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San Diego Uptown News



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San Diego Community News Network



Amy Baca Lopez celebrates the completion of her four-sided mural at Barons Market in North Park. The grocery is expected to open by Thanksgiving. (Photo by Ken Williams)

Community-inspired murals to enliven Barons Market décor

By Lucia Viti

Barons Market is gearing up to open its North Park store by Thanksgiving, and will be treating shoppers to organic, natural and specialty food along with the pride of local artwork.

Amy Baca Lopez of North Park is one of five local artists chosen by

Barons to create custom murals in the grocery store and parking garage. Baca Lopez is showcasing a color fest painted on a four-sided, 9-foot-wide, 20-foot-high column towering inside the store.

Barons hosted a small gathering of local media on Oct. 26 to show off Baca Lopez's work and served whisky cocktails crafted by a West Coast Tavern mixologist using specialty balsamic vinegar mixes that will be sold at Barons.

Baca Lopez was awarded \$2,000, plus the cost of supplies, to paint a mural that illustrates

North Park's kinship for community.

The idea for painting the mural was born from the "big, ugly column in the middle of the store that we didn't know what to do with," said Rachel Shemirani, Barons Market vice president of marketing, who attended the sneak preview. "We decided on art to reflect the community in the store design as we do in all of our locations. And North Park, an urban, artistic, vibrant, small-business friendly, foodie community,

see Barons, pg 23

Dance fever

Putting a little Cori-ography in their lives

By Margie M. Palmer

The nation's love affair with dance is real.

Even the sparsest television viewers have some familiarity with shows like "Dancing with the Stars," "So You Think You Can Dance" and "America's Best Dance Crew." Partner dance is beautiful to watch, regardless of the choreographed style.

If you've been thinking about taking a lesson with friends, for fun or in advance of "the big day," but you've

held off because the closest dance instruction studios are miles away, Cori-ography may be the place for you.

Cori-ography, a dance studio, opened this month in the ground-floor corner unit of the Egyptian Building, located at the corner of Park Boulevard and University Avenue in Hillcrest.

"[Uptown] has a really diverse demographic and it's in the Mid-City; most of the other dance businesses and places that do something along the lines of what I do are in Kearny Mesa or Mira Mesa," studio owner Cori Presutti said.

The space — which was once occupied by Starbucks, followed by Liberty Tax — has been given a complete makeover.

"I've opened it up, repurposed it and have given it a mid-century

see Dance, pg 24



Cori Presutti (left) instructs Josalyn and Austin Johnson in her partner-dancing class at Cori-ography studio in Hillcrest. (Photo by Natasha Caldera of Luna Light Photography)

Future has arrived

North Park, Golden Hill CPUs reveal city's vision

Ken Williams | Editor

What will North Park and Golden Hill look like in 2035? Nobody knows for sure, but a vision of the future can be found in two Community Plan Updates (CPU) that the San Diego City Council unanimously approved on Oct. 25.

That vision preserves historic neighborhoods in North Park, University Heights, South Park and Golden Hill, and welcomes high-density development along major transit corridors to provide more housing and additional alternative transportation opportunities in these urban areas.

"North Park and Golden Hill are two of San Diego's most treasured communities," Councilmember Todd Gloria said in a statement released after the council vote. Gloria represents District 3, which includes the North Park, Greater Golden Hill and Uptown community planning groups.

The Uptown CPU will go before the City Council on Nov. 14.

"I am proud that the plans the council approved [on Oct. 25]

see CPUs, pg 5



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Councilmember-elect Chris Ward talks about key issues involving District 3. (Photo courtesy of crowdpac.com)

Chris Ward unfiltered

(Editor's note: This is the final installment of a two-part interview with Councilmember-elect Chris Ward. His landslide victory in the June primary against two opponents means there will be no runoff on Election Day and Ward will be sworn into office on Dec. 12. District 3 includes Downtown and most of the Uptown communities. Read the first part at bit.ly/2flwvc3.)

Ken Williams | Editor

In part one, Councilmember-elect Chris Ward talked in depth about what he considers San Diego's top issues: homelessness and the lack of affordable housing. In part two, Ward examines the problems plaguing Balboa Park, San Diego's crown jewel, and other key issues in District 3.

Balboa Park

During his door-to-door canvassing as Ward was introducing himself to District 3 voters, he heard over and over again of residents' concern about the neglect of Balboa Park.

Millions of visitors from around the world come to Balboa Park each year and on the surface, everything appears to be splendid. But look closely and you can see long-neglected historic buildings that need repairing and updating, estimated to cost \$300 million or more. The necessary money is not in the city budget and officials don't have a solution to fix the problems.

"It's an infrastructure problem," Ward said. "It's been neglected for over 30 years."

Measure J, which is on the November ballot, proposes to direct money from Mission Bay Park's commercial leases to regional parks, including Balboa Park. It would also allow the city to seek a \$125 million bond for regional parks.

The measure, Ward said, won't come close to solving Balboa Park's financial woes. "Measure J will be a drop in the bucket for Balboa Park's needs," he said.

Ward vowed to pour his heart and soul into saving Balboa Park. "We can't solve the problem

overnight. My goal is that a generation from now, everything will be whole in Balboa Park," he added.

Also, Ward said he isn't completely sold on the plan to build a parking garage in Balboa Park. Proposed by Qualcomm founder Irwin Jacobs, the plan recommends building an 800-space parking garage behind the Spreckels Organ Pavilion and constructing a bypass bridge from the historic Cabrillo Bridge in order to close off traffic on Plaza de Panama. Community stakeholders, including the Save Our Heritage Organisation, sued the city over the plan, but in September 2015 the California Supreme Court ruled that the project could go forward.

"The plans went awry," Ward said. "What we have now is an approved project that has stood the test of legal challenge."

Ward said many voters in District 3 oppose the garage project. The \$45 million proposal probably costs even more money now, due to the delays.

Initially, supporters estimated that parking fees would be affordable, perhaps \$1 per hour or \$5 per day. But Ward thinks that parking fees will need to rise significantly if the city would require the garage to pay for itself through parking revenue.

The San Diego Zoo built a 600-space parking garage northeast of Old Globe Theatre, meaning that it now can offer more parking on its vast lots along Park Boulevard. Ward said the zoo retains its right to charge for parking and that a fee-driven Balboa Park parking garage could drive the zoo to do the same. Residents, though, have long opposed paid parking in Balboa Park, he said. "It would take a lot to convince me to support this," Ward added.

Hillcrest's decline

Another area of concern for many Uptown residents is the perceived decline of Hillcrest.

"There's been a lack of change in Hillcrest since the early 2000s," Ward said. "How did we go from being a destination place in 2007 to today, when it is hard for businesses to stay open?"

Hillcrest is falling behind North Park, Little Italy, East Village, the Gaslamp, even Kearny Mesa and Mission Valley, Ward observed.

"We've been left behind with high prices and empty businesses," he said. "The energy is now elsewhere."

The proposed Community Plan Update (CPU) for Uptown encourages more density along transit areas, including Park Boulevard, Washington Street and Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and University avenues. City planners have recommended the City Council approve Uptown's proposed CPU with the Interim Height Ordinance removed.

After meeting with Uptown News, Ward sat down with two officials with the Uptown Gateway project to learn more about the conceptual proposal to transform the business core of Hillcrest. Ward first became familiar with the project when he served on Uptown Planners.

The Gateway project comprises about 11 acres roughly bounded by Washington Street to the north, Pennsylvania Avenue to the south, Fourth Avenue to the west and Seventh Avenue to the east. Various property owners who have signed on to the project have said at public meetings that they want to build a high-density project that would include a boutique hotel and a Rodeo Drive-like shopping area between Fifth and Sixth, and between University and Robinson.

Gateway representatives gave several presentations on Oct. 6 when the city's Planning Commission reviewed the proposed Uptown CPU. Commissioners seemed to like the idea, although several members criticized the design of the initial concept.

The Gateway project could force out local businesses in the core, possibly including three LGBT establishments along Fifth Avenue: #1 Fifth Avenue, the Rail and Babycakes.

That led Uptown Planners chair Leo Wilson to warn the Planning

see Chris Ward, pg 18

11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your San Diego Home For Sale

San Diego - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help home sellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

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SDCNN wins 7 Excellence in Journalism Awards

By SDCNN Staff

San Diego Community News Network (SDCNN) won a total of seven awards at San Diego Press Club's 43rd annual Excellence in Journalism Awards on Oct. 25 at the Joe & Vi Jacobs Center at Market Creek.

Hundreds of journalists and their guests turned out for the event, enjoying gourmet tastings of local food, wine and craft beer at the reception before the ceremony. Mulligan Stew provided the music during the reception and Barbarella Fokos emceed during the presentation of special awards.

SDCNN publishes two biweeklies, San Diego Uptown News and Gay San Diego, and four monthlies, San Diego Downtown News, Mission Valley News, Mission Times Courier and La Mesa Courier. The papers competed in the category of non-daily newspapers.

"I am proud of our talented team who continually offer our readers quality news and information that cannot be found anywhere else," said David Mannis, SDCNN publisher. "We strive to be the No. 1 resource for the communities we serve."

San Diego Uptown News won two awards.

Ken Williams, editor of Uptown News, and former art director Vince Meehan shared a first-place award:

• **Front page design** — "Front page of Uptown News Feb. 12." The dramatic front cover featured a large photograph of North Park resident Nick Norris modeling his Predator Warpaint designed for our troops and hunters, featuring a "war type" headline that read: "War on skin cancer. Former SEAL creates line of camouflage face paint laden with sunscreen." The secondary photo was intense, featuring rows of empty shoes symbolizing the 54 lives that were lost in traffic accidents in 2015 in San Diego. See the digital edition at bit.ly/2dXE6f8.

Williams also won a second-place award:

• **General News** — "Looking up: North Park's future coming into sharp focus," published Jan. 29 in Uptown News. The article provided an in-depth exploration of the first public glimpse at the final draft of the North Park



(l to r) SDCNN editors Ken Williams, Jeff Clemetson and Morgan M. Hurley (Photo by Todd Kammer)

Community Plan Update and explained what that vision would look like for local residents. Read it at bit.ly/1LBAVqp.

SDCNN Managing Editor Morgan M. Hurley, who is editor of both San Diego Downtown News and Gay San Diego, won two first-place awards:

• **General News** — "Hacking into the new sandiego.gov," published in the March issue of Downtown News. The article took a look at a meetup group that did a "live hack" on the city of San Diego's newly redesigned website to provide important feedback on how well the site was working. Read it at bit.ly/2ewhNxJ.

• **Series** — "Stepping

program return to the center to give back. Read it at bit.ly/2eGDgnX.

Hurley won a second-place award, too:

• **Feature** — "A city in flux," published April 15 in Gay San Diego. The feature was on Cori Schumacher, a three-time world champion longboard surfer and lesbian activist, who has settled down in conservative Carlsbad and decided to run for City Council to bring about change. Read it at bit.ly/2ebTBxs.

Jeff Clemetson, editor of Mission Valley News, Mission Times Courier and La Mesa Courier, also won a first-place award:

• **Education** —

"Finance High: Junior Achievement teaches literacy at new park," published in the October 2015 issue of Mission Times Courier. The article highlighted Mission Fed JA Finance Park, a high-tech financial literacy campus that takes students through a virtual simulator of various career paths and life circumstances to realistically prepare them for the kinds of budget challenges they will face in their college and post-college years. Read it at bit.ly/2fgIyY9.

Also, SDCNN contributor Kai Oliver-Kurtin won a second-place award:

• **Food** — "Gaslamp restaurants: the test of time," published in the February issue of Downtown News. The article asked restaurateurs at

long-standing eateries about their recipe for success. Read it at bit.ly/1KxclGq.

The San Diego Press Club, which was established in 1973, is one of the largest clubs in the U.S. for media professionals.

—To find links of the San Diego Community News Network newspapers, visit sdcnn.com. ❖

Uptown News

WAR ON SKIN CANCER

Former SEAL creates line of camouflage face paint laden with sunscreen

A rising toll: 54 pedestrian lives lost in 2015

Deaths of people who cross the number of pedestrians killed by traffic accidents in San Diego last year

Uptown News' front page design that won first place.

Stone series," published in Gay San Diego on Jan. 22 and Feb. 5. "A friend of the Stone" featured Cheryl Houk and her return to lead the region's only LGBT-centric drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. Read it at bit.ly/2ebNIWN. The second and final part of the series, "They keep coming back," explained how graduates of the

FROM PAGE 1
CPUS

balance the priorities of preserving their rich historic character with responsibly locating growth so that new housing opportunities can encourage more climate-friendly lifestyles," Gloria said.

"These plan updates add new housing capacity to both of these communities, allowing new units to be built to address San Diego's housing affordability crisis. I thank and commend the volunteers on our community planning groups for their eight years of effort on these plans and for productively working on solutions to address San Diego's housing needs."

Preliminary work on these three CPUs began in 2009. Because they were connected by geography and history, the city's Planning Department lumped together the efforts to update the three CPUs by working closely with the North Park Planning Committee, Greater Golden Hill Planning Group and the Uptown Planners. Over the years, each volunteer group conducted hundreds of public meetings with stakeholders, residents and community leaders to craft a policy document that will guide future development over the next two decades.

A CPU is a long-range planning document that regulates zoning and development, and is part of the city's General Plan. The North Park CPU had not been updated since 1986 and the Greater Golden Hill CPU since 1988. The Uptown CPU is just as old.

Density and height for new housing and commercial projects

became a key issue for a number of stakeholders. North Park, Golden Hill and the Uptown area are long-established communities, so there are few parcels of land available for new development. Some residents fought hard to maintain status quo, while others battled for more density and an end to an Interim Height Ordinance in Hillcrest, which they believed stifled opportunity for providing affordable housing with a population boom forecast for America's Finest City.

As drafts of the three CPUs were being finalized late last year, the City Council in December approved the ambitious Climate Action Plan (CAP) that legally binds San Diego to slash its carbon footprint in half by 2035 — about the same time that the new CPUs will be updated again. The three local planning groups and city planners had to scramble at the last minute to ensure that the CPUs would reflect those goals. And some critics of the plans, including Nicole Capretz of the Climate Action Campaign, argued that the CPUs do not adequately address the CAP issue.

Community plans provide development regulations including maximum density and height for new housing and commercial projects. Although opportunities for growth existed under the old plans and have only increased modestly through these updates, both communities have very little undeveloped land and focused on concentrating higher density development along corridors with access to high quality transit, in line with the city's CAP, according to a statement issued by Gloria.

Before the CPUs made it to City Council, they were reviewed by the city's Committee on Smart Growth

and Land Use on Oct. 5. The committee forwarded the CPUs to the City Council without a recommendation, but has extracted a commitment from Planning Director Jeff Murphy that his staff would remove sections of the documents related to historic districts and the CAP so that the language could be tweaked to satisfy stakeholders.

On the day of the City Council review, Murphy issued a "CAP memo" that detailed additional predictions about what commuting habits will be like in coming years. The consulting firm Kimley-Horn & Associates, which assisted planners in arriving at initial forecasts on commuting patterns to be included in documents in support of the CPUs, said other ways to reduce traffic would be to encourage things like unbundled parking, parking cash-out programs for employees, price employee parking, and providing enhanced bicycle facilities concurrent with street repaving. Other methods included providing workers with annual transit passes and shuttles from transit stations; offering carpool and vanpool subsidies; flexible or alternative work hours; and bike sharing, bike parking and showers and lockers for employees who bike to work.

"The CAP recognizes that there are multiple ways to achieve the GHG [greenhouse gases] emission goals and that flexibility in implementation is necessary to allow the City to refine its strategies to achieve the most effective path to obtain the desired results," Murphy said in the memo. "As we continue to implement the CAP, as technologies advance and progress, as tracking and monitoring strategies improve, and as we learn from the

results of the annual CAP monitoring report, we will be able to make those necessary adjustments to ensure that we timely meet the aggressive goals committed to in the city's Climate Action Plan."

Murphy's memo apparently eased the concerns of many stakeholders and the councilmembers. Still, an equal number of speakers at the City Council meeting urged the councilmembers to postpone the vote.

Vicki Granowitz, chair of the North Park Planning Committee, said stakeholders agreed to higher density on transit corridors along Park Boulevard, El Cajon Boulevard, 30th Street and University Avenue "for the greater good."

"Change is already occurring in the area, regardless," she said, noting that the CPU protected the "community's character."

Mark Gould, who described himself as a developer of affordable housing, said "the plan does incentivize affordable housing." But he was concerned that it required heightened scrutiny, such as a Process 4 review, which takes longer and adds to the cost of building a new project.

Another developer, Andrew Mallick, said the city should make it easier — not more difficult — to redevelop in the area. He urged planners to consider a Process 3 review, which takes less time and costs less for developers.

Danny Fitzgerald, a developer, said the lack of growth is causing social inequality issues in the city because it is driving up rental prices.

At the Committee on Smart Growth and Land Use hearing last month, Councilmember Gloria pushed for city planners to provide

analysis for how the updated plans would help the city reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and advocated for projects that promoted biking, walking and transit use.

Gloria also requested staff to work with stakeholders to address community concerns regarding preserving historic resources. Planning staff made the commitment over the next three years to study seven historic districts that were prioritized by the North Park and Golden Hill planning committees. Staff also agreed to engage the public to develop additional citywide policies to help protect historic resources.

"It was vital that these plans provide protection for historic neighborhoods and help the city meet our Climate Action Plan goals, as they are the roadmap for development in these communities for the next several decades," Gloria said. "Having a good community plan is one part of the equation, but ultimately the market must build the plans out and make them a reality. It will be up to future councils and mayors to monitor the success of these plans and make plan amendments to make sure we are promoting responsible growth in the city and doing enough to conserve San Diego's environment for future generations."

The CPUs for North Park and Golden Hill will require a second reading and a 30-day statutory period before taking effect, likely by year's end.

—Ken Williams is editor of Uptown News and can be reached at ken@sdenn.com or at 619-961-1952. Follow him on Twitter at @KenSanDiego, Instagram at @KenSD or Facebook at KenWilliamsSanDiego. ❖



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AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM: San Diego Uptown News won third place for general excellence at the 2016 ACP Annual Publication Awards. This category is the top award in the annual competition, which received more than 1,400 entries from free community newspapers across the U.S. and Canada. Parent company San Diego Community News Network won a total of six awards.

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For breaking news and investigative story ideas contact the editor by phone or email.

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OBAMA RELEASES HUNDREDS OF 'NON-VIOLENT' CONVICTS



GUEST EDITORIAL

Let's not blame
Social Security and
Medicare for the
national debt

By Rep. Susan A. Davis

Recent reports about the national debt have mistakenly conflated benefits from Social Security and Medicare with the national debt. Let's be clear, Social Security and Medicare are not drivers of the national debt.

Much of this argument comes from opponents to Social Security and Medicare. They blame these programs and imply that our national-debt issue will be solved by "entitlement reform." Keep in mind, to opponents of Social Security and Medicare, reform means cutting benefits, privatizing or ending the programs all together.

When opponents refer to these programs as "entitlements," it's an effort to suggest recipients are receiving something they have not earned. In reality, Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries are entitled to these benefits because they paid into the system most of their lives.

Social Security and Medicare are promises that were made decades ago to help our seniors live out their retirement years with the respect and dignity they deserve. Breaking that promise would be detrimental to seniors and our economy.

Of course we must address the solvency issues of both programs and bring the debt to a manageable level. It will require taking a deep dive into this issue because it's much more complicated than what is being portrayed.

Social Security for retirees is a trust fund virtually separate from the spending process. The Social Security Trust Fund is funded through payroll taxes, which more than 90 percent of all workers pay. The money that goes into the Trust Fund goes back out as benefits to our seniors.

According to the 2016 Annual Report from the Trustees of Social Security and Medicare, the Social Security Trust Fund currently has an asset reserve of \$2.8 trillion and will be solvent through 2034. But we shouldn't wait until then to make improvements in the program to ensure its viability.

The main challenge facing Social Security is a demographics issue. As the baby boomer generation gets older and retires, they will outnumber the working class 2 to 1. We need more workers.

Growing the economy, raising wages and promoting pay equality will not only improve the finances of Social Security and Medicare, it will be good for those workers paying into



Rep. Susan A. Davis (Official Portrait)

those programs.

Reducing benefits or privatizing is not the solution, and it's breaking the promise we made. It would only hurt seniors and would not significantly reduce the national debt. Without Social Security, more than 40 percent of California seniors would be living in poverty.

Nationwide, 38 million seniors rely on Social Security. Cutting benefits would plunge millions into poverty and would have a negative impact on our economy. Let's not forget that the Social Security payments to seniors go right back into our economy in the form of rent, groceries, gas, etc.

When it comes to Medicare, increasing health care costs are a concern. Getting over-all health care costs under control is a priority not just for Medicare, but also for everyone with health insurance. But again, it is not the main driver of the national debt.

The increase in the national debt is basically the result of three things:

The Bush tax cuts, which cost about \$2 trillion (maybe more). These tax cuts were unnecessary, benefited the wealthiest Americans, and weren't paid for. I opposed them for these reasons.

Two wars that have cost about \$4 trillion to \$6 trillion.

A prescription drug benefit that wasn't paid for, costing about \$60 billion a year.

The national debt was further exacerbated by the Great Recession, which dramatically reduced revenue into the general fund.

No one is saying that we don't need to address all of these issues and govern responsibly when it comes to the budget. But let's not fall for the line that critical programs such as Social Security and Medicare are the main drivers of the national debt. They are promises that were made and promises that should be kept.

—Rep. Susan A. Davis represents Congressional District 53, which includes including the San Diego communities of Old Town, Kensington, Mission Hills, University Heights, Hillcrest Bankers Hill, North Park, South Park, Talmadge and Normal Heights, as well as La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley and parts of El Cajon and Chula Vista. ❖



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Uptown Community Plan: 7 years of hard labor down the drain?

By Tom Mullaney

Is the Uptown Community Plan important? Yes, if you live, work, play, walk, ride or drive in the Uptown communities. This plan is intended to guide growth and development, including buildings, transportation, parks, libraries and more.

When the last plan was updated 28 years ago in 1988, “smart growth” and “compact infill” were new concepts. The plan was a first-cut; it increased densities in many areas, but didn’t fully consider limitations of street width, historic areas, building-height transitions and traffic bottlenecks. Height limits were unnecessarily high.

By 2007, two controversial projects had emerged, one in Mission Hills, and the other at Third and University avenues in Hillcrest. Public protests and legal action resulted in one project being scaled back, and the other stopped. It became apparent to many residents that the 1988 Uptown Community Plan and zoning were encouraging projects that were out-of-scale with the neighborhoods. The city initiated an update to the Community Plan in 2009, scheduled for completion in 2011.

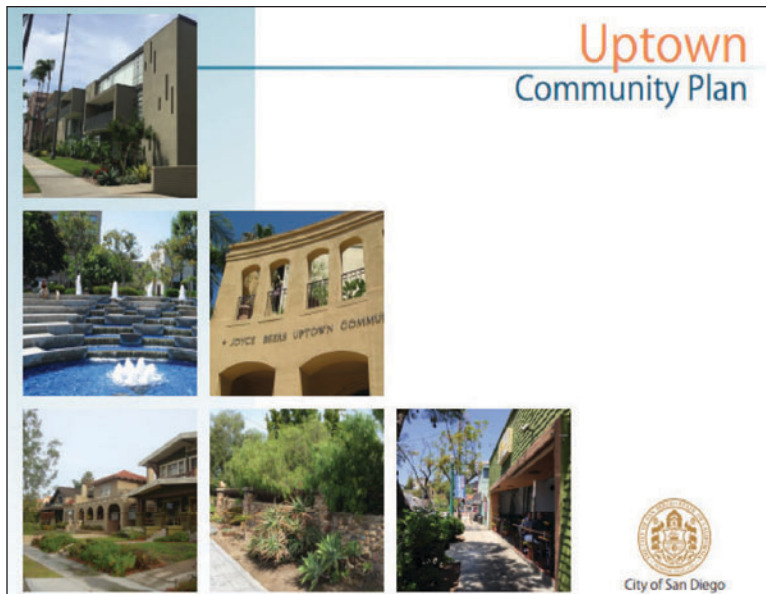
The update proceeded at several levels. The city-sponsored workshops, the Uptown Planners held meetings, and neighborhood groups got involved.

Uptown is divided into six distinct neighborhoods, which creates a strong sense of belonging. The six neighborhoods groups conducted block-by-block reviews. They created land-use plans that were customized, taking into account street widths, effects on existing buildings, and transportation. The recommendations were created from the ground up, and were more finely-tuned than the 1988 plan.

After multiple discussions about density and height, the volunteer board members of Uptown Planners generally endorsed the neighborhood plans. Work was coordinated with the Planning Department at every step. The two-year schedule stretched into seven years, placing an enormous burden on participants. Finally, by June 2016, the options had been reduced to two main plans. The “Community Plan Update” was the city staff’s plan. The “Density Redistribution Alternative” was the residents’ plan. Both proposals contained the same potential for new housing. The residents’ plan called for somewhat lower density in nine selected areas, combined with higher density near the Park Boulevard transit corridor. Both options supported transit and the city’s Climate Action Plan goals.

Both plans also were “high growth” plans, allowing 9,500 more housing units and 19,000 more residents. This is 50 percent more residents, a huge increase! Commercial space was also planned for large increases.

In October, the residents’ groups were preparing to make the case for their preferred plan to the City Council. The city staff, presumably, would present their plan. Then District 3 Councilmem-



Partial image of the front cover of the Uptown Community Plan Update (Courtesy of the city of San Diego Planning Department)

ber Todd Gloria dropped a bomb. At a committee meeting on Oct. 19, he declared his support — not for either of the two plans — but for a new alternative! He was supporting a Planning Commission recommendation to keep the land-use maps from the 1988 plan, and combine these with the text from the city’s draft plan. He also supported the removal of a zoning overlay, which would leave no height limit in large areas. The residents’ groups felt betrayed; would seven years of work be thrown away?

To the residents’ groups, the Frankenstein plan made no sense. The various parts of the Community Plan are legally required to be consistent. You can’t put the head from one onto the body of another without extensive additional work to make the parts fit.

Why did Mr. Gloria support the hybrid plan? Because the Planning Department had calculated the buildout for that plan at 1,900 more housing units than the two proposed plans. He wants affordable housing, and believes that higher allowable density and tall height limits will lead to that goal.

What’s not apparent is the hypothetical nature of the staff’s figures. At various times the

buildout has been calculated at 50 percent of the allowable density, at 75 percent and 100 percent. It’s a wild guess! Also, the proposed plans contain large expanses of commercial zoning. These give developers wide flexibility in building housing units, commercial space, or mixed-use. Under the two main plans, more than 50 percent more residents could be accommodated!

On Nov. 14, the City Council will meet to choose a new Community Plan.

1. Redistribution alternative, preferred by residents’ groups.
2. City’s alternative, the residents’ second choice.
3. Hybrid plan using 1988 maps, with removal of height limits. Frankenstein’s monster would keep the community in turmoil for years.

Residents are urged to get involved. See the contact information below.

—Tom Mullaney is the founder of Uptown United, a community advocacy group, and a member of Uptown Planners. Learn more at uptownunitedsd.org.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Measures C and D would harm San Diego and our tourism economy

By Joe Terzi and Phil Blair

The year was 1888. The eager crowds that gathered along a picturesque stretch of coastline for the opening of Hotel Del Coronado must have been excited at the time, but they could never have imagined what was in store for our region.

Not long after the opening of the now historic Hotel Del, other iconic attractions followed: the San Diego Zoo and Balboa Park with its many celebrated institutions, SeaWorld, the USS Midway Museum and that little town built of bricks known as Legoland. Looking back at our region’s history, it’s no surprise that San Diego has grown to become one of the most popular visitor destinations in North America.

Recognizing the vast benefits of tourism, business and civic leaders have long worked together to shepherd its growth through the addition of key infrastructure, such as the bayside San Diego Convention Center, and a research-based, global marketing strategy that now reaches five of the world’s seven continents.

Today, tourism has become the region’s second largest traded economy, pumping billions of dollars into our county’s economy each year, while employing one in every eight San Diegans.

But two ballot measures — C and D — would inflict great harm on our tourism economy and the nearly 200,000 San Diegans whose livelihoods depend on it.

The measures — both devised behind closed doors without public input — would limit our ability to market San Diego and

attract visitors, while preventing the expansion of the Convention Center, which is vitally needed to retain existing conventions that have outgrown the center, like Comic-Con, and to attract new and larger ones.

Measure C would raise the hotel tax from 12.5 percent to 16.5 percent, making it one of the highest in the nation and placing San Diego at a serious competitive disadvantage compared to other U.S. destinations. It would also slash funds for tourism marketing. The proceeds of the tax increase would not only be used to build Chargers’ owner Dean Spanos a new rent-free stadium, it would also fund convention space away from the existing center that our clients say would be useless to them.

Measure D is also a back-room stadium deal that would hurt tourism. Like Measure C, it would raise the hotel tax and restrict our ability to market San Diego and attract visitors. It’s a convoluted measure that contains an unusual poison pill that will create financial risk for the city.

Tourism has helped San Diego grow into the iconic city it is today, a city that is proud to welcome visitors from around the world. San Diego deserves a better plan, not a false Hail Mary. Both measures C and D fall well short of the goal line.

—Joe Terzi is president and CEO of the San Diego Tourism Authority. Phil Blair is owner and executive officer of Manpower San Diego and former chair of the San Diego Convention Center Corp. ❖

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“Darren has been providing In-Home/ Mobile Physical Therapy and increasing home safety for seniors in San Diego since 2004.”

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Pulitzer Prize winner 'Disgraced' does not disappoint

Theater Review

Charlene Baldridge



Around the time Ayad Akhtar's "The Who & the What" received its premiere at La Jolla Playhouse, it was announced that his earlier play, "Disgraced" would receive the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

This season, the Playhouse premiered Akhtar's latest play, "Junk: the History of Debt," and now, at last, San Diegans have the opportunity to see "Disgraced" in a fine, hard-hitting production that opened Oct. 26 at San Diego Repertory Theatre.

Michael Arabian, who does his own fight choreography, directs the swift, devastating and violent "Disgraced," which is played in one 90-minute act upon John Iacovelli's set, a tasteful Upper East Side apartment.

It is the home of an American born, Islam-raised mergers and acquisitions attorney, Amir Kapoor (Ronobir Lahiri), and his American wife, Emily (Allison Spratt Pearce), an artist with an affinity for the Islamic art tradition that her hoped-for gallery dealer says takes it to a new level.

Amir, who has a penchant for \$600 shirts (no starch, just an incredible thread count), has soft-pedaled his heritage to advance in his largely Jewish law firm. Played by M. Keala Milles Jr., Amir's nephew Abe (real name Hussein) has also done the same, as if the playwright



(clockwise from bottom left) Ronobir Lahiri and Richard Baird; Ronobir Lahiri and Allison Spratt Pearce; Monique Gaffney, Ronobir Lahiri, Allison Spratt Pearce and Richard Baird; Allison Spratt Pearce and Ronobir Lahiri in scenes from "Disgraced" at San Diego Repertory Theatre (Photos by Daren Scott)

and his characters foresaw the coming of Donald Trump and the even earlier beginnings of Islamophobia. Tellingly, the play is set in late summer 2011.

Not knowing for certain whether her recent paintings have been accepted into her art dealer Isaac's (Richard Baird) prestigious show, Emily invites him and his African-American wife, Jory (Monique Gaffney), a colleague of Amir's, to dinner.

None of these people are very likable and their marriages are frayed as well. They proceed to have at one another, as all manner of taboo matters are discussed. The upshot: Amir's career is completely ruined, along with Emily's chances for significant recognition. The evening culminates in gut-wrenching violence, the outcome of which is observed by Abe. There is one more chilling scene, quite impressively played by young Mr. Milles.

Telling the truth, Akhtar amazingly and subtly helps onlookers to understand the young Muslim's conflicts, and, by extension, many of today's problems.

If nothing else, Arabian's production demonstrates why the play is worthy of a Pulitzer Prize and why Akhtar is among the nation's most produced playwrights. His wit, insight and intelligence make "Disgraced" a most compelling, important and suspenseful work of art.

Further helping us to understand this world are the costumes of Anastasia Paulova, the lighting of Brian Gale, and the amazing sound

design of Kevin Anthenill.

The Rep's physical plant is still challenging due to the \$3 million renovations still under way. Meanwhile, they are doing all humanly possible to accommodate patrons and make them comfortable.

— Charlene Baldridge has been writing about the arts since 1979. You can follow her blog at charlene-criticism.blogspot.com or reach her at charb81@gmail.com.



J. Bernard Calloway and Blake Segal. Photo by Jim Cox.

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New grocery coming to Uptown area

By SDCNN Staff

Lazy Acres Natural Market announced on Wednesday, Nov. 2, that it will open a new grocery store in summer 2017 on the border of Hillcrest and Mission Hills.

The grocery will be located in a small strip mall on Washington Street between Dove and Brant streets. Renovations are expected to begin in the weeks ahead.

The original Lazy Acres store opened in 1991 in Santa Barbara, followed by a second location in Long Beach and a third grocery in Encinitas.

The Encinitas store, which opened in October, boasts an extensive selection of organic produce as well as vitamins, supplements and all natural body care. With a large variety of all natural meats, chicken and seafood, plus a wide selection of grab-and-go

and organic salad bar options, the store has become a community-gathering place.

Similar to Encinitas, the Hillcrest location will feature an organic juice and smoothie bar, an extensive selection of local beers and fine wines, and many featured local products.

"After much anticipation, Lazy Acres will bring our organic, fresh and delicious — and when possible, locally sourced — offerings to the Hillcrest and Mission Hills communities starting next summer," said Scott Hartman, the company's marketing vice president. "As a community-focused store, we look forward to getting to know our future customers, and serving as a contributing, valued member of the local community."

The Hillcrest store is expected to bring more than 140 jobs to the community, as well as countless opportunities for local farmers and local vendors, company officials said.

For more information about Lazy Acres Natural Market, visit lazyacres.com. ❖

11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your North Park/Mission Hills Home for Sale

North Park/Mission Hills.

According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved. To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 866-220-9502 and enter 1003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

Attention Home Buyers and Sellers! Do you fall into any of these categories? Military, Veteran, Teacher, Law Enforcement, Medical Field, Firefighters. You may qualify for up to 100% of your closing costs covered and 10%-20% of the commission back to you... Cash!



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Uptown San Diego.

Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's a way to help you to be as prepared as possible. To assist homesellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the best profit possible. In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money. Order your free report today.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 866-220-9502 and enter 1023. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW.

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ASK KATHY: A COLUMN ABOUT REAL ESTATE ISSUES

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

“THERE’S A CORNUCOPIA OF REASONS THAT A HOME MAY FALL OUT OF ESCROW!”

Hello Kathy,
I often hear about properties “falling out of escrow” before the sale closes. Why does a property fall out of escrow and what can the seller do to protect against this situation?
Tom S.

Hi Tom:

The term “falling out of escrow” sounds like you need a big net before it hits the floor. However, it’s just a term. An escrow company is a neutral third party that handles all of the terms of the purchase agreement, and monies for deposits to the transaction. They ensure that the contract is executed exactly as it is written and everyone gets paid what they are due. This can include any lender fees, appraisals, pest inspections, title insurance, the Realtors to the transaction, etc., with the balance of the funds going to the seller as payment for the transfer of the deed. Because you have many people that need to perform a function in order for the purchase to be complete, if one person drops the ball, the entire transaction could “fall out of escrow”. Here’s a few of the most common reasons.

1. The appraisal value is not met. If the appraisal on the property comes in short, the lender may not loan to the buyer. The buyer can come up with the difference, the seller can lower the price or you can try and order a new appraisal in hopes of it coming in higher.
2. The buyer fails to perform and cannot get full loan approval. Many agreements are accepted based on a buyer being pre-qualified and not fully loan approved. Once the lender starts verifying information many things can happen from an unpaid collection, monthly expenses that didn’t show up, a lien, any issues with their source of income, a divorce decree; all items that could disqualify a buyer.
3. Home inspections. When people buy a home they usually do a visual inspection of the property, but hire a qualified home inspector to thoroughly check for any kind of repair or defect. Examples could be if mold was discovered, pests or termites on the property, or damage to the foundation. If a repair or defect needs attention and the seller does not want to fix this item, the buyer does not have to go through with the purchase.

The best thing a seller can do is get your home in order and fix or repair any items that need attention. Hire an experienced agent to perform all the due diligence necessary in setting the right price and ensuring that buyers are qualified, and be timely in submitting all paperwork and disclosures. This will definitely help your sale go smoother and hopefully not “fall out of escrow”.

Best,
Kathy

Kathy McSherry is a veteran Realtor
in Mission Valley with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Email questions to her at kathymcsherry@outlook.com

Sponsored content



(above) A place for charbroiled meats on Rosecrans Street in Point Loma; (middle) Shirazi salad; (below) super-sized kabob plate (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

One kitchen, three countries

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



It isn’t uncommon for Mediterranean restaurants to scramble into their menus the cuisines of neighboring countries, particularly in those owned by Middle Easterners. At Kabob Village, the bill of fare captures various, distinct dishes of Greece, Iran and Afghanistan while celebrating the charbroiled meat kabobs all three nations share in common.

The 8-year-old restaurant, located next door to Bookstar/Barnes & Noble in a narrow strip plaza on Rosecrans Street, recently came under new ownership. We were told by our affable Iranian waitress that her “boss” is from Afghanistan, and has since added a few of his native dishes to the menu.

Among them is bulani, which are flaky turnovers filled with a delightful mélange of seasoned potatoes, leeks and green onions. Served six to an order, they resemble Indian samosas, but with a lighter fry and thinner casings. If I hadn’t arrived salivating for flame-grilled meat, I would have opted for a second round of these triangular gems all for myself and called it quits.

Another Afghani starter is bouranee baunjan featuring sautéed (or baked) eggplant spiked with coriander, turmeric and tomatoes, and finished with yogurt sauce. I’ve had it as a side dish at Khyber Pass in Hillcrest and loved it, but at the urging of our waitress, we sprung for the Persian Shirazi salad instead.

“It’s the popular salad from my city, Shiraz,” she proudly noted while assuring it pairs well with both the accompanying grilled pita bread and the Persian-style zereshk rice we would choose on our “super-size” kabob plate.

She was correct. The medley of cucumbers, tomatoes, onions and fresh parsley — dressed in lemon juice and a little olive oil — equated to healthy eating with a bright, fresh crunch.

My companion opted for avgolemeno soup, a traditional Greek recipe combining chicken broth, egg-thickened lemon juice and rice. In deluxe versions, which this wasn’t, shredded chicken makes it all the more savory. Although when the lemons overpower the broth, which they did here, the acidity cruelly annihilates the soup’s comfy essence.

Kabobs can be ordered in mini or large sizes. We chose the super-size combo plate featuring three different large ones: marinated chicken breast, filet mignon and ground sirloin (koobidah). But the kitchen had run out of the latter, so we substituted it with lamb.

The chicken was tinted orange after marinating in saffron and other spices for 24 hours, much like how the poultry is prepared at Bandar in the Gaslamp Quarter. It was pretty on the eyes and crazy-good in the mouth, albeit a tad drier in comparison.

We couldn’t distinguish the difference between the lamb and filet mignon in terms of looks or flavor. Both were slightly chewy, but delectably seasoned and charred. We either ended up with two of the same kabobs or our taste buds had malfunctioned.

The accompaniments were excellent: fluffy rice with a strip of yellow, saffron-kissed grains running through the middle, and yogurt-mint tzatziki speckled with grated cucumber.

Generic house wines and bottled beers, including Mythos Greek, are available, although we sprung for the Persian black tea from a self-serve station near the entrance. It was strong with a fruity finish, a fine come-on to baklava, chocolate mousse cake or tiramisu made offsite by a private baker, we were told.

The atmosphere at Kabob Village is relatively tranquil, considering it looks out to a busy thoroughfare. Burgundy and avocado-green walls are complemented by various ersatz such as Persian statuary and plaster relief works of Grecian gods. Indeed, the décor makes it clear that everything from hummus and basmati rice to tabouli, gyros, lamb shanks and other Greek and Middle Eastern foods are served here.



—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of “Secret San Diego” (ECW Press), and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. You can reach him at fsabatini@san.rr.com.

Kabob Village

3145 Rosecrans St.
(Point Loma)

kabobvillage.com
619-226-2524

Prices: Soups, salads and appetizers, \$4.99 to \$8.99; sandwiches, \$6.99 to \$8.99; entrees, \$10.99 to \$19.99



The spicy Italian flatbread at Sammy's Woodfired Pizza & Grill (Photos by Dr. Ink)

Versatility at Sammy's

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Since its humble beginnings in San Diego 27 years ago, Sammy's Woodfired Pizza & Grill has spawned multiple locations, allowing customers to nosh on internationally inspired dishes while partaking in numerous wines, select craft beers and soju cocktails. Gone are the days when only pizza and domestic brews like Budweiser dominated the menu.

Daily happy hour is available at all outlets including the one in Mission Valley, which conveniently resides a stone's throw from the trolley station in Park Valley Center plaza.

The price breaks are better than other popular chains. For less than \$10, for example, you can wash down a pair of duck tacos with a glass of St. Archer Blonde Ale, or dally over an order of baba ghanoush and a glass of full-bodied cabernet sauvignon from Washington state.

All drinks are \$2 off, and appetizers, though served in smaller portions, average about \$3.50 each.

The wood-fired pizzas at Sammy's have long held special appeal because they were the first I found after moving here from New York state in the late '80s that sported a reasonably crispy crust with yeasty flavor. I've succumbed to the competition over the years, but still occasionally poke in for a nostalgic meal.

On a recent warm autumn day, I chose a seat on the roomy semi-open patio, which features white vinyl booths, live succulents perched on a few walls, and big glass jars filled decoratively with colorful vegetables. Compared to the expansive, fairly busy dining room inside, the vibe was quieter and visually more appealing with its faux terracotta pillars serving as podiums for crawling vines.

A "cucumber cooler" with a lemonade base summoned me. It was only \$5 with the discount, and it featured a decent measure of soju, fresh basil and a few fat slices of cucumber. Like a summer garden in a glass, I paired it with the spicy Italian sausage flatbread, which was also \$5. Compared to the signature pizzas, it offered a fainter crunch and airier texture.

The spice factor of the sausage was mild and the tomato sauce



Cucumber cooler

beneath it was scant. But with a fair measure of Mozzarella cheese stretching over eight small squares, it constituted as a light meal.

My waiter was new and under-trained. He originally brought me an order of hummus and pita bread, insisting at first it was the sausage flatbread when I pointed out otherwise. And when the bill came, he had charged full price (\$7) for the cocktail, saying it was \$9 until I showed him the correct listing on menu. He was gracious in rectifying both errors, and I came away sated with barely a dent in my conservative happy-hour budget.❖

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Drinks: Wine choices outnumber beer and cocktails. The latter are made with soju, such as bloody marys, cosmopolitans, Moscow mules, and a refreshing "cucumber cooler" accented with lemonade and fresh basil.

Food: The spicy Italian sausage flatbread wasn't so spicy and needed more tomato sauce, although the wood-fired crust offered fine flavor and texture. Other discounted noshes include mini duck tacos, pork dumplings, meatballs, and baba ghanoush.

Value: Food items are discounted to \$5 or less, and regular drink prices, which are reasonable to start with, are \$2 off during happy hour.

Service: The waiter was friendly and expedient, but lacked knowledge about the food and drink specials.

Atmosphere: A spacious dining room allows for ample seating, which extends to a desirable patio featuring wall plants and crawling vines and sleek, white booths.

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Seasonal turkey burger (Courtesy of Slater's 50/50)

Thanksgiving dinner in a bun? It's the latest burger creation at **Slater's 50/50** and available for the entire month of November. The seasoned turkey patty, served on a honey-wheat roll, features brioche dressing, turkey gravy, house-made cranberry sauce, and garlic-sage aioli. It's priced at \$12.99. 2750 Dewey Road, Liberty Station, 619-398-2600, slaters5050.com.

La Jolla will see the arrival of a second location of **Streetcar Merchants**, the North Park eatery famous for its fried chicken and gourmet donuts. Owner Ron Suel says the new venture will be a "luxé" version of his 30th Street operation, due to significantly more space, a full bar and additional food choices, such as short ribs, sandwiches and side dishes. The menu will also feature gluten-free fried chicken. "We're reinventing what we've done in North Park, but with more Southern flair," he said. Due to open by late November, the new location will feature brunch, lunch and dinner daily. 811 Prospect St., streetcarmerchants.com.



Wienerschnitzel is honoring "veterans and active-duty military with ID or in uniform" — according to a company spokesperson — on Nov. 11 with a free chili dog, small fries and 20-ounce soft drink. The offer is available at all locations nationwide, from opening to close. Local outlets include those in Pacific Beach, Point Loma and Kearny Mesa. wienerschnitzel.com.

San Diego's ever-growing restaurant group, **CH Projects**, has hired Chef Phillip Esteban to oversee research and development of the company's 12 establishments, which include **Polite Provisions**, **Soda & Swine**, **Underbelly**, and **Ironside Fish & Oyster**. In addition, a new venture is in the pipeline, called **Born & Raised**, due to open in Little Italy next year. Esteban, who spent five years helping **Tender Greens** expand throughout Southern California, also worked in top kitchens in New York City and San Diego. More recently, he served as executive chef at **The Cork & Craft** in Rancho Bernardo. In his new gig, he will oversee menu development alongside CH's chef-partner Jason McLeod. ch-projects.com.

Numerous events are on tap at local breweries and restaurants for the eighth annual **San Diego Beer Week**, which runs Nov. 4 through 13. More than 100 breweries from San Diego County are taking part. The festival kicks off with a two-day celebration of specialty and limited-edition beers by local breweries, on Nov. 4–5, at Downtown's **Port Pavilion** on Broadway Pier, hosted by San Diego Brewers Guild. Tickets for either or both days range from \$40 to \$100. Other happenings include beer and cheese pairings hosted in part by **Venissimo Cheese**, at 1 p.m. Nov. 5, at **Thorn Street Brewery** in North Park; a **Modern Times** beer dinner featuring vegan beer and an all-vegetarian menu, at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 7, at **Mess Hall** in Liberty Station; and a **Belching Beaver** beer dinner prepared by Chef Deborah Scott, at 7 p.m. Nov. 10, at **C-Level** on Harbor Island. For prices and a complete list of events, visit sdbw.org.



Venissimo Cheese coming to Thorn Street Brewery for Beer Week (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Bine and Vine Bottle Shop in Normal Heights celebrates its fifth anniversary with a specially brewed IPA beer for the occasion, made with a trio of Citra, Nelson and Cascade hops. The beer was brewed in collaboration with **El Segundo Brewing Company** and rings in at 6.6 percent alcohol. It was released Oct. 25, and is available exclusively at the shop or online. 3334 Adams Ave., 619-795-2463, bineandvine.com.

Francophiles take note. From 6–7:30 p.m. every Wednesday, **Pardon My French Bar & Kitchen** in Hillcrest presents "Ménage a Trois," which affords guests a tasting of six French wines paired to imported cheeses and cured meats. The price is \$40 per person. 3797 Park Blvd., 619-546-4328, pardonmyfrenchbarandkitchen.com. —Frank Sabatini Jr. can be reached at fsabatini@san.rr.com.



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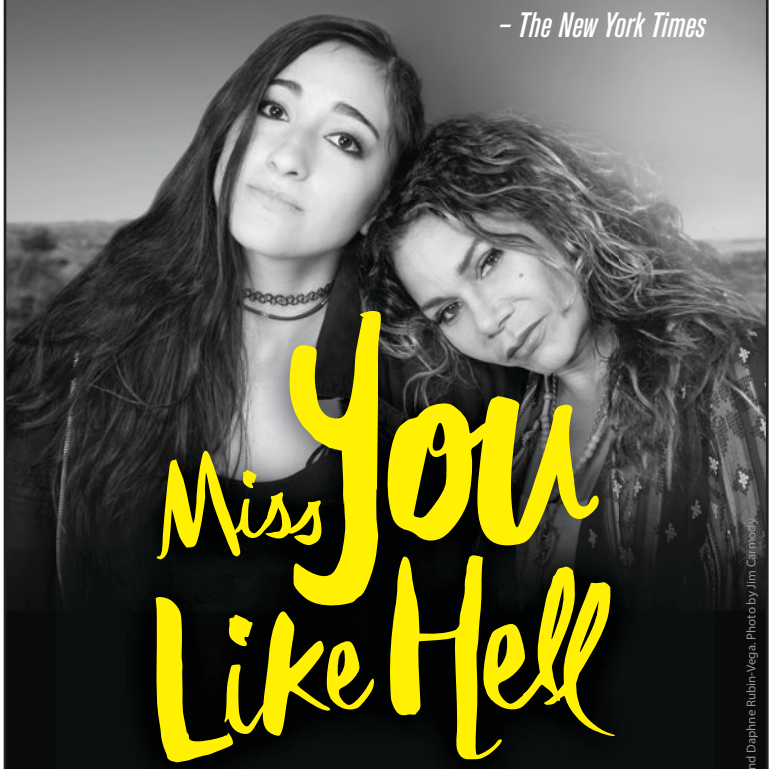


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Ground broken on Hillcrest fire station

Ken Williams | Editor

City officials symbolically broke ground on Tuesday, Nov. 1, for a new Fire Station No. 5 in Hillcrest. The price tag is \$9.2 million.

Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, District 3 Councilmember Todd Gloria and Fire-Rescue Chief Brian Fennessy presided over a brief ceremony outside the outdated fire station, located at the northwest corner of University and Ninth avenues.

"This 1950s-era station will be replaced with a modern facility that can house more equipment and fire vehicles to better serve nearby neighborhoods," Mayor Faulconer said. "It's an example of the city's record-level investments in infrastructure and ongoing improvements to public safety coming together for the community's benefit."

Opening in August 1951, Fire Station No. 5 serves a 4-square-mile area that includes Hillcrest and surrounding communities. The mayor said it is the city's third-busiest firehouse serving 6,000 emergency calls per year. Fire stations serving City Heights and Downtown are the two busiest firehouses.

The drab cement-block building, which is painted white, will be demolished in late November after a temporary facility is opening at 4311 Third Ave. in northern Hillcrest. Construction is expected to be finished in 2018,

Gloria said.

"Today marks the beginning of an important and much-needed public safety improvement for Hillcrest and its surrounding neighborhoods," Gloria said. "Fire Station No. 5 is one of the busiest engine companies in the city of San Diego and with the construction of this new facility we will not only better equip our Fire-Rescue Department to respond to emergencies faster, but also improve the living conditions for our firefighters who dedicate themselves every day to keeping our residents safe."

Local architect Rob Quigley, known for the Downtown's Main Library with its iconic dome, has designed the new 10,731-square-foot, two-floor station. The mayor said the new fire station would be twice the size of the old one, which could not house a modern-day ladder truck.

Chief Fennessy, who noted that he was based at Fire Station No. 5 many years ago, said the new facility would not automatically get a ladder truck but was glad to have that option for the future.

"Our firefighters are committed to their city, department and mission," Fennessy said. "The firefighters assigned to Fire Station No. 5 have a long history of ensuring that fires are suppressed quickly and medical calls are answered with excellent patient care. With a larger and modernized station, they'll be able to continue that tradition for



(top, l to r) Firefighters watch as District 3 Councilmember Todd Gloria, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, Fire-Rescue Chief Brian Fennessy and Hillcrest Town Council past chair Luke Terpstra break ground on new fire station in Hillcrest. (Photo by Ken Williams); architectural rendering of new fire station

(Courtesy of Rob Quigley)



generations to come."

The new station will have a larger apparatus bay to house a fire engine and a chief emergency vehicle. The dormitories will provide sleeping quarters for one battalion chief, two captains and six firefighters. This will be the

fourth fire station to be built since the city committed to improve neighborhood services. Construction has begun on fire stations for Bayside and City Heights, and Fire Station No. 45 in Mission Valley opened Nov. 2, 2015 near Qualcomm Stadium.

—Ken Williams is editor of Uptown News and can be reached at ken@sdenn.com or at 619-961-1952. Follow him on Twitter at @KenSanDiego, Instagram at @KenSD or Facebook at KenWilliamsSanDiego. ❖

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Exhibit ‘celebrates the elegance of nature in the animal kingdom’

By Lucia Viti

Uptown residents Greg Bada, Stephanie Clair, Monica Hui Heckman, Amy Paul and Kelley Paige Standard will be among 32 area artists featured in “Animalia/A Group Show,” opening Nov. 12 at Sparks Gallery.

The eclectic array of Southern California talent will exhibit oil and watercolor paintings, iron and marble works, and photography and archival prints that synergize the real and imaginary world of animals.

“‘Animalia’ celebrates the elegance of nature in the animal kingdom through our local artists’ eyes,” said Sonya Sparks, owner of Sparks Gallery. “‘Animalia/A Group Show’ will bring together artists and collectors who share a mutual passion for supporting animals in their own way.”

The dimension of each North Park artist is to say the least, impressive.

Amy Paul works as an artist and a teacher touting a 15-year tenure at Mesa College while owning and running Pigment, a “unique, design-driven gift store” in North Park. Paul’s piece, a pastel-white, acrylic-on-wood tiger, is square-framed with a textured matting. Inspired by the animal’s symbolism — fierce and passionate — the piece serves as a totem. Paul tapped into animal totems after the death of her grandmother. Heartbroken by her loss, birds came to symbolize guardians. “I imagined birds as couriers helping to negotiate the



Uptown artist Kelly Paige Standard is represented in the “Animalia/A Group Show” exhibit by her painting, “Reverence.”

(Courtesy of Olive PR Solutions)

transition from this world to the next,” she said. “For me, ‘Animalia’ is an exercise in portraiture that channeled my interest in animals as spiritual guides for my loved ones.”

“Amy’s work is interesting,” Sparks said. “Like so many of our artists, Amy’s half-artist, half-business woman. Most of our artists have day jobs or they’re entrepreneurs.”

Paul praised Sparks for her vision, describing “Animalia” as a show that serves to inspire artists while affording the local

community an opportunity to engage with each other. “Sonya is a pioneer,” she said.

Greg Bada, a printmaker, engraves and etches on copper or zinc plates. Bada’s collection of limited edition “antiquated” prints “walk in the footsteps of printmakers of centuries ago” because the process has barely changed. The self-described vivid dreamer will exhibit a print inspired by his young son while enjoying the flamingos at the San Diego Zoo.

“My son remarked that it

would be cool to ride a flamingo,” Bada said. “Inspired by the childlike-dream of riding an exotic bird, I drew a vague interpretation of my wife in a feathered outfit riding a bird through a dreamlike world. I meticulously focused on the details of every feather on her garment as well the bird.”

Stephanie Clair’s portrait painting of a family of giraffes is titled “A Circle of Love.”

“I chose giraffes because my daughter is obsessed with them,” she said. “The family circle

represents me, my husband, my son and daughter but relates to all human and animal families. Families are the most important bond between all creatures. I connect the similarities between animals and people so that humans can relate to animals in a compassionate way to make sure they don’t become endangered.”

Clair noted that the painting displays a hidden love message within the giraffe spots.

Monica Hui Heckman will display a fabric collage of polar bears rolling in the snow — a behavior she found “interesting and fun.”

“Polar bears are great fun!” she said. “My illustration depicts them rolling in the snow — an interesting behavior that cleans their fur. My love for polar bears is part of my love for all animals.”

Hui Heckman’s process begins with researching the subject, sketching and forming a ceramic sculpture used as a reference for a computer illustration that’s patterned as a collage, printed out in pieces, attached to fabrics, cut accordingly and sewn together on a sewing machine. The multimedia artist learned to sew from her grandmother, who was a seamstress.

Kelley Paige Standard is a portrait painter inspired by “mood and emotion.” Drawn to a “full spectrum of ideas” that she “smashes” into a visually appealing narrative, Standard is driven by hope.

“Inspirations are emotions that are too hard to express in

see *Animalia*, pg 15

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Local artist and teacher Amy Paul also owns and operates the Pigment gift shop in North Park. (Courtesy of Olive PR Solutions)

FROM PAGE 14

ANIMALIA

any other way,” she said. “People call my paintings lonely, but I always have hope.”

Standard’s painting harmonizes elements of the artistic masters. “The pose is reminiscent of a John Singer Sargent piece,” she continued. “The contrast between the light and dark is a feature that Giorgio de Chirico played with; the background is inspired by Richard Stein greeting cards and his book of fun doodles, but mostly the piece stems from Kahlil Gibran, the author of ‘The Prophet’ who wrote, ‘For thought is a bird of space, that in a cage of words may indeed unfold its wings but it cannot fly.’”

Standard said she wanted the portrait’s subject to look like she was toiling over something while holding the key to the cage and the ability to “let it go.”

“Kelley Page has been in the art world for a long time,” Sparks said. “Kelley’s art has gorgeous craftsmanship, is rich with intense colors and beautiful color schemes with strong pinks that

“Animalia/A Group Show”

Nov. 12 to Feb. 12, 2017
Sparks Gallery
530 Sixth Ave. (Downtown)

Opening night reception 6-9 p.m.
Refreshments and “small bites” will be served on opening night.
Wine sale proceeds will benefit a selected nonprofit organization that supports animals.

define her style. Her show piece has an interesting green pallet.”

Sparks chose artistic pieces based on visual aesthetics, craftsmanship and the ability of each piece to work well together. “When curating a show, we line up pieces to see how well they work with each other,” she said. “We look for energy, technique, flow, shape and movement plus quality craftsmanship and aesthetic appeal.”

Sparks noted that while excited about the overwhelming talent of each artist, her driving force is to “promote the local art community and their vision of how they see the animal kingdom.”

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

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Koblenz, Germany

Where the Rhine and Mosel converge

Global Gumshoe
Ron Stern



It would be hard to find a lovelier off-the-beaten-track city to visit in Germany than Koblenz.

Ideally situated where the Mosel River flows into the Rhine, this city has a history dating back 2,000 years starting from when it was a Roman settlement. Today, it is a top tourist destination of stunning beauty with a rich history and culture and a thriving culinary scene.

A strip of land marks the confluence of both rivers at the popular Deutsches Eck or German Corner. Visitors can gaze upon the colossal bronze statue of Kaiser Wilhelm I on horseback, triumphantly towering 120 feet above the city and affording grand views from its pedestal.

Another sculpture, a 10-meter pillar located within a fountain in the center of the Görresplatz, depicts the history of Koblenz starting with the Romans at the bottom of the sculpture and moving up through the Crusades, the French Revolution, World War II, and up to present day.

The area along this part of the Middle Rhine region is buzzing with activity. Pedestrians or cyclists (you can bike all the way to Basel, Switzerland.) can explore miles of scenic beauty along the river's banks, but one of the best ways to see this area is to take a riverboat cruise. For as little as €9 (the Euro equals \$1.11 US dollar), you can cruise for around 90 minutes with grand views of the river, which has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. For a little more, you can go further, stopping off at small towns along the way including picturesque Rüdesheim and Boppard.

But that is just for starters. Along your route, you will see lush terraced vineyards, cruise ships moving back and forth, and some of the 40 or so historic hilltop castles. These include Schloss Stolzenfels, also known as the Neuschwanstein Castle of the Rhine; Martinsburg; and Marksburg, the latter of which is perched majestically above the town of Braubach in Rhineland-Palatinate.

Not to be missed would be the cable car ride to the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress that overlooks the town (€11.80 for the cable car ride and castle visit). The cars float silently over the Rhine and are one of the largest in Germany in terms of capacity, able to transport 7,600 people per day. The fortress, the second largest in the world, was constructed by the Prussians as part of the area's fortification system between 1817-28. At the top, you can stroll through the passageways, enjoy



(clockwise from the top) The picturesque town of Boppard, Germany, just a short Rhine River cruise from Koblenz; cyclists at The German Corner in Koblenz; short Rhine cruise is a popular activity from Koblenz; hand-made truffles at Baumann Confiserie Cafe; Konditeri Cafe Hahn in Boppard (Photos by Ron Stern)

cultural exhibitions, and have a meal at their Casino restaurant. A local beer called Festungs Bräu is also brewed just for the fortress, and you can enjoy this with a bird's-eye view of Koblenz.

There are a number of other interesting attractions in and around the city. At Kauf-und Danzhaus (Old Merchants and Dance House), the exterior clock has the face of the Eye Roller, which commemorates the robber baron Johann von Kobern. At certain times of the hour, he also sticks out a red tongue.

Located in the Forum Confluentes building in the city center is the Romanticum. More than a typical museum, this is an interactive, highly imaginative educational center for the entire Middle Rhine region. You'll find books that speak to you as you pull them off of the shelf, an old-fashioned silhouette theater, a touchscreen that lets you explore a map of the Rhine, and nearly 70 other exhibits.

What's even more unique about the Romanticum is that upon entering (€6 for adults, €1

for children up to 12 years of age), you are issued a pass about the size of a credit card. Hold this up to any of the appropriate logos on the displays and the QR code on the card will capture all of the information and store it for your future retrieval on a computer or smartphone. Ingenious? Indeed it is, and you won't find another museum quite like it. Furthermore, this cultural building also houses a library, art museum and tourist information center.

Koblenz has a wide range of shopping opportunities. This

includes the modern looking Forum-Mittelrhein with around 80 retail shops and restaurants, and another 130 independent retail establishments or so along Löhrrstraße in and around the downtown area.

Gastronomically speaking, Koblenz is a culinary gold mine. Here, you can find pubs, ice cream and konditorei (pastry shops). In one area, you almost have a side-by-side selection of

FROM PAGE 16

GERMANY

Indian, Mexican, Italian and Chinese restaurants.

At Baumann Konditorei/Con-fiserie (confectionery)/Café, you have 200 years of a family-run pastry and confection business. The truffles are made by hand, and this is a great place to relax and have a slice of cake and coffee.

Koblenz is the only city in Germany where you can enjoy wines from both the Rhine and Mosel regions. There are some 16 family-owned wineries here, some more than 100 years old.

One of the best ways to learn about wine is directly from the grower. At Weingut Karl Lunnebach, you can do just that. Located an easy cab ride from the main part of town, this family-owned winery is situated on the Mosel River. With advanced small-group reservations you can partake in wine tasting as well as authentic regional foods prepared by the vintner's family.

Typically, a three-course meal might feature dishes such as roast port, au gratin potatoes, spaetzle, chicken in riesling cream, and dessert for a price of around €20-25. Or, for €50, you can include wine tasting. You can also purchase a nice bottle of wine for as little as €6.

As you stroll around town, try the cappuccino at K3, located inside the Forum Confluentes. For ice cream, locals visit E Gelosia for some of the best in Germany. You'll be able to tell how popular

this place is with lines stretching as far as 200 feet past the cathedral on weekends.

If you end up taking the Rhine cruise, then disembark at the small village of Boppard. There, you will want to make your way to the Konditorei Café Hahn. Another small family business, this is operated by the 80-year-old man, his wife and daughter. The father has been making mouth-watering cakes for 50 years.

Once you arrive back in Koblenz, if you are still hungry for lunch or dinner, try Wacht am Rhein right on the waterfront. The inside looks like the owner's house with everything from cupboards, couches, trinkets, and whatever else he felt he couldn't live without. But for the best experience, sit outside and enjoy Italian or traditional German cuisine such as sauerbraten in a sour sauce with red cabbage.

Koblenz is a city to which many people might just give a cursory look while passing through on a river cruise. But, there is much more here that blends the old with the new and that begs for some serious time exploring its rich treasures. However long your visit, however, Koblenz is sure to leave a lasting impression.

Resources

Historic Highlights of Germany: visit historicgermany.com.

—Contact Ron Stern at travel-writer01@comcast.net or visit his blog at originalglobalgumshoe.blogspot.com. This was a sponsored visit, but all opinions are solely the author's. ❖



(clockwise from the top) Historic castles line the Rhine River in Germany, best viewed by day cruises from Koblenz; wine dinners at Weingut Karl Lunnebach; beer specially made for the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress (Photos by Ron Stern)

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8 Simple Safety Tips for Online Shopping

Online shopping has become so common with consumers that it's easy to develop bad habits when it comes to protecting your personal information. With the holidays, and holiday shopping fast approaching, now is a good time for consumers to remind themselves how they can stay safe while shopping online.

Whether making purchases on a mobile device or home computer, here are eight tips to keep your personal information protected this holiday season.

1. **Use a familiar website.** Rather than click on an ad, start at your favorite retail outlet's website.
2. **Look for the icon of a green padlock in the URL address bar.** It could also appear at the bottom of your browser. This signifies added security.
3. **Never buy anything from a site that doesn't have secure sockets layer (SSL) encryption.** You'll know if a website has it because it will start with 'HTTPS://' rather than just 'HTTP://'.
4. **No online shopping site should ever ask for your social security number or birthdate to do business.** Provide as little information as possible to online retailers.
5. **Check your accounts regularly, especially during the holidays.** Don't wait for your statement to identify fraudulent charges. If you see something wrong, call your bank or credit card company immediately. You may be protected against fraudulent charges.
6. **Make sure your devices are up-to-date on their antivirus protection.**
7. **Be careful where you click.** Avoid unknown pop-up ads or ads imbedded in unfamiliar websites.
8. **Don't send your credit card information via email or post on social media,** even in private messages.

Another way to keep your personal information protected is to make sure your devices are protected. There are several ways to maintain the most up-to-date protection on your computer or mobile device.

1. Lock your device with a password.
2. Be mindful of what you download.
3. Update when prompted.
4. Delete apps that are no longer being used from mobile devices.
5. Disable WiFi and Bluetooth when not in use.
6. Install security software, and update regularly.

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Visit a customer service representative at the Cox Solutions Store in Hillcrest today at 1220 Cleveland Avenue, or call (619) 780-0800 for more information on Internet safety.

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61

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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.

9/6

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Puzzle answers on page 18

Uptown Crossword

Out of Town

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CREATOR'S NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 Abound

5 Suggestion

8 Golf bag item

11 Prod

12 Yankees, e.g.

13 Analyze grammatically

15 No place

17 Growing out

18 ___ as molasses

19 Stubborn one

21 Roman emperor

23 RBl, e.g.

24 Youth org.

27 Seasoning

29 Slept with sound effects

33 Perform

34 American Indians

36 Pledge

37 Tabula ___

39 Orbiter

41 Western alliance acronym

42 On top of

44 Three, in Berlin

45 Retreat

46 Separated

48 Elec. units

DOWN

1 Band instrument

2 Love god

3 Ids' relatives

4 ___ Park, NJ

5 Twitch

6 Readies the press

7 Nuisances

8 No place

9 Of a time

10 Princely Italian family

12 No place

13 Nuts

14 Always: poet.

16 "How ___ the little busy bee . . ."

20 Possessive

50 Chemical ending

51 Blue dye source

53 Graf ___

55 No place

59 Lodger

63 Broadway smash

64 No place

66 King with a touch

67 Twaddle

68 Celebrity

69 Cupid

70 Gone

71 True being

Puzzle answers on page 18

Classifieds

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Queen Kathy and her court in the 1956 Toyland Parade in North Park (Courtesy of North Park Historical Society)

North Park's Toyland Parade, a community tradition

PastMatters
Katherine Hon

The next Toyland Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, starting at 11 a.m. In a tradition that has spanned more than 80 years, marching bands, vintage cars, floats, dancers and many community

organizations will travel along University Avenue to kick off the holiday season.

The North Park Historical Society devoted a whole chapter to the Toyland Parade in their book, "Images of America: San Diego's North Park," published by Arcadia Publishing Company in 2014. The following history is based on a summary

written by George Franck, North Park Historical Society vice president.

Christmas festivals in North Park started as far back as 1930, during the early years of the Depression, when the North Park Business Men's Association sponsored the dedication of a Christmas tree at the corner of Kansas Street and Univer-

sity Avenue. On Dec. 11, 1934, a parade of decorated automobiles, theme floats and four bands sponsored by the merchants was viewed by several thousand people at 30th Street and University Avenue. This event initiated a North Park parade tradition.

The Dec. 10, 1935 San Diego Union reported that nine divi-

sions with representatives of every major business in the community marched in the 1935 parade, when an estimated 30,000 spectators crowded the sidewalks. Musical groups included the Bonham Brothers Band. This youth marching band was started in 1921 by the brothers who ran the Bonham Brothers Mortuary. The band entertained at concerts, parades and community events for 36 years before playing its last music in 1962.

In 1939, the parade was held on a Friday night. It lasted for more than an hour as entrants marched between 32nd and Texas streets. The 1941 parade, scheduled for the evening of Dec. 12, was cancelled following the attack on Pearl Harbor and was not held for five years during World War II.

Following the war, the parade grew. Inflated balloon figures were part of the 1949 parade. In 1954, an estimated 300,000 people flocked to North Park to watch the parade.

The selection of the Toyland Parade Queen became a major countywide event during the 1950s. In 1956, 15-year-old Kathy Huffman of El Cajon won the competition over 36 final contestants for Queen. Before the 1958 parade, the North Park sign was enhanced to read "Home of the Famous Toyland Parade" on a banner

see Toyland, pg 21

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San Diego Zoo camels in the 1958 Toyland Parade at Kansas Street and University Avenue (Courtesy of Joe Schloss)

FROM PAGE 20
TOYLAND

below the neon “North Park.” The San Diego Zoo was a regular participant in the Toyland Parade, providing camels and handlers in costumes for the 1958 parade.

The parade stopped for nearly 20 years after 1966, and the North Park sign was removed in 1967. In announcing the cancellation, the San Diego Union identified the parade as San Diego’s largest Christmas parade. The Toyland Parade was revived in 1985, and a replica of the North Park sign finally returned to University Avenue in 1993.

After the Toyland Parade was revived, the San Diego Zoo participated in 1986 by bringing an elephant along with the

Zoo’s Goodwill Ambassador Joan Embury. Legend has it that when the elephant was unloaded, it suddenly took off and decided to explore North Park, causing some momentary consternation. But photographs verify that Embury successfully rode the elephant in the parade.

Through the years, the North Park Lions Club, North Park Main Street, and now Victoria House Corporation have worked hard to keep the parade as a North Park tradition. Contact Victoria House Corporation at 619-269-7880 if you want to help them with this beloved community event.

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990. ❖



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UPTOWN CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

Live music: Hands Like Houses

Friday, Nov. 4

Australian rock band Hands Like Houses is kicking off its North American tour in San Diego with this show at The Irenic (3090 Polk Ave., North Park). The band's hard rock style is balanced by clear vocals and experimental elements. The show starts at 5 p.m. and will also feature Our Last Night, The Color Morale and Out Came The Wolves. There will be a free meet-and-greet with the bands before the show. Tickets are \$17. Visit theirenic.com and handslikehouses.net.

'Heavy Grass'

Friday, Nov. 4

This new exhibit at Japanese Friendship Garden (2215 Pan American Road E, Balboa Park) will feature artist Eva Struble. Her work in painting and printmaking is influenced by "cultural, political and physical landscapes where she lives." The exhibit "Heavy Grass" is an indoor painted installation with gleaned material from garden refuse. The opening reception will be from 5-7 p.m. in Inamori Pavilion Hall. Attendance costs \$5 and include entrance to the garden. The exhibit will run through Jan. 22, 2017. Visit niwa.org/.



(clockwise from above) Artwork by Bonnie Rinier, Gregory Berg and Larry Caveney (Courtesy of UHCD)

11th annual UH Arts Open/Taste of University Heights

This combination of events will highlight some of the businesses of University Heights. The UH Arts open, held from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., features open art studios and artist venues showcasing works in various mediums. An information booth will be set up at Buddha's Light Bookstore (4538 Park Blvd.) where maps to the art locations will be available. The event is free, but they will also be selling raffle tickets for \$1 each with a raffle to be held at 3:30 p.m. for prizes and gift certificates from UH restaurants and businesses (must be present to win). Visit uharts.org. From noon-3 p.m. the Taste of University Heights will be held. Tickets for this portion of the day are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of — and include one raffle ticket. A free shuttle service will take guests around the various locations participating in the Taste of UH. Participants include: Madison on Park, Red House Pizza, Big Front Door, Plumeria Vegetarian and many more. Visit uhcdc.org for tickets.

Live music: Hilary Scott and Amber Ikeman

Wednesday, Nov. 9

Songwriter and songstress Hilary Scott will perform at Lestat's (3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights) at 9 p.m. The award winner incorporates a folky twang in her catchy pop tunes. Another singer with an Americana style, Amber Ikeman will also perform. Tickets are \$7. Visit lestats.coffee.

San Diego Canyonlands Enhancement Planning Workshop

Saturday, Nov. 12

Canyonlands volunteers will continue a planning process for enhancement of Jupiter Canyon, including habitat restoration and potential trails. Meet at 9 a.m. at the corner of Juniper and Felton streets. Wear sturdy shoes, sunscreen and bring water. Email Eric Bowlby, the executive director, at eric@sdcanyonlands.org or call 619-284-9399.

'Sex in Our City'

Monday, Nov. 14

Join Alvarado Hospital for the popular "Sex in Our City" event with renowned Dr. Irwin Goldstein. The evening includes dinner, discussion and decadent desserts. Dr. Goldstein and a panel of experts will discuss sexual health in adult women of all ages, pre- and post-menopause solutions, low libido, HRT, and how to spice things up in the bedroom. The dinner is free, but seating is very limited. Pre-registration is required by Nov. 10. Call 800-258-2723 or visit AlvaradoHospital.com to pre-register.

'The Swingin' with Dean Show'

Wednesday, Nov. 16

This free concert at the Mission Hills Library (925 W. Washington St.) will start at 6:30 p.m. Ratzman performs swing, big band, jazz standards, blues, rock and soul hits by American artists from the 1940s-1970s. The multi-instrumentalist incorporates keyboard, trumpet, trombone and vocals in his show. Visit facebook.com/mhlibrary and ratzpack.net.

DIGITAL GYM GEMS



Friday, Nov. 4–Thursday, Nov. 10: James Franco, Christian Slater and Alicia Silverstone star in the true-crime thriller "King Cobra." FilmOut San Diego is presenting this film about two rival gay porn producers competing for the attention of a popular adult video performer. Rated R. 92 minutes.



Friday, Nov. 4–Thursday, Nov. 10: "No Manches Frida" is a comedy presented in Spanish with English subtitles. It tells the story of an ex-con posing as a substitute teacher in order to find his loot buried under the school's new gym. Rated PG-13. 112 minutes.



Friday, Nov. 11–Thursday, Nov. 17: The documentary "We Are X" chronicles the three decades of Japanese band X Japan. The band has sold over 30 million singles and albums combined under the direction of the enigmatic drummer, pianist, composer and producer Yoshiki. Rated R. 93 minutes.

Visit DigitalGym.org for show times and tickets and information on additional films.

RECURRING EVENTS

Select dates:

Cinema Under the Stars: Films presented at an outdoor viewing space on various nights of the week. Upcoming films: "Star Trek Beyond" Friday, Nov. 4 and Saturday Nov. 5

"Café Society" Friday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 12

Films start at 8 p.m. \$15. 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. For more info, visit topspresents.com or call 619-295-4221.

Mondays:

North Park Toastmasters meeting: 6:30–8 p.m., weekly meeting at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 3725 30th St., North Park. 8469. toastmastersclubs.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.

Unsung Genius: 6:30 p.m., bi-weekly trivia hosted by Rafael Gaitan starting at 7 p.m.; \$2 to play; cash, bar tab and other prizes. Karaoke to follow at 9 p.m. on the big stage at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest. Themerrow.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.

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

Thursdays:

Uptown Sunrise Rotary Club meetings: 7 a.m., weekly meeting at Panera Bread, 1270 Cleveland Ave., Hillcrest. Sdurotary.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 Thursday Market: 3–7 p.m., at 3000 North Park Way, between 30th Street and Granada Avenue, North Park, free. Northparkfarmersmarket.com.

Kornflower's Open Mic: Signups at 6:30 p.m., open mic (no poetry or comedy) 7–10 p.m. Family-friendly event at Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. Rebeccascoffeehouse.com.

Liberty Toastmasters Club: 7 p.m., at

Saint Paul's Community Care Center, 328 Maple St., Bankers Hill. Libertytoastmasters.org.

Courage to Change – Al-Anon meetings: 7:15–8:15 p.m., a weekly meeting for friends and relatives of alcoholics at Christ United Presbyterian Church (in the chapel), 3025 Fir St., South Park.

2016 San Diego Film Series: 7:30 p.m., every third Thursday view a film representative of Italian cinema at the Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park. sandiegotaalianfilmfestival.com.

Kirtan Musical Meditation: 8:30 p.m., chant and sing ancient and contemporary mantras celebrating love and life at Pilgrimage of the Heart Yoga, 3301 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, free – donations welcome. Pilgrimageyoga.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.

Square Dancing Classes: 6:30–8:30 p.m., every Friday. 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.

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

Sundays

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

West African dance class: 5:30–7 p.m., Master dancer Djibril Camara from Guinea teaches these classes that are also a great workout for all ages and skill levels at La Vie Dance Studio, 325 W. Washington, Hillcrest. Lavie.dance.

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

To view local community organization meeting information online, visit: bit.ly/2esLpLR.

—Email calendar items to ken@sdcnn.com.

FROM PAGE 1

BARONS

is filled with amazing street art.”

Calls for local artists to “craft lasting artwork” that would underscore the market’s vision to cultivate community through art and food were made through local news outlets, social media and the Barons Market website. Much to Shemirani’s surprise, almost 40 artists applied. “We were shocked at the overwhelming response,” she said.

A Facebook tag had alerted Baca Lopez. “Applying was a no-brainer,” she said. “I sent a resume, a cover letter and five samples of my work, one that included oversized orange slices.”

A committee that included the store owners, the marketing team and its retail designers vetted artistic samples and cover letters. “Narrowing the choices proved to be difficult because art is so subjective,” Shemirani said. “The committee roughly picked the same artists drawing upon the pulse of their art.”

Baca Lopez was a seamless decision for everyone, Shemirani said. “We love people who love food so we knew we had to meet Amy,” she added. “Her application letter told us that even in college she tied stories of spanakopita or extraordinary orange juice into her writing assignments.”

Baca Lopez described her interview with the committee as a synergistic mix of people on the same wavelength. “We were all on cloud nine. They showed me the wall and said, ‘This is yours. Go for it!’”

Baca Lopez did just that, painting an explosion of “bright, cheerful and colorful” fruits, birds of paradise, a bicycle, a scooter, neighborhood scenes, a woman walking a dog, a map shape of California and “lots of happy phrases.”

“I painted larger-than-life orange slices high enough to look like the sun and the moon shining in the sky and built the mural from there,” she said. “Nothing says North Park like a Bird of Paradise, and I added a bicycle to add even more to the neighborhood spirit.”

The self-described “artist ever since I was born” did not disappoint the Barons team. The committee quickly opted to sacrifice retail space and eliminate a wine display originally intended to sidle the top of the column so Baca Lopez could paint up to the apex.

“I paint what makes me happy,” she said. “It’s fascinating to watch people connect with my art. This morning, the Markets owner Joe gave me a hug and said, ‘Thank you.’ That was awesome.”

Baca Lopez is no stranger to recognition. The New Mexico native was awarded a key to the city of Albuquerque for a “bunch of good deeds” performed during her tenure as a graphic artist that included the Zipper project — a walk and ride map along Historic



Local artist Amy Baca Lopez works on a four-sided mural at Barons Market in North Park, which is still being remodeled. (Photos courtesy of the artist)



Route 66, Albuquerque’s central corridor. Zipper educated and encouraged residents to shop locally, to utilize public transportation, and to participate with cultural services and museum associations. Baca Lopez attributes the Zipper project as her connection to the “essence and energy” of the Barons Market column mural.

The Barons Market committee also met with four other artists to further expand the grocery’s artistic endeavor. “The overwhelming talent of the artists made us reconsider our initial plan to choose just one,” Shemirani added. “With incredible community support we expanded the scope of artwork to three separate murals to weave the very fabric of the community into the store.”

Baca Lopez has completed the first mural, while hand-lettering specialists Roxy Prima and Phoebe Cornog will work on a hallway, and VISUAL owners Jason Gould and Frieda Gould will transform a parking garage wall.

“Barons Markets evolve to reflect the community,” Shemirani said. “Nothing is ever cookie cutter. Décor is subtle and subliminal to create unique and interesting customer experiences while conveying who we are. Time, energy and love goes into store design, employee hiring and product selection. Releasing artistic control was scary but well-worth the risk. We couldn’t be more pleased with the results.”

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FROM PAGE 1
DANCE

modern/contemporary facelift as this seems to fit the neighborhood," she said.

The East Coast native has been involved with dance her entire life, although she discloses that she didn't really find her niche until she moved to South America.

During her last year of college, Presutti lived in Buenos Aires, studying the Argentine tango for her senior research project. In 2008, during her professional ballroom dancing days, she opened for the "Dancing with the Stars" tour.

Today, her passion is teaching.

Cori-ography offers a wide variety of classes including regular partner dancing, classes for the LGBT community, and "Three's Company," a dance class that is specifically designed for new parents and a baby in a carrier. Presutti works with couples and singles of all ages who are either looking for a hobby or who are preparing for their wedding.

Her most popular classes, she



(l to r) Cori-ography clients Austin and Josalyn Johnson, Roger Schneider and Valentina Losavio, and Stephen and Stephanie Au practice partner dancing. (Photo by Natasha Caldera of Luna Light Photography)

said, are the salsa and Argentine tango.

"They seem to have the most mysticism and are the most fun because you move around the whole time. But the Hustle runs

a close second, which always surprises me," she said, laughing.

"My whole philosophy of teaching is different than anywhere else, because too many studios teach people what to do

with their feet. Yes, partner dancing has to do with feet but the primary point is what you do with the top of your frame," Presutti said. "A lot of instructors think it's too hard to teach because it's

too specific or technical, but I have carved out exactly how to teach people to use their frame, and how to use the connection with their partner from day one.

"What I would say to people who are thinking about taking a class is that they should get in and do it because life is short," she said. "If you're preparing for a wedding, you'll want to get in at least three months in advance depending on your goals. Too many people come in a month before, freaking out. If you give yourself a three-month window, you'll get to enjoy it a lot more because you'll be slightly less stressed."

—Margie M. Palmer is a San Diego-based freelance writer who has been racking up bylines in a myriad of news publications for the past 10 years. You can reach her at margiep@alumni.pitt.edu. ❖

BAR AIDS



Raise a glass to the end of HIV

Raise your glass to the end of new HIV infections at a participating Bar AIDS location on December 1, 2016 (World AIDS Day). Selected bars, nightclubs, coffee houses and juice/smoothie shops will be donating 25% or more of that day's sales to HIV/AIDS organizations throughout San Diego County, through the San Diego HIV Funding Collaborative.

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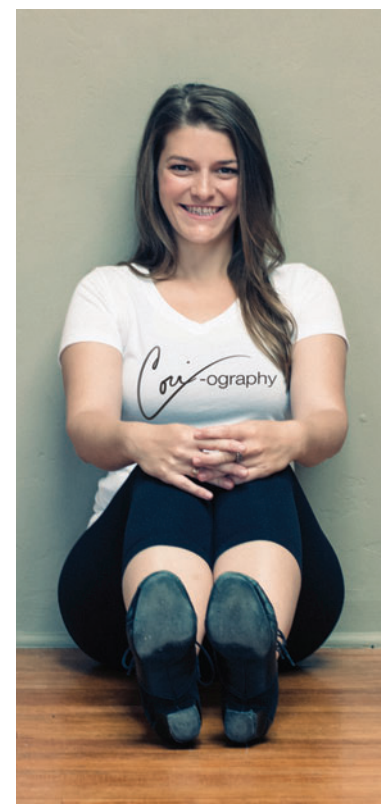
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Cori Presutti (Photo by Natasha Caldera of Luna Light Photography)

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