed away of a heart attack. He was only 52 years old. During his short life, he was a master carpenter who manufactured vegetable stands and automatic check-out stands for family-owned grocery stores. He did all the work in his shop behind our house at 4053 Idaho St. in North Park, where the family moved in 1945. He was very active with the Optimist Club and North Park Lions Club and always was available for volunteer work in the community.

In 1950, he became very interested in motion picture photography and began filming country and western shows and commercials for local TV stations. He became good friends with Monte Hall, Terry Preston (Ferlin Husky), E. Earl Allen, Smokey Rogers and everyone who met him in San Diego. He donated his time whenever anyone called him, especially in North Park.

Dad gave away records and played music at sock hops during the 1950s at the University Heights Playground in North Park, which was located across the street from our home on Idaho Street.

During the late 1950s, he was the official photographer for San Diego State College football under coach Don Coryell. In 1961, when the L.A. Chargers moved to San Diego, head coach Sid Gilman hired my dad to be the official photographer for the San Diego Chargers. He continued this position until his untimely death in 1965.

Because my dad did not like flying, he drove to all the out-of-town games and I came along as his assistant. During the 1961 season, coach Gilman asked him to come up with a way to utilize two 16 mm cameras — one for filming the offense plays when the Chargers had the ball, and one for filming defense plays when the visiting team had the ball. Usually only one camera filmed the entire game, which required hours of post-game editing by the coaches.

When my dad came up with an idea of using two Arriflex motion picture cameras mounted on one tripod side by side, visiting team

photographers would make a joke asking him if he was shooting stereo. Joe Maestro was, in fact, an innovator of utilizing the two-camera method for filming the offense and defense. The idea caught on, and within a year all AFL teams required their photographers to use the same method of filming the offense and defense on separate cameras.

Along with filming San Diego

State College football games and the San Diego Chargers, Dad also filmed the Pasadena Rose Parade, and his independently produced film was shown to many organizations throughout San Diego. He loved filming parades and every year he would be seen along the parade routes of the North Park Toyland Parade and Mother Goose Parade with his specially made camera platform mounted on his Oldsmobile. He also filmed the Maytime Band Review and Ozzie's Marching Band, a youth band run by Oscar (Ozzie) Wissell of Ozzie's Music Stores; this band became Ozzie's Marching Chargers and played at many Chargers games.



Maestro, passed away in 2009. I was the Polaroid photographer for the Chargers from 1963 to 1973 except for two years in the Army as a photographer. The Polaroid photos were taken from the press box where the assistant coaches were located. They would look at the pictures of the visiting teams' formations at the start of each play and show some of these photos at half time to the team. They now use digital pictures.

I was always interested in broadcasting and after graduation from Grossmont College in telecommunications in 1973, I went on to pursue a career in radio and television. I have been in Yuma, Arizona since 1974 and have worked as an announcer and in sales at KXO Radio based in El Centro, California since 2003.

—Pat Maestro wrote this tribute about his dad in connection with the North Park Historical Society, which contributes regularly to San Diego Uptown News. ♦

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(l to r) Louie and Clinton Prager have made the Prager Brothers artisan bread label a top seller at Hillcrest Farmers Market (Photo by Lucia Viti)

Making ‘bread the old way’

Prager Brothers live up to their promise

By Lucia Vita

Louie and Clinton Prager are authentic artisan bakers. Influenced by an old-world tradition of using wholesome grains, a natural leaven, and the handcrafting of every baked good, the Prager brothers remain purists to a craft long ago displaced by mass commercial production.

Sporting a variety of breads and sweet treats, Prager Brothers Artisan goods can be found at Hillcrest Farmers Market every Sunday.

But how does a botanist who studied birds in a Peruvian rain forest and a classically trained guitarist who toured Brazil and Argentina become one of the few

artisan bakers in America? The siblings consider it nothing other than a “natural evolution.”

While studying plant biology in Cal State Poly in San Luis Obispo, Louie built an Alan Scott, wood-fire oven in his backyard to accommodate his hobby of baking breads and pizzas for friends and parties. He then met 77-year-old Richard Webb, a baker who owned and operated The 3rd Corner, a tiny bakery in Los Osos. The “mentor, good friend and grandfather figure” taught the budding apprentice the art of bread making along with the essentials of running a business.

Oddly enough, while the elder schooled the younger, Webb urged Louie to choose another career.

“Although Richard shared his comprehensive knowledge from the art of baking artisan breads to the basics of running a business, he encouraged me not to be a baker,” Louie explained. “Be a biologist,” he said. ‘Baking is hard.’ So I did. But when I couldn’t find a job as a botanist after graduation, I built an even bigger backyard stove for baking breads and pizzas.”

With little hesitation, Louie sought to increase his baking volume. Blue Ribbon Artisan Pizzeria of Encinitas allowed him to bake breads in their ovens after hours, which granted Louie permit eligibility for selling at farmers markets while increasing his baking volume from five loaves to 60. Within four months, Louie was selling in six local farmers markets, including the one in Hillcrest. As Louie bore the brunt of the workload, Clinton chipped in to help.

“I helped more and more until I knew I had to choose between bread and music,” the younger sibling said. “The decision was hard but I chose bread knowing that my music would wait for me. I miss music, but I know that we’re doing something really cool.”

A year later, the duo leased retail space in Carlsbad, purchased a German industrial oven and mixer, baskets from France, and everything else from a pizza parlor that was going out of business. Elbowed in cleaning pizza grease, the Prager Brothers settled into

selling up to 300 loaves a day through farmers markets, their Carlsbad retail space and several local restaurants.

“Early on people laughed at us, wondering who would by bread from Prager Brothers, a tiny artisan bakery, when they can go to big stores,” Louie said. “Today we have a steady stream of clientele who are willing to pay more for fresh bread and bread products made from organic ingredients.”

Rooted in a traditional art, Prager Brothers breads are fermented with a natural leaven, not a fast-rising commercial yeast. The leaven, also known as a starter or sourdough culture, contains yeast and bacteria that serve as the catalyst for rising dough. Commercial retail production requires



Artisan bread by the Prager Brothers (Photo by Lucia Viti)

extra yeast — nicknamed “no time doughs” — to expedite the process.

“Natural leaven is as crucial to the quality of our breads as the organic grains and hand-shaping of each loaf,” Louie said. “Our focus is on quality, not speed of production.”

Louie described the comparison between artisan and commercial breads as a contradiction.

“An artisan crafts with meaning

and passion without taking shortcuts, cutting corners or lowering quality standards,” he said. “The commercial retail process is a machine with someone at the top peeking through corners. There’s no balance in mass production. But how can you focus on flavor when you have to bake 2,000 loaves every single day? We handcraft 300 loaves a day. From start to finish our process takes up to 48 hours while retail chains can take less than three.”

The brothers agreed that while the artisan model of baking may appear easy, attention to detail is crucial to its success.

“The process of baking may sound simple — mix flour, yeast, salt, ferment, shape, bake, cool and sell — but every aspect is different,” they said. “Baking variables include temperature, water and the use of a natural leaven. Care and attention to detail makes our breads artisan products.”

“The pitfalls come with packaging and delivery,” Louie explained. “Most commercial bakeries bake their bread the night before, pack and sort — which takes hours — and deliver between 6 and 8 a.m. By early evening, the bread’s almost a day old. Our bread is baked in the morning, labeled and delivered while it’s still warm. Prager Brothers stand for the ultimate in freshness. If the bread’s not fresh, it’s not worth it.”

The days are long, the nights are short and the weekends are non-existent for the native Californians. The assembly line of two agree that long-term stability — and the hiring of employees — remains key to the success of their growing business. “We’re thrilled that there’s such a demand for our product, but we realize that we can’t keep the 16, sometimes 18 hour-a-day pace by ourselves,” Clinton said.

“We’re overworked,” Louie continued. “We’re not on a sustainable path, but we’re working to change that.”

Despite their arduous workload and polar opposite personalities “Louie’s the entrepreneur — the idea guy,” and Clinton the “work horse,” Clinton described their work environment and relationship as good. “We’re lucky,” he said. “The family works as a unit. Mom helps with the books and Dad helps with the farmers markets.”

The self-professed foodies in search of everything organic also practice sustainable living. “It’s all about the planet and how we impact a world that’s not invincible,” Clinton said.

Hillcrest Farmers Market is a noted favorite. Customers are treated to one-spot shopping with its variety of fresh fruit and produce, pastas, olive oils and more. Community and connection are vital. Nothing pleases the Pragers more than customers milling around the booth, chatting about their French baguettes, country sourdough, walnut whole-grain, olive rosemary, whole grain smelt, rye and flat breads, focaccia, mini-brioche scones, sweet rolls, granola, bagels, cookies and Bavarian pretzels. Loaves are sold whole and the brothers boast of a sizable European clientele. Future plans include a workspace large enough for the brothers to mill their own grains and increase their menu to assorted sandwiches.

“We eat what we love, that’s why we bake artisan breads,” they said. “We’re true bakers who stand for the ultimate in quality and freshness.”

—Contact Lucia Viti at lucia-viti@roadrunner.com. ♦



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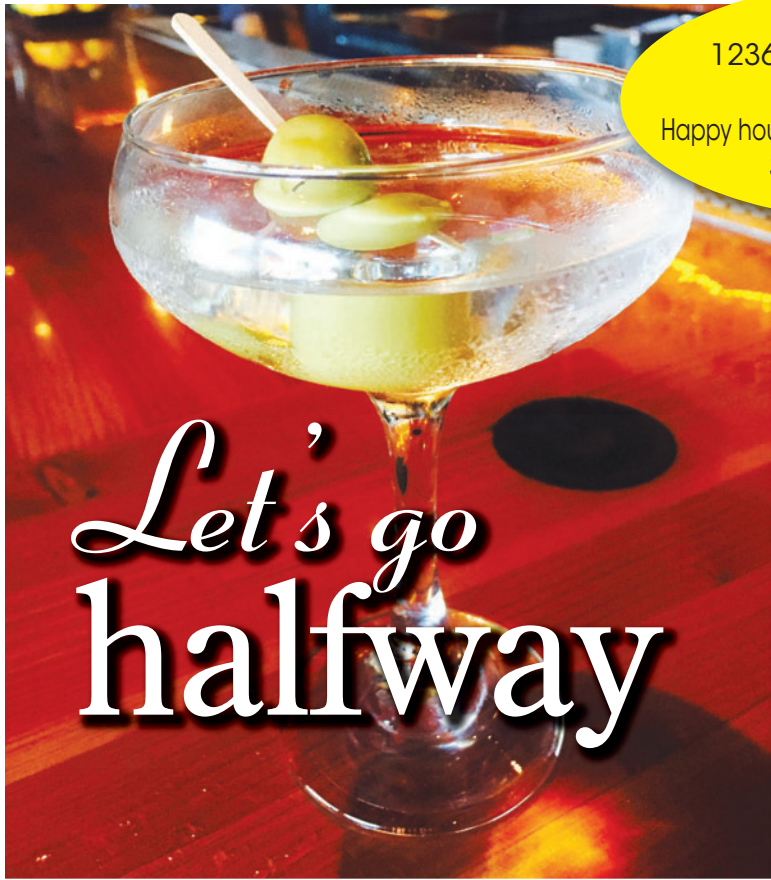


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Let's go halfway

A martini served at Uptown Tavern during happy hour (Photo by Dr. Ink)

Come On Get Happy! Dr. Ink

A friend of mine, Joe Gorst, who hits the drinking and dining scene regularly with his husband, Rik Nelson, snatched the words right out of my booze-soaked brain in describing Uptown Tavern.

"It's very people-focused. And the drinks and food fit the space perfectly. The whole package works," he said.

Gorst and Nelson were among a group of us that turned out for a friend's 50th birthday party recently, held beneath panels of skylights in the tavern's quaint backroom, which features reprinted pages of The New York Times dating back to the 1930s as wallpaper. A close look at some of the advertisements reveal women's coats selling for under \$4 and cigarettes going for 35 cents a pack.

For those of us who arrived before 7 p.m., all drinks were 50 percent cheaper than normal, except for bottles of wine, the tavern's big, boozy "fishbowls" and one particular draft beer of a label I can't remember. Otherwise, you name it, and you got it.

"Even top shelf gin?" I asked the socially polished bartender when inquiring about the price of a Bombay Sapphire martini with three olives tossed in.

"Yes, we bring it down halfway," he replied suggestively.

And so there I was, throwing back two of the martinis for only \$5.40 apiece before they rose to full price. To no surprise, I later learned that each contained traditional two-ounce pours of the gin. Hence, my initial greeting to the birthday girl was rather loud and sloppy.

The friend I arrived with managed to throw down a glass of well-structured Josh Cabernet from the Central Coast (\$5) and a pint of Wipeout by Port Brewery (\$3.25) before happy hour ended. He was content on both counts.

For those in our group arriving only minutes before drinks switched to full price, the bartender jumped into high-speed mode in order to accommodate them. We were impressed.

If you've never tried Uptown's five-spice wings, you're missing some of the best in San Diego.

They're crispier than most and glazed judiciously in a tantalizing sweet-chili sauce. Priced normally at \$12, they drop down to \$7 during happy hour along with several other dishes such as white bean hummus, truffle fries and goat cheese flatbreads.

Uptown Tavern recently celebrated its third anniversary, and though still a baby, it has firmly established itself as an anchor establishment that is both stylish and unpretentious, and one that knows how to nurture the community with impressive food and drinks. ♦

Uptown Tavern

1236 University Ave. (Hillcrest)
619-241-2710

Happy hour: 4 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday;
3 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays

RATINGS

DRINKS: ★★★★★

There was no skimping on the gin in my Bombay Sapphire martini. And for a neighborhood "tavern" popular for its craft beer and copious cocktails, the wine selection proves more than a footnote with some notable cabernets and charonnays from global regions.

FOOD: ★★★★★

Ever since Uptown Tavern sprung onto the scene, people keep coming back for the plump and crispy five-spice wings. They're a must. The white bean hummus dusted in smoked paprika also makes for a drink-friendly nosh.

VALUE: ★★★★★

Nearly every type of booze in the house is half off during happy hour. And several food items are priced at only \$7.

SERVICE: ★★★★★

The tavern is home to some of the friendliest and most charismatic bartenders in town.

ATMOSPHERE: ★★★★★

From the front patio to the central bar and back room, visitors are greeted with warm, solid textures, natural light and a layout seemingly designed to promote socializing

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UPTOWN FOOD BRIEFS

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.



Flanked by his team, Chef Todd Nash holds two awards The Blind Burro won at the Ceviche Showdown. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Double honors were given to **The Blind Burro** of the East Village at the second annual Ceviche Showdown, held Aug. 23, at **57 Degrees** in Middletown. The contest involved nine other competing restaurants such as **Puesto**, **Sirena Gourmet Latin Seafood Restaurant** and **Old Town Mexican Café**, each showcasing a recipe that ranged from traditional to contemporary. The Burro's fruity-minty-spicy ceviche constructed with mixed seafood garnered both the People's Choice Award and the Judges' Award. Executive Chef Todd Nash said the victories may likely prompt him to add the ceviche onto his menu, which already features a classic Baja version with white shrimp and bay scallops. 639 J St., 619-795-7880.

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The Patio Restaurant Group, which owns **The Patio on Goldfinch** and **The Front Porch**, both in Mission Hills, as well as **The Patio on Lamont Street** in Pacific Beach and the upcoming **Fire-side by the Patio** in Liberty Station, has acquired the iconic **Saska's Steak & Seafood** in Mission Beach. The family-owned restaurant opened in 1960 after operating for 10 years as a dive bar named **High Tide**. With its original leather booths and cedar paneling still intact, a minor facelift is planned. The acquisition also included the adjoining **Saska's Sushi Bar** and rooftop **SkyBar**, which were added to the operation in the late '90s. 3768 Mission Blvd., 858-488-7311.

There are numerous Uptown kitchens taking part in the 11th annual **San Diego Restaurant Week**, to be held Sept. 20-27. Meal options feature two-course lunches priced at \$10, \$15 or \$20, and three-course dinners ranging from \$20 to \$50. Among those taking part are **Barrio Star** and **Croce's Park West** in Bankers Hill; **Bleu Boheme** in Kensington; **Brooklyn Girl Eatery** in Mission Hills; **100 Wines in Hillcrest**; and **Circa** in University Heights. Countywide, nearly 180 establishments are participating. No passes are tickets are required, although organizers encourage diners to make advanced reservations at the restaurants they choose to visit. For more information, visit sandiegorestaurantweek.com.

Chef Fred Piehl of **The Smoking Goat**, and his wife, Tammy, will open **One Door North** in the adjoining 5,000-square-foot warehouse held previously by **Mosaic Wine Bar**. Their newest venture, scheduled to launch by November, will offer casual farm-fresh fare and a community bar that opens to the outdoors. The eatery will be open for lunch and dinner daily, and also operate for weekend brunch. 3422 30th St.



A jumbo BLT with ham from Carnitas Snack Shack (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Look for "triple threat" pork sandwiches, carnitas tacos and super-stacked BLTs served in front of the **B Street Cruise Ship Terminal** as **Carnitas Snack Shack** rolls in its new food truck from 10 a.m. to sunset, Wednesdays through Sundays. The North Park-based eatery will operate the mobile offshoot until moving into an additional "shack" early next year at nearby North Embarcadero, a waterfront improvement project still under construction. 1050 N. Harbor Drive, carnitassnackshack.com.

As a teaser to the \$80 million renovation planned at the **Town and Country Resort & Convention Center** in Mission Valley next year, Chef Paul McCabe has returned to San Diego from Arizona to oversee the property's culinary program. Prior to taking a gig at **Royal Palms** in Phoenix, he worked at **Delicias**, **Kitchen 1540** and **Top of the Cove**. Joining him in the effort is acclaimed Pastry Chef Jack Fisher, formerly with **Jsix** and **Cucina Urbana**. The duo completely revised the menus at the resort's two existing restaurants: **Charlie's Sports Bar** and **Terrace Café**. Both are open to the public and have received interior makeovers, although the property's fine-dining restaurant, **Trellises Garden Grill**, is now closed permanently.

At Charlie's, smoked meats, gourmet burgers and scratch-made sauces have entered into the equation. Breads, buns and pastries are also house-made, some of which supply the all-day menu at Terrace Café.

The restaurants, however, will be demolished when work begins on the 32-acre property in the fall of 2016. "Every building except for the towers and convention center will be bulldozed," says McCabe, adding that "three or four" new restaurants will emerge once the resort is rebuilt. He and Fisher will oversee their concepts. "We're making these upgrades now to give our customers some really great food in the interim," he says. The flora and gazebo-filled resort, which was built as a motor lodge in 1953 by Mission Valley developer Charles H. Brown, is managed by **Destination Hotels & Resorts**. McCabe says the sweeping redo will "honor the history of the property, but with a more updated feel." 500 Hotel Circle North, 619-291-7131.

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



Café Madeleine will join the lineup for Taste of South Park on Sept. 19.

(Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Practically every kitchen in the neighborhood is taking part in the inaugural **Taste of South Park**, which will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 19, along the corridors of 30th and Fern streets. Participants include **Eclipse Chocolate Bar & Bistro**; **Buona Forchetta**; **South Park Abbey**; **Café Madeleine**; **Mazara Trattoria**; **Fire Horse**, and several others that locals residing outside the area may have not yet discovered. Tickets, which include samples from each restaurant, are \$30 in advance at southparkscene.com/events, or \$35 at the information booth on the day of the event (Grape and Fern streets).

Coming to the ground floor of the new Mr. Robinson loft building at the corner of Park Boulevard and Robinson Street in Hillcrest is **TRUST Restaurant**, where seasonal shareable plates, artisan wines, craft beer and crafty cocktails will rule the day. The 2,600-square-foot space, which extends to a spacious patio, is due to open in late fall as the building nears completion. Executive Chef Brad Wise, who worked at **JRDN**, **Draft**, and **Cannonball**, will helm the kitchen. 3752 Park Blvd.



A sectional rendering of TRUST Restaurant in Hillcrest (Courtesy of Chemistry PR)

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(above) Sausage board, (top right) fried chicken and (bottom right) beignets at Local Habit (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)



New Orleans redefined

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



The mural that grabs you by the eyeballs when walking into Local Habit says it all.

Since opening as a beer-focused “earth-to-table” restaurant in 2011, and then struggling to cement a firm identity, the Fifth Avenue establishment has undergone a concept change and menu restructuring that could leave you waxing sentimental over your last visit to New Orleans.

Yet for those who have never visited the Big Easy, the drinks and food at Local Habit serve as viable primers.

Under a second set of owners is new executive chef Jimmy Tessier, a graduate of the Culinary Institute

of America and protégé of famed chef Emeril Lagasse. He was also a contestant several years ago on Food Network’s “Chopped.”

Tessier has upheld and enhanced the menu formulated by his Louisiana-born predecessor, Nick Brune, who originally helped launch Local Habit when it became the first restaurant on this village-y block of Hillcrest to offer craft beers and house-cured meats. Those still remain.

But through its recent transition, the restaurant’s continental approach has made way for “swamp water” cocktails, Cajun-marinated fried chicken and puffy beignets served with chicory coffee crème anglaise. Yes, yes and yes.

It has also resulted in an appealing remodel featuring a sidewalk patio, rollup windows, a spruced-up bar, and a 24-foot-long

interior mural painted by acclaimed “live artist” Sean Dietrich, whose rabbit-themed fresco dominates a wall at The Rabbit Hole in Normal Heights.

Here, his work summarizes what Tessier describes as a place “where New Orleans cuisine meets California ingredients.” Fantastical images of coastal California verge into all things New Orleans, including water boats doubling as andouille sausages. The longer you stare, the more quirky depictions you discover.

The menu starts off with a board of house-made sausages – onion-chive chicken and decidedly smokier andouille – served with crostini, pickled onions and cornichons. A craft draft or glass of vino from the succinct wine list would strike ideal pairings to the board, but we instead dabbled in the New Orleans cocktail culture with fruity, rum-spiked hurricanes and lime-infused swamp waters

mingling vodka and apricot brandy.

Tessier does wonders with pork belly, an appetizer that spans a spectrum of flavors and textures. The pieces were brushed with sweet Creole agave and molasses, which were beautifully contrasted by serrano chili hot sauce. And residing beneath their crispy, flash-fried crusts was the prized mouth-melting meat achieved from slow roasting.

From the entrée list, my companion opted for honey-mustard lamb chops, a Stonehenge-like arrangement of succulent meat and bones encircling truffle-cauliflower puree, baby carrots, and bread pudding containing all the comforts of Thanksgiving dressing — basically the traditional Louisiana “holy trinity” of onions, celery and bell peppers.

Another star ingredient in the dish was bourbon-soaked cherries, which jived lovingly to tender figs and a puddle of rosemary demi gracing the plate. For a neighborhood restaurant, the presentation hit fine-dining standards.

Tessier’s fried Jidori chicken takes on a twist with rice flour, which gives the batter a crispier edge. It isn’t classic Southern-style, but close enough as the fat from the chicken meshes tastefully with the coating, while buttermilk enters into the equation as a choice of sauce on the side. The other sauce options are serrano or Cajun agave.

The chicken undergoes a 48-hour marinade in vari-

ous chili blends, resulting in the highest heat level named “slap ya mama!” I chose medium, which was safer than expected. No mouth burn, but piquant nonetheless.

Parked alongside was a dish of kale sautéed in serrano cider vinegar, garlic, and caramelized onions. A bit too acidic, we agreed it was the only off-note to our meal.

Despite a fair number of Louisiana favorites in the offing, such as po’boys, shrimp and grits, crawfish linguine, and Creole pizzas (one topped with a stimulating mix of andouille sausage and Cajun chicken), Tessier avoids pigeonholing the menu as exclusively Cajun because a majority of the dishes are given modern spins, oftentimes with locally sourced ingredients.

Right down to the fried-to-order beignets we finished with, Tessier injects a touch of orange juice and zest into the recipe. As with all the savory dishes that came before them, he well proves that solid marriages can be struck between the cuisines of old New Orleans and modern-day California.

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



Hurricane cocktail
(Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Local Habit

3827 Fifth Ave.
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Hanna Corrigan (above and at right) stars in the title role of "Violet" at San Diego REP, seen with Rhett George (left) and Jacob Caltrider. (Photos by Daren Scott)

Beauty is only skin deep

Theater Review

Charlene Baldrige



Chock-a-block with tunes, Jeanine Tesori's 1997 off-Broadway musical, "Violet," opened San Diego Repertory Theatre's 40th season Aug. 26 (this review based on the performance of Aug. 27), featuring acclaimed musical theater perform-

er Sutton Foster, who got her start in Tesori's "Thoroughly Modern Millie" at La Jolla Playhouse.

In the title role of San Diego Rep's "Violet," recent UC San Diego MFA graduate Hannah Corrigan is a real find. She is a fine actor and has an unwavering voice of purity, integrity and quality, perfect for the score, which embraces gospel, country, blues, bluegrass and rock.

Not only that, director Sam Woodhouse surrounds Corrigan with a solid company of excel-

lent singer/actors. When they sing ensemble, accompanied by a seven-member orchestra that includes conductor/keyboards Korrie Pallioto, the Rep's roof raises at least 12 feet. It's one of those rare occasions when you wish the show would go on forever. The score, largely through-sung, ranges from the tiniest, most intimate whisper to full-throated gospel.

Corrigan plays a young farm-woman from Spruce Pine, North Carolina. Violet has a horribly

disfiguring scar on her face (we don't actually see it; merely see it as reflected in the faces of others who see her for the first time). Violet has never forgiven her Father (Jason Maddy) for the accident and its aftermath. Now that he is dead and has left her a little money, she goes on a Greyhound bus quest to see a Tulsa TV evangelist (Jason Heil, perfectly smarmy), to whom she ascribes the power to rid her of her scars. Violet will come back home beautiful and triumphant. Throughout the entire musical Violet is tailed by young Violet (amazing 13-year-old singer Katelyn Katz from Carmel Valley Middle School).

On the long bus trip Violet becomes acquainted an Old Lady (Melinda Gilb, who later plays a hotel hooker to great, hilarious effect) and two soldiers, Flick (Rhett George, ye gads, he grows on you) and Monty (Jacob Caltrider, surprising in his new-found romantic machismo). Each of the men, in his own way and for his own reasons, falls in love with Violet. One white and one African-American, both are on their way to assignments, very likely in Vietnam.

Others in the company portray bus drivers, landladies, nightclub and TV congregational singers. They are the faultless Bryan Banville, Kürt Norby, Tanika Baptiste, and Anise Ritchie, all familiar from their work on local stages. Remember the Beggar Woman in Diversionary's "A New Brain"? That was Tanika.

According to Woodhouse, speaking in a "Surround Event" pre-performance seminar, the "Violet" players have become a family, as large ensembles rarely do. This listener is a believer: They are an extraordinary group, playing, singing and moving so well (cho-



'Violet'

by Jeanine Tesori

Based on

"The Ugliest Pilgrim"

by Doris Betts

Through Sept. 13

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reographer is Javier Velasco) on Giulio Perrone's accommodatingly adaptable set (mostly unseen, the orchestra is center above). Jeanne Reith's costumes are appropriate to the times (country cottons and socks for the girls) and environs. Lighting designer is Trevor Norton, and sound designer Kevin Athenill creates a magical balance of singers and orchestra to audience.

There are several moments so touching, so affecting, that they bring the observer to tears. The music lover goes home sated on solos, duets and ensembles of surprising variety. Violet goes home with the one who saw her beauty the moment he looked at her.

Trust me, "Violet" is a most unusual musical. Kudos to Woodhouse and all involved for bringing such a treasure to San Diego.

—Charlene Baldrige has been writing about the arts since 1979. You can follow her blog at charlenebaldrige.com or reach her at charb81@gmail.com. ♦

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Music by Stephen Flaherty
Vignettes by Douglas Carter Beane, Nilo Cruz, Christopher Durang, Carrie Fisher, David Henry Hwang, Rajiv Joseph, Terrance McNally, Marsha Norman, Lynn Nottage, and Alfred Uhry
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Conceived by Christopher Gattelli and Jennifer Manocherian
Direction and Choreography by Christopher Gattelli



The Comedy of Errors

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Scott Ellis
Featuring a stellar cast led by Glenn Howerton ("It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia") and Rory O'Malley (The Book of Mormon).

From top: Jess LeProtto and Samantha Sturm with the cast of In Your Arms; Jenn Harris, with the cast of In Your Arms (photos by Buck Lewis, courtesy of New York Stage and Film & Vassar's Powerhouse Theater); Rory O'Malley and Glenn Howerton (photo by Jim Cox).

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

9/6

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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Puzzle answers on page 16

Uptown Crossword

Silence!

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			

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ACROSS

1 Can
5 Joe
9 Houston pro
14 Cleopatra's maid
15 Did it up brown
16 The Mod ____: old TV show
17 Pontificate
18 Ontario native
19 Swell
20 Night heron
22 Sharper
23 First-rate
24 Busybody
26 Piccadilly Circus figure
28 Graylag offspring
32 Sandburg subject
35 Jeb, the Reb
37 Singer Pinza
38 Mistreat
40 Reuben need
41 Boston Garden, e.g.
42 Nice five
43 Felt in one's bones
45 What to do to one's i's
46 Flimsy
48 Bamboozle

50 Santa ____ race track
52 Imagined
56 Flute
59 Close call
61 Skip for joy
62 Time
63 Very bad
64 Take again
65 Buffalo's county
66 Kin of a Peter Pan
67 Lead-in, for short
68 Shea team
69 Author Ayn

DOWN


1 In front
2 Baghdad resident
3 Accumulated
4 Fourth or real
5 Highest prize
6 Brazilian state
7 Small thrush
8 Hoosier humorist
9 Portfolio listings
10 Snitch
11 ____ over; ponder
12 Fashion
13 Stettin's river
21 Going downhill
22 Granny, for one
25 Way out

27 Most reliable
29 Author and atom enders
30 El ____: weather phenomenon
31 Laughingstock
32 Kind of finder
33 Showbiz award
34 Craig Steven's role
36 Author Rand
39 Infant, at times
41 Think the world of
43 Deck part
44 Hangs in there
47 ____ buckle your shoe
49 Finch of domed nests
51 Stuck out like ____ thumb
53 Large curled-tail dog
54 Fruit tray goody
55 Way the wind blows
56 Odin's wolf
57 Oily, Oily ____ Free: '78 Hepburn film
58 Diamond play
60 Throw in the towel
62 Edge

Puzzle answers on page 16

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3800 Fourth Ave.
3766 Fifth Ave.
1010 University Ave.
1421 University Ave.
4070 Centre St.
1010 University Ave.
350 University Ave.
3831 Park Blvd.
4180 Park Blvd.
120 W. 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.
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3995 Fifth Ave.
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1010 University Ave.
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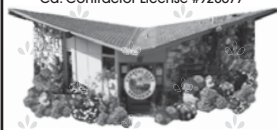
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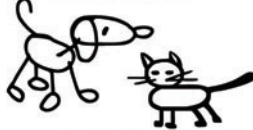


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Puzzle from page 15

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

Silence!

Crossword from page 15

FIRE	JAVA	ASTRO
IRAS	ACED	SQUAD
RANT	CREE	SURGE
SQUAWKER	KEENER	
TIPTOP	YENTA	
	EROS	GOSLING
FOG	STUART	EZIO
ABUSE	RYE	ARENA
CINQ	SENSED	DOT
TENUOUS	SNOW	
	ANITA	DREAMT
GOBLET	SQUEAKER	
EXULT	HOUR	VILE
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INTRO	METS	RAND

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A circular tour of southwestern *Nova Scotia*



A light fog burns off at Hall's Harbour beach in Nova Scotia. (Photo by Ron Stern)

Global Gumshoe Ron Stern



The long, narrow province of Nova Scotia is oriented east-west alongside mainland Canada. With Halifax as your starting and ending point, it's possible to drive the coastal roads of southwestern Nova Scotia in a circle and, on the way, sample some of the best cuisine and historical sites that this province has to offer.

Halifax

Begin your tour in Halifax itself, and start by taking a Segway tour of the famous boardwalk, which lines about 3 kilometers of the harbor. There are plenty of attractions to be viewed here, and even a casino if you want to try your luck.

If you're hungry, consider checking out the seafood restaurant McKelvies, just a block from Lower Water Street. The interior has a wonderful ambience which will contribute to your enjoyment of a variety of fish dishes or lobster.

Peggy's Cove

From Halifax, drive south to Peggy's Cove. One of the first landmarks you'll see is the Peggy's Cove lighthouse. Be careful walking around to getting photos, as people have been swept off the rocks on occasion. Photographers will want to get some shots of the colorful harbor with its boats and fishing huts.

South to Lunenburg

From Peggy's Cove, continue south along the "Lighthouse Route" to the village of Tantallon. If you like maple syrup and all the goodies that are made with that ingredient, stop in at Acadian Maple Products, a family-owned business that has been creating products featuring their locally sourced syrup for over 30 years.

Mahone Bay

As you head toward the picturesque village of Mahone Bay, consider stopping in at the White Sails Bakery & Deli for a cinnamon bun or some of their smoked meats.

Visitors along the coast often make a point of dining at Mateus Bistro in Mahone Bay for lunch, as the chef learned his craft at the Le Cordon Bleu Paris Cooking School. Be sure to try the seafood chowder.

Lunenburg

Lunenburg was selected as a UNESCO World Heritage site because of the historical importance of its British Colonial Old Town, full of unique architecture.

The Ironworks Distillery located in a converted maritime blacksmith shop is where you can sample their vodka made with locally sourced apples as well as their rum and liqueurs. Then stroll by the harbor for a chance to see the Bluenose II, which is a replica of the original racing schooner of that name. You'll have to plan ahead, as this maritime ambassador shifts from port to port during the sailing season from July to September.

Lunenburg to Shelburne

The small town of Shelburne expanded greatly during the American War of Independence as Loyalists fled here from the Colonies. After you've toured the historic landmarks, stop in at Charlotte Lane Café for lunch or dinner, and then find a room for the night at Cooper's Inn.

Shelburne to Digby

On your way along Highway 103 toward Digby, divert to Ste-Anne-du-Ruisseau and take a tour of the Eel Lake Oyster Farm. This will give you an opportunity to taste the famous "Ruisseau" oysters for which they are known.

Next on your route will be Yarmouth and the Acadian Shores. This is another town full of history – not of Americans who were loyal to the British crown but of the Acadians, descendants of some of the first French settlers in the region.

For good food and great scenery of St. Mary's Bay, La Cuisine Robicheau features some tasty Acadian cuisine like fresh haddock with lobster sauce, mashed potatoes and peas.

Another notable Acadian dish, Rappie Pie, can be found at Evelina's. You'll plunge your fork through a golden brown crust into a chicken, beef or clam filling, mixed with delicious potatoes.

If you like golf, spend the night at the Digby Pines Golf Resort & Spa. Digby Bay is famous for its scallops, so make sure those are on your dinner menu!



(top) A church in Saulnierville, (middle) Segway riders along the Halifax waterfront, (bottom) and colorful businesses in Lunenburg (Photos by Ron Stern)

Digby to Wolfville

Along the route to Wolfville, you can pick out your own lobsters for lunch or dinner at the Hall's Harbor Lobster Pound.

Fort Anne, a star fort in Annapolis Royal, was once the capital of Nova Scotia until it was replaced by Halifax in 1749.

The town of Wolfville has plenty of bars, restaurants and shops but it is also known for being in the heart of Nova Scotia's "wine country."

Benjamin Bridges and Luckett Vineyards are two of the best known wineries in this area, but there are several. If you want to phone home inexpensively, visit Luckett Vineyards, as there's an

English phone box prominently placed so visitors can make a toll free call to anywhere in Canada or the United States' Lower 48.

Wolfville also boasts the Blomidon Inn, formerly the mansion of a shipping magnate, now a delightful bed & breakfast.

Return to Halifax

It's about an hour's drive from Wolfville northeast across the province to Halifax, where you can catch a plane for home.

—Contact Ron Stern at travelwriter01@comcast.net or visit his blog at originalglobalgumshoe.blogspot.com. ♦

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UPTOWN CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

North Park Car Show Saturday, Sept. 12

This event presented by the North Park Historical Society will feature dozens of old classic cars. There will be trophies awarded for first, second and third "people's choices" and other prizes. The event is hosted by the Balboa Tennis Club and takes place in the parking lot of the courts in Morley Field (2221 Morley Field Drive). The car show is free and will be held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit northparkhistory.org or call 619-294-8990 for more information.

Ray at Night Saturday, Sept. 12

San Diego's largest and longest running art walk is held the second Saturday of each month on Ray Street between University Avenue and North Park Way from 6 – 10 p.m. Live entertainment, food trucks and a chance to browse the boutiques and galleries in the area are just a few highlights. This month's Ray at Night, sponsored by Simply Local, also marks the 14th anniversary of the event. Live music will be provided by Angels Dust, Chill Pill, The Slashes, and Josh Ferreira. Art shows include "Doubling" by Mikaela McLeish at OBR Architecture (3817 Ray St.) and "Deliberate Distortions" at The Studio Door (3750 30th St.). Plus Simply Local and Kent Karras Chiropractic are presenting artwork by Vanessa Hofmann and Peter Geise. Free and family friendly. For more on Ray at Night visit rayatnight.com.

Live music – 'An Evening with Molly Ringwald'

Thursday, Sept. 17

The singer-actress returns to Martinis Above Fourth (3940 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest) for one night only. Ringwald will sing jazz tunes from her 2013 album "Except Sometimes," along with hits from the Great American Songbook. The songstress grew up performing with her father's jazz band and never stopped. Her lifelong love of music comes through in this crowd-pleasing concert. Doors open at 6 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$50 and there is a \$15 food/drink minimum. Visit martinisabovefourth.com for tickets and more information.

'The Blues Brothers'

Thursday, Sept. 24 – Saturday, Sept. 26

Cinema Under the Stars is an outdoor movie theater in Mission Hills (4040 Goldfinch St.) that showcases various movies several nights a week. This three-night run features the 1980 musical comedy directed by John Landis and starring John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd. It includes musical numbers by James Brown, Cab Calloway, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles and John Lee Hooker; and costars John Candy and Carrie Fisher. Tickets are \$15 at the box office, \$17 with online reservation. Popcorn, candy and beverages will be on sale for \$2 each. Film screenings start at 8 p.m. with a classic cartoon shown first. For more info, visit topspresents.com or call 619-295-4221.

'Craft Beer Taste' at the 34th annual Adams Avenue Street Fair Saturday, Sept. 26

This component of the larger street fair is sure to draw some attention from connoisseurs in beer-loving Uptown. There will be over 30 selections from 16 local craft brewers featured. For \$20 (in advance), tasters will receive 12 four-ounce tastes

of the beers of their choice. Participants this year include Automatic Brewing Co, BNS, Stone Brewing, Green Flash and more. The Craft Beer Taste section will be open from noon – 4 p.m. on Saturday only across from the Starbucks Stage (near Felton Street and Adams Avenue). The festival itself is held from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27. The free street fair will feature over 110 musical acts on eight stages, carnival rides, food vendors and four additional beer gardens. Visit bit.ly/1KCZeD9 for Craft Beer Taste tickets and adamsavenuestfair.com for a full lineup of events.

RECURRING EVENTS

Daily:

Don't Try This at Home!: Six varying times per day until Sept. 27, a live science show is presented with demonstrations that are too messy, loud or shocking to try at home. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park, free with admission. Rhfleet.org.

Mondays:

Singing Storytime: 1:30 p.m., learn what's going on inside your baby's mind, strengthen 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.

Karaoke: 8 p.m., your chance to shine on the big stage at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest. Themorrow.com.

Tuesdays:

Curbside Bites: 5:30 – 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.

Uptown Democratic Club: 6:30 p.m., Joyce Beers Community Center hosts these meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month. New members wanted. 1220 Vermont Ave., Hillcrest. Uptowndemocrats.org.

Open Mic Charlie's: 7 – 9:30 p.m. (except the third Tuesday), open mic night at Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. Rebeccascoffeehouse.com.

North Park Brewer's Club: 8:30 p.m., monthly meeting of the club every second Tuesday of the month on the back patio at Thorn Street



Scene from "Beautiful Something"
(Courtesy of FilmOut San Diego)

Brewery, 3176 Thorn St., North Park. Thornstreetbrew.com.

Wednesdays:

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.

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, Suggested \$5 donation. 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. Sevendgrandbars.com.

Thursdays:

Uptown Sunrise Rotary Club meetings: 7 a.m., weekly meeting at Panera Bread, 1270 Cleveland Ave., Hillcrest. Sdrotary.org.

Gentle yoga for seniors: 2:30 – 4 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 Street and University Avenue, North Park, free. Northparkfarmersmarket.com.

Kornflower's Open Mic: Sign-ups at 7 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.

Liberty Toastmasters Club: 7 p.m., at Saint Paul's Community Care Center, 328 Maple St., Bankers Hill. Libertytoastmasters.org.

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.

'Beautiful Something'

This month's FilmOut San Diego screening features a film based on true events. It centers on the stories of four diverse gay men over the course of one night in Philadelphia. "Beautiful Something," directed by Joseph Graham, stars Brian Sheppard, Colman Domingo, Zack Ryan and John Lescault as the core characters spanning generations and communities — navigating art, sex and love. The film screens at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16 at Landmark Cinemas Hillcrest (3965 Fifth Ave. #200) with director Mark Bessenger's short film "The Puppet." The directors of both films will attend the screening and participate in a Q&A with the audience. Tickets are \$10. Visit filmoutsandiego.com for more information and tickets.

Cinema Under the Stars:

8:30 p.m., classic movie screenings at 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. Additional showings Friday – Sunday. Tickets start at \$15. Topsresents.com.

Fridays:

Memory Café: 10 – 11 a.m., second and fourth Fridays. Gathering place for those with memory loss, caretakers and those worried about memory problems in the Common Room at First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front St., Hillcrest. At-will donation. Memoryguides.org and Firstuusandiego.org.

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

Square Dancing Classes: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., every Friday, class is open to new dancers on Sept. 11 and 18. No previous dance experience needed. Recital Hall, 2130 Pan American Plaza. \$50 for 13 classes. 858-277-7499 or circulators.sdsda.org.

Saturdays

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

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.

Karaoke: 8 p.m., your chance to shine on the big stage at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest. Themorrow.com.

—Email calendar items to ken@sdenn.com. ♦



Scene from "Slow Learners"
(Courtesy of Digital Gym)

'Slow Learners'

Digital Gym is screening this Tribeca Film Festival favorite starring Adam Pally ("Happy Endings," "The Mindy Project") and Sarah Burns ("Enlightened," "I Love You, Man") as friends who are unlucky in love. After the two become fed up with seeing others succeed in finding companionship, they decide its time for a change. Together they work to ditch their boring personas and become fun loving, confident partiers. Their sex and alcohol-fueled summer leads to self-discovery and plenty of laughs. The cast of the romantic comedy includes Reid Scott, Catherine Reitman, Kevin Dunn, Kate Flannery, Charlie McDermott, Bobby Moynihan and Cecily Strong. Showing Friday, Sept. 18 through Thursday, Sept. 24 at Digital Gym Cinema is located at 2921 El Cajon Blvd. in North Park. Call 619-230-1938 or visit digitalgym.org for tickets and show times.

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FROM PAGE 1
CHANGES

after John Alessio.

Other longtime tenants that occupy suites on various floors include Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire law firm, ACE Parking and Heritage Escrow Co. And since the sale of building, businesses such as Carling Communications and North Island Credit Union are due to take residence.

Overseeing the redesign project, which focuses primarily on the main entrance, lobby and first floor, is Rapt Studio based in San Francisco.

"We're bringing this to one of the best mid-century buildings in San Diego," Rapt Studio CEO David Galullo said. "But we don't want to go in and leave it looking like an architect renovated it. Our theory is 'let's not mess with what is right about the building.'"

Some of the changes include replacing the entrance ramp with a new set of stairs, and laying tiles in simple, geometric patterns on the lobby floor and walls in an effort to better capture the era in which the structure was built.

The original, custom-made chandelier, which has been a dramatic focal point in the lobby, will remain intact as well as the atrium skylights surrounding it. Renovations to the outdated elevator cabs are also underway.

"We're reworking the entire first floor, which is all office space, although some of it will be developed for restaurant and retail tenants," Galullo added.

One of those spaces will open to the outdoors at Fifth & Laurel streets with a patio deck for a potential restaurant tenant.

Brown foresees the first floor as housing two restaurants that will likely include a casual café. He's currently in discussion with a few undisclosed prospects.

"We really want to activate these spaces in order to bring the surrounding community together," he said. "And we didn't want to go with a shabby chic look, but rather something tailored — a design that maintains the history of the building."

Leo Wilson, director of Metro San Diego Community Development Corp. and past president of the Bankers Hill Community Association, lives across the street from the building and likes what he sees taking place.

"The changes will be for the better. It's a quality building that has always been well-maintained and spotless. I feel that will continue. The most critical issue is keeping the Christmas lights," he said, referring to the show-stopping display that drapes the building every holiday season.

Brown confirmed that he is indeed keeping them, along with the addition of new LED light enhancements that will be evident this year.

Mister A's General Manager Ryan Thorsen also supports the renovation project and says it hasn't infringed on business since work began in June.

"So far so good. In the long run, it will only be good for the neighborhood," he said.

Fifth & Laurel is located at 2550 Fifth Ave. Construction to its lobby and common spaces is expected to be completed in three to four months from now. Until then, the main entrance has been shut down as visitors and tenants access the building through a temporary entrance off Maple Street.

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

FROM PAGE 8
HOUSECALLS

director of public works for the Expo, claimed he had designed the building. But Allen claimed he had designed everything.

None of this answers the question of the Model Bungalow's odd appearance, however. The buildings in the Expo were far more varied than a present-day visitor to the park would imagine. Supervising architect Bertram Goodhue had a Spanish vision, but it wasn't always carried out. Mediterranean, Italian, Mission and Classical elements crept in, sometimes to good effect, sometimes not. The Model Bungalow seems to be a particularly conflicted piece of architecture. Photographs reveal a Tudor-flavored front and a Mission-style back. In the rear, which is seldom shown in photographs, there are two wings, with Mission-style window openings. But the courtyard that is formed by the wings isn't paved, and there is a cobblestone chimney protruding into the space. There is no front porch, no overhanging roof to provide shelter. It's a bit of monstrosity, as if a Craftsman bungalow got grafted onto an early California Ranch House. Which is probably what happened.

The San Diego Public Library has a blueprint of the Model Bungalow, which Special Collection Supervisor Richard Crawford brought out for me on a recent Friday. It's dated 1912, well before the Model Bungalow was completed. The title reads "Southern California Ranch Home Exhibit of the Southern California Panama Expositions Commission." It's

signed C.M.W., which would be Carleton M. Winslow. The plans don't include any exterior elevations, just the basic floor plan, but it doesn't take much imagination to see that it is a Spanish Colonial building — or more accurately a California Ranch House of the Mexican Territorial period. There is a large terrace in front of the house, and the area between the two wings at the rear of the house is filled in with tile pavers. The two wings project slightly to the front as well, flanking the front door, which opens into a wide, shallow entry hall. Beyond that is the large living room, which opens out to the terrace. The bedrooms are arranged in a line on the right wing, with a hall to provide access. The dining room and kitchen are in the other wing, with a library at the front separated by a hall. Had this 1912 design been built, it would have been one of the first examples of a 20th century California Ranch House (unless you count Hazel Waterman's 1910 remodel of Casa de Estudillo in Old Town, which Winslow's design resembles, and which provided the inspiration for Cliff May's ranch houses of the 1930s).

So why wasn't the Ranch Home built as designed? The history of Southern California agriculture suggests a possibility. According to Bokovoy, when U.S. citizens poured into California in 1850, they viewed the rancho system of the Mexicans as inefficient and wasteful of natural resources. The Yankees didn't have any moral qualms about squatting on the Mexicans' land, since they believed themselves to be morally superior. The Land Law of 1851 disenfranchised the Californios. Most lost their land, often for tech-

nical reasons, such as the inability to prove ownership. Many of the first settlers of California, like former Gov. Pio Pico, died landless and broke.

While the visitors to San Diego in 1915 romanticized that recent past, and turned Ramona's Wedding Place (Casa de Estudillo) into a shrine to an idealized Old California, the agriculture experts and Chamber of Commerce boosters knew the reality, and wanted to divorce themselves from it, because it conflicted with their vision of a high-tech farming future. It's likely that Winslow's Ranch House plans went to LA and came back modified, likely by a chamber of Commerce draftsman, or even by C.L. Wilson himself. The result was a hodgepodge of design cues to disguise the Spanish origins and a new "English" façade to make it respectable. The pergola and sign were completed before the Model Bungalow (it can be seen in construction photos). That's why the sign in front of the bungalow retains its original name: "Ranch Home."

And what happened to the building itself? It was donated to the City of San Diego, along with the Southern Counties Building, which was destroyed in the 1920s (the Museum of Man now stands in its place). The zoo grew around the Model Bungalow, which apparently remained in its original location. In 1935, The San Diego Union reported that Superintendent of Parks John G. Morley, the Englishman who made Balboa Park look like it does today, was living in the house, surrounded by exotic animals, flowers and tourists. Somehow that seems fitting.

—Contact Michael Good at housecallssdun@gmail.com. ♦

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Improvements to 25th Street in Golden Hill include enhanced crosswalks. (Photos by Dave Schwab)

FROM PAGE 1 PROJECT

work for many drivers. And I feel the 'pop-outs' on corners intended to calm traffic are a bad idea. The pop-outs, in my view, invite pedestrians to stand too close to the roadway."

Alvarez agreed, however, that pop-outs will calm traffic.

"But so would spike strips," she said. "That doesn't mean it's a good solution."

The 25th Street Improvement Project is in Councilmember Todd Gloria's District 3. Though the project may not be all things to all people, Gloria said it's a major step forward.

"The improvements completed along 25th Street make a tremendous difference to the neighborhood and the many visitors who frequent the area. In addition to infrastructure repairs below the street, pop-outs at the intersections encourage walking, and the reverse-angle parking balances vehicles and provides more protection for riders taking advantage of the new bike lanes," Gloria said. "This area of Golden Hill has emerged as a hub of unique food and beverage venues, and more residents are seeking out its unique character, making the project's active transportation additions especially welcome. The residents and business owners in the area were impacted by the long construction timeline, and I hope they feel the \$3 million in improvements were worth it now that the dust has settled."

The project is a Capital Improvement Project (CIP), said Monica Munoz, a public information officer for the city. She said this project "does include a dedicated bike lane and some traffic-calming measures."

In April 2014, Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Councilmember Todd Gloria officiated at a groundbreaking ceremony for the 25th Street Improvement Project.

The project included \$1.7 million

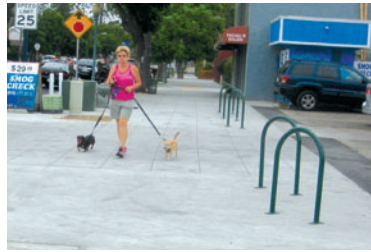
in amenities for traffic calming and hardscape improvements. It was designed to make the Golden Hill neighborhood safer and more accessible for residents and businesses.

Project enhancements also entailed replacing water mains. Additionally, sidewalks were widened and Class II bike lanes were put in to facilitate accessibility.

The origin of 25th Street improvements dates to 1984 when the city contracted out public street improvement concepts and private design guidelines for a major neighborhood commercial strip in Golden Hill.

The goal was to spur commercial revitalization of the length of 25th Street by providing a framework for improvements to the 25th Street mixed commercial/residential corridor between Balboa Park on the north and state Route 94 on the south.

The idea behind making physical improvements to 25th Street was that doing so would bring economic revitalization, decrease crime and enhance community pride.



GGHPC's Strickland believes the city has missed a golden opportunity in Golden Hill to finish 25th Street's enhancement.

"It is sad that by not being diligent in meeting the TE deadlines, the 'Renaissance' of 25th Street, of which the community and the consultant worked so hard to develop, will not happen," he said. "Now, if the city were to get funding to implement the Renaissance design, it will have to excavate the sidewalks and perhaps the streets, to finish the project."

Strickland noted that street furniture such as benches and trash receptacles, plus installation of water-quality infrastructure, undergrounding of utility boxes and installation of aesthetic street lights and lighted bollards, signage and additional street tree and other street plantings were all a part of the original design of the 25th Street Improvement Project.

— Dave Schwab can be reached at dschwabie@journalist.com. ♦

FROM PAGE 1 GILMAN

at liberty to reveal his new tenant, and said it would not be another restaurant but would be related to the "service industry."

But few people have as clear an insight into what might be happening to the Pernicano property than Gilman. Rumors were rife over the Labor Day weekend that there never was a buyer for the Pernicano property, as Uptown News received emails and texts from readers wondering whether the community had been fooled. Gilman confirmed that several months ago he talked to several developers who were interested in the Pernicano project, but could not reveal their identities due to confidentiality concerns.

Harmer addressed those rumors on Tuesday, Sept. 8, in an email reply to Uptown News and updated the community on the latest developments.

"We announced at the Uptown Planners meeting last week [Sept. 1] that we have put on hold escrow discussions with developers," Harmer stated. "It is too hard to contract with a developer with the zoning conditions being in a state of flux due to the current Community Plan amendment processing through the Uptown Planners right now."

"The Pernicano family is continuing to secure the entitlements with their own finances. Including our proposals for the Pernicano property in with the Community Plan amendment will surely speed up the approval process," he continued.

"The [city] Planning Department expects approval next sum-

mer for the EIR [environmental impact report] and the Community Plan amendment. Urban Housing Partners is moving ahead at full speed with massing and conceptual design concepts for review by the public," Harmer concluded.

Gilman said Harmer's comments "make sense. You need height and density exemptions to make a project of this magnitude to work." Hillcrest's height restrictions of 65 feet always stir passionate debate whenever exemptions are sought.

The Pernicano property includes a boarded-up building fronting Fifth Avenue, a parking lot in the middle of Sixth Avenue and the Pernicano's restaurant on Sixth Avenue that has been closed for 30 years. That property is about 25,000 square feet and has access to two of the most prominent streets on the west side of Hillcrest. But potential buyers are eager to have frontage on University Avenue — the main east-west thoroughfare through Hillcrest — because it would allow developers to create a blockbuster gateway to the community coming off the state Route 163 exit onto Sixth Avenue. Adding the Gilman property would double the footprint to 50,000 square feet.

"I did look at one plan that was intriguing," Gilman said. "It was an impact project. It was a mixed-use project with a boutique hotel, condos, retail space with community use integrated into it."

Gilman said the plan combined the two properties as well as another lot on Fifth Avenue that was contiguous. He was unsure which lot that was, however.

"All the vehicle access to the property was off Sixth Avenue," he said. "Parking was off Sixth. The lobbies of the hotel and condos were off Sixth. It was the perfect

FROM PAGE 5 LETTERS

Insightful article. It helps confirm that a cause of business turnover in the area is that the costs are those of a major city, but without the population density (i.e., customer base) to support those costs.

—Brian Casey via Facebook

Take whatever the Hillcrest Business Association says with a grain of salt. They claimed to support one thing (bikes in Hillcrest), but then spent over 20 grand on lobbyists to keep University Avenue the most dangerous street in the city.

—Robert via Facebook

I have to comment on this portion of the article. SANDAG and Ron Roberts are touting the Sky Tram for commuters so that they can gain federal and state money. In reality it will be just a tourist attraction. As quoted in this article — the sky tram has nothing to do with moving people to their jobs but everything to do with yet another tourist attraction.

"... could benefit if transportation links are enhanced, especially from the touristy Gaslamp District via a proposed sky tram up Sixth Avenue to Balboa Park and a streetcar line."

A faster/fun road route that will not destruct neighborhoods like the sky tram from the downtown to uptown would be an enhancement — a sky tram will make us look like a cheap Disneyland and destroy property values of the homes on Sixth Avenue.

It could go up Park — go by the

College — take folks to the Zoo and land in Hillcrest — now that make a bit more sense.

—Char-Lou Benedict via Facebook

Too much trash

Hi there! I recently moved from University Heights to Normal Heights and am blown away by the amount of trash (mostly from 7-Eleven) I pick up in my yard and around my house daily. UH doesn't seem to have this issue.

We live across from John Adams Elementary (subsequent park and ball fields) on 35th, so I don't know if it's the teenagers who hang out in the park all day littering or just a total lack of mindfulness on everyone's part of what littering does to our beautiful city and nearby ocean.

I chased off a homeless man on trash day because he cut our bag of trash open in the middle of 35th to look for recycling! I've only lived here for two weeks and I'm pregnant. I'm trying to do my part to keep this city beautiful (it's getting exhausting) and was wondering if there is any initiative to put up "No littering" signs in Normal Heights? I want to put one on our fence but I'm worried that might make people be spiteful and litter more. Maybe something more official with a fine notice would be helpful?! There are dumpsters everywhere but not a lot of trash cans in the park to speak of although I think it's just laziness. Where can I get a sign for the road or who can I contact to complain about this? Thanks!

—Jessica via Facebook ♦

scenario. It has a second level plaza with outdoor dining. I looked at this plan very carefully."

Gilman said Hillcrest lacks a major building "that sets the tone" for the future, and this plan would have done that.

"We have the unique opportunity to define Hillcrest," he said. "A community only gets a few opportunities in one's lifetime to create such a project. You have a wide street in University. Sixth Avenue comes off the 163. Fifth Avenue is a major street. This is the only commercial property on the west side of Hillcrest that can truly define a community. Because of its location, the impact of a project this large will be minimal on residential neighbors ... but then you have enough acreage to do something truly special. To do it right, you have to have density. If you don't, you have mass and you don't get plazas and public spaces. It's the only thing that makes economic sense."

To those in the community who want to designate the Gilman building as historic, Gilman isn't so sure that he agrees with them.

"What is historic?" he asked rhetorically. "I'm not sure it is or isn't. It was built early enough to be one of the older buildings in Hillcrest, but does it have value historically?"

He said the community needs to have vision, walking a fine line between preservation and embracing change.

Gilman believes the Pernicano project must get exemptions from the 65-foot height restriction to be financially feasible and architecturally striking. "You have to create height to have open spaces on this particular property," he said.

Some people in the community agree that a taller building at this site will help draw attention away

from the AT&T building — an eyesore that stands 140 feet — which is not going to go away anytime soon because it houses infrastructure that controls much of the company's telecommunications network for Uptown and Downtown. Putting a dramatic building complex across the street from the ugly AT&T building would focus attention away from it; often the first thing you see exiting the 163 into Hillcrest.

Gilman said the Pernicano project is "needed to revitalize the commercial core ... it will bring storefronts, restaurants, outdoor dining, and an open plaza on the second level that will be fed by hotel guests, condo residents and the public. It will create a community room for everyone to share."

"If you allow enough height, enough space and enough public space, you create a focal point for the community. The larger the project, the more amenities the public gets. But if they end up with a 65-foot limit, all you are going to get is a building mass that nobody wants."

Although Gilman rarely visits San Diego, he said he strongly hopes that Hillcrest finally gets a building that will put the community on the map. Critics of the "do nothing" mentality among some local leaders say Hillcrest has fallen behind North Park, East Village and Little Italy in creating destination locations.

"This project," Gilman said, "has the potential to define Hillcrest."

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