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**NEWS**

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Race course style

Retail driver for Father Joe's Village, Henry Underwood, wheels a bin of donated clothes from Uptown Cheapskate to his truck on July 13, 2021. (Photo by Luke Johnson)

Father Joe Carroll's legacy of helping unhoused people through his thrift stores

By Kendra Sitton

Father Joe Carroll's first major move when he took over the ministry that would later be called Father Joe's Villages in his honor was to purchase a building on 16th and Market. He opened a small thrift store to fund the ministry's work of caring for the poor. Nearly 40 years later, the retail side of Father Joe's Villages has expanded to four thrift stores, weekly auctions and a huge warehouse. The newest thrift store,

SEE FATHER JOE'S, Page 13

Hob Nob Hill reveals contemporary remodel with historical twists

By Kendra Sitton

Bankers Hill mainstay Hob Nob Hill reopened with other restaurants to reveal an entirely new interior, a full bar, espresso machine and many menu changes.

Before COVID-19 closures began in March 2020, owner Tania Warchol was planning to add a full bar to the premises for the first time.

"We were scheduled to do the construction three days after they closed for COVID here, so it kind of worked out for the best," Warchol said.

As the closure kept being extended, Warchol decided to do a remodel of the whole restaurant beyond just the new bar.

Some of the changes were meant to make things safer during the pandemic. All carpets and porous materials were replaced with non-porous materials so the large space could be sanitized in less than 10 minutes by staff. Like many restaurants,

SEE HOB NOB HILL, Page 5

A family looks at the fresh-made pastries in the black-and-white entrance to the restaurant. (Photo by Kendra Sitton)

Humane Society volunteer helps keep pets out of the shelter

By Kendra Sitton

North Park resident Judi Heitz estimates that since she began volunteering for the San Diego Humane Society (SDHS) in 2014, she spent 5,000 hours assisting the organization dedicated to animal welfare. She volunteers in almost every way imaginable – changing bedding for animals at the shelter to bringing therapy pets to visit people in the hospital.

Heitz with her therapy cat JJ (Photo courtesy SD Humane Society)

Heitz' interest in therapy animals began when her mom was dying in the ICU.

"It's my mother's fault... She was on her deathbed, and the entire family was there, and the only thing she wanted was her dog," Heitz said.

Bringing in a pet was against hospital rules but of course Heitz snuck the dog in. When the nurses discovered the deception, they yelled at Heitz then told her since the dog was already inside the hospital, she needed to take it to visit other patients.

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# Latest on the Meade Bikeway

By Brian Schrader

Over the past year, the sights and sounds of construction have consistently filled the air along the length of Meade Avenue, from Kensington to University Heights, just north of El Cajon Boulevard. Almost every intersection has been replaced by new roundabouts or retrofitted with bend-outs at traffic lights, while large portions of Meade have been retrofitted with new buffered bike lanes and traffic chokers. In the past few months, the Meade-Georgia project—which aims to provide a safe bike-route from Kensington to just north of Balboa Park—is near completion. Construction is mostly finished, and car travel has returned to the roads alongside the bikeway, yet cones and other barriers still prevent entry to anyone attempting to actually bike on the new bike paths.

Both SANDAG—the intergovernmental agency responsible for the project—and a spokesperson for Council-member Steven Whitburn's office confirmed that the project is on-track to meet its official completion date and be fully open to the public in the spring of 2022. However, if current progress continues, SANDAG

anticipates that the project may conclude this fall, leading to earlier public availability.

SANDAG further explained that, "[w]hile the major civil construction work for many of the traffic calming features along Meade Avenue has been completed, there is still some additional work that needs to be performed including the installation of traffic signal push buttons, signage, and pavement markings."

According to SANDAG, the bikeway will not open until after, "the final striping and signage are installed." And that striping will only commence once the "[m]ajor capital improvements (traffic circles, curb extensions, bend-outs, etc.)" are completed, and any needed resurfacing is finished.

Planning for this 3.5 mile bikeway began over five years ago, and SANDAG began construction in 2019. The project is one part of the city's Bicycle Master Plan and Climate Action Plan. The sprawling North Park | Mid-City Bikeways initiative will, according to SANDAG's website, "add approximately 13 miles of bike boulevards and protected bikeways and connect the North Park and Mid-City neighborhoods." The intended goal is to give locals easier, safer and traffic-calming access

to their favorite neighborhood destinations, like many popular spots along both Park Boulevard, Adams Avenue and Balboa Park. The project is also connected to other bikeway networks which will provide bikers a safe route to downtown via the Uptown and the Fourth and Fifth Avenue Bikeways that are also currently under construction.

The plan includes raised, speed-bump-style crosswalks that provide a safer environment for pedestrians, chokers which reduce vehicle traffic speeds and isolate pedestrians and bikers from vehicle traffic as well as roundabouts (which SANDAG calls traffic circles). The roundabouts provide space for decorative hardscapes and local art installations, though currently only rock hardscapes are present along the Meade section of the bikeway.

The total projected cost is estimated at \$9 million and is funded, along with many other regional projects, by a half-cent sales tax for transportation approved by voters countywide.

More information can be found at [keepsandiegomoving.com](https://keepsandiegomoving.com)

—Brian Schrader is a software developer in Normal Heights and writer at [democracyandprogress.com](https://democracyandprogress.com).

## 30th Street Bikeway (finally) open



The large crowd of cyclists on Aug. 1. (Photos by Beau Benko)

After two years of meetings, community input, protests and a lawsuit, the first 1.5 miles of the 30th Street Bikeway is open to the public. Hundreds of safety and environmental activists, including Mayor Todd Gloria,

celebrated the completion of the project with a bike ride on the protected bikeway on Aug. 1. Children were among the many cyclists taking advantage of the new safety measures.

The bike lane provides a buffer for cyclists through paint, plastic poles and in some places parked cars. Now, cyclists do not have to share the lane with cars on the busy street. However, certain sections are blocked by outdoor dining patios installed during the pandemic. Those permits last until summer 2022.

Opponents of the project worried about the loss of 450 parking spaces and the impact it would have on businesses. Save 30th Street Parking sued the city but a judge allowed the construction to continue.

In the fall, the city plans to extend the bikeway another mile to Adams Avenue.



Cyclists in front of the underused North Park Parking Garage.

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# North Park family brings joy to children

By Kendra Sitton

A North Park family's COVID-19 projects helped them meet their neighbors and entertain local children. The Dunn family self-published a children's book and created a painted rock garden that toddlers have played in for the past year.

John Dunn, who wrote the book "Boo and Ted's Amazing Adventures: Beach Rescue" about the family's dogs, noticed an uptick in the number of young families taking walks down Alabama Street during the pandemic. He is not sure whether the neighborhood demographics are changing or the rock garden has become a community gathering space. Through the family's projects, they have connected with those young families.

John and Christina Dunn have two daughters who are 12 and 14. The family connected with the parents of toddlers "by accident." Christina and their daughters are artistic. Near the beginning of the pandemic, Christina and her 12-year-old daughters began painting rocks for fun with



Rock garden (Photos courtesy John Dunn)

watermelons, animals, lightning and whatever they could think of. The rocks were placed throughout the garden and in planters outside the fence. The family noticed that young children on walks would stop and play with the rocks.

"They had a constituency so she made more and it got more popular," John Dunn said.

The family embraced this trend by adding more painted rocks until their house became a popular destination for local toddlers. During what John Dunn described as the "dad happy hour,"

when dads took their kids to the house in the early evening, it became so crowded the family started social distancing protocols and moved the planters further apart. Christina also added small toys like race cars for the kids to use while playing.

While the rock garden grew, John Dunn wrote a children's book based on the bedtime stories he used to tell his daughters. His daughters declined to illustrate it so he found Holly Withers online and she drew the dogs on their jet ski adventure to save someone drowning while making it back before the Duns noticed their absence. Some San Diego landmarks make the book, including Hotel del Coronado and Balboa Parks' Museum of Us.

Dunn is selling the book on Amazon and at Verbatim books. He has also given copies to local libraries, elementary schools and some of the children who visit the family's painted rock garden.

The book about the family's dogs have been a new way to talk to their daily visitors. Recently, a child's dad asked if Boo and Ted

liked going to dog beach or getting in the water. Christina answered that they did not. The child interjected that of course the dogs did not like water, that is why they rode on jet skis.

"There's so many little kids in our neighborhood now that it's a

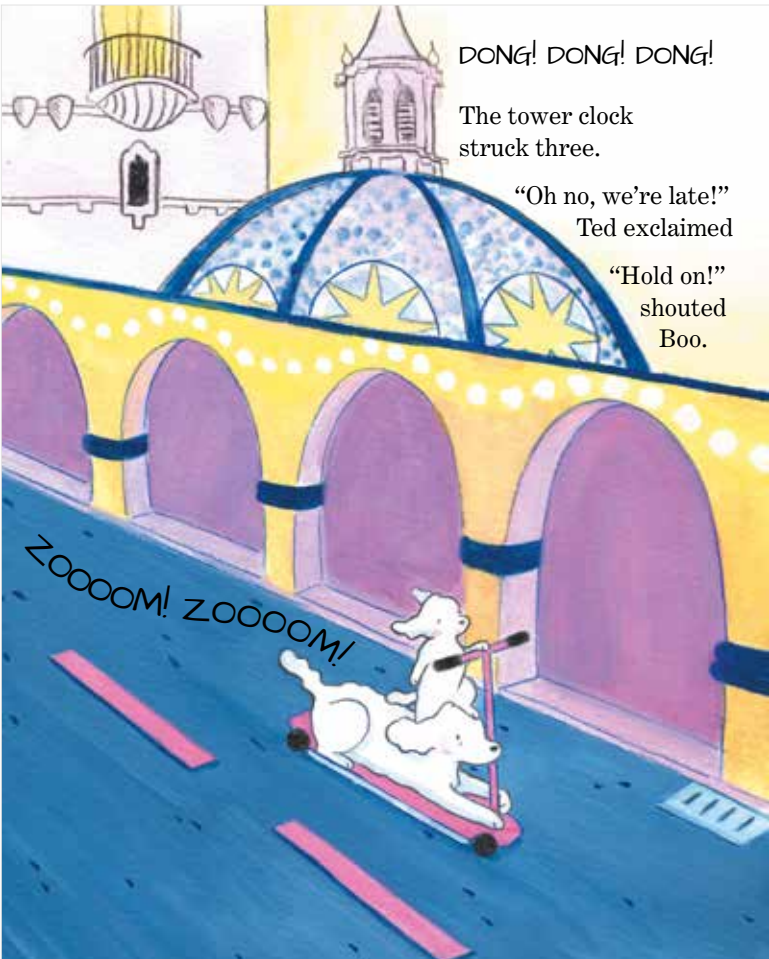
good way to meet them and know who your neighbors are," Dunn said.

To purchase the book, visit Verbatim Books or Amazon.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at [kendra@sdnews.com](mailto:kendra@sdnews.com).



A view of the painted rocks for playing



A page from Dunn's book with an illustration of Balboa Park.



The Duns also have a Little Free Library and will participate in a scavenger hunt on Friday, Aug. 6.

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# Café Virtuoso helps save the world

By Vince Meehan

Café Virtuoso has been a landmark in Downtown for over 10 years. The coffee Mecca is tucked away on the edge of the Gaslight District behind Petco Park. Laurie Britton is the CEO and Founder of Café Virtuoso and has a passion for both sustainability and the environment. Recently, she teamed up with a local non-profit to create an environmentally-friendly way for her customers to enjoy their favorite beverages.

Clear Blue Sea is a San Diego-based foundation dedicated to cleaning our ocean and has partnered with Britton to launch the Zero-Waste Coffee Container Program. The idea is simple: Clear Blue Sea provides Café Virtuoso with insulated sleeves created from 100% recycled plastic bottles that were

directly removed from our coastline. Britton then uses them to insulate reusable glass jars with metal lids that her coffee lovers can take home and bring back to reuse on their next visit.

“Café Virtuoso is a twelve year old company and we’ve always been certified organic, so sustainability has always been at the forefront of our mission,” said Britton. “The way we’ve designed the program is that you bring your glass jar in with your lid – keep the sleeve – and then we make your drink off of a freshly sanitized jar.”

Britton always encouraged patrons to bring in reusable containers, but when Covid hit, that was not possible. So instead of using the normal disposable cups that are lined with petroleum products, she instead bought environmentally friendly



Café Virtuoso CEO and Founder Laurie Britton

compostable containers. But she was bothered by the idea that San Diego does not have a proper composting facility and realized that most of these cups were

SEE CAFÉ VIRTUOSO, Page 12



The reusable sleeve from Clear Blue Sea (Photos by Vince Meehan)



The San Diego Coffee Training Institute located in Café Virtuoso, trains students to become premiere baristas.

# Meal delivery company Everytable launches in SD

Everytable, a mission-driven meal delivery company, is expanding outside of Los Angeles to San Diego. The company prices their ready-made meals based on what a community can afford. Each meal costs between \$5-9.

Meals are priced according to the median household income of the neighborhood. For example, in National City a meal from Everytable can cost as low as \$6 whereas the same meal in Del Mar, would cost \$9, the highest price for an Everytable meal in San Diego.

Chefs in LA will prepare the food in a central kitchen and it will be delivered via truck to San Diegans. People who have worked from home for the past year had



A typical delivery box (Photos courtesy Everytable)

the opportunity to prepare fresh and nutritious meals from scratch. As they return to the office with an added commute, this is a way to keep fresh, healthy meals in their diet while cutting back on prep time.

In a sample delivery, the individually-wrapped meals consisted of a creole chicken grain bowl, Thai basil noodles and veggies, elote Caesar chicken salad, and salmon adoba. The meals were flavorful and included fresh vegetables. The hot dishes only took two to three minutes in the microwave to be ready to eat.

Area residents can now place their orders at [everytable.com/subscribe](https://everytable.com/subscribe).



The chef-made meals have many fresh, healthy ingredients.



A delivery van in San Diego.

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# Hob Nob Hill

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

she also added picnic tables and canopies on the street outside the corner restaurant.

Pillars were taken out and new lighting opportunities created. A point of sale system replaced tickets. She bought an espresso machine so simple any of the staff could operate it without being trained as a barista. This was the first time the interior was updated since 2004 when carpets and work stations were replaced.

Alongside her interior designer and managing partner Edwin Real, Warchol created a ‘Wizard of Oz’ narrative for one of the oldest woman-owned restaurants in San Diego.

Dorothy Hoersch and her husband Harold opened what was then called Juniper Cafe in 1944. It moved to 2271 First Ave. in 1946 and has remained a popular diner since. In Dorothy’s honor, the remodel contains “Wizard of Oz” themes. In the front entrance where people can buy freshly baked items or asked to be seated, the area is entirely black and white from the baroque floor tiles to a mural of Balboa Park – similar to the beginning of the Wizard of Oz movie.

In the dining area beyond, a technicolor mural of the original cast on the yellow brick road fills the largest wall in the restaurant. That wall overlooks Coronado where L. Frank Baum wrote the “Wizard of Oz” books. The rest of the dining area is “non-specific Americana,” with art deco and space age pieces that harken back to anytime between 1935 to 1955. Some original pieces remained such as the ticketing wheel even though it is not in use. For customers who have been coming to the diner for decades, it is still a major change.

“That was our biggest concern was people were gonna say, ‘you ruined Hob Nob.’ So what we’ve



A panoramic view of the new interior (Photos by Kendra Sitton)

been saying to that is, ‘which version of Hob Nob?’ There’s been five different versions... through remodels through the look and feel of the place. It used to be called the Juniper then Melody Grill [then Dorothy’s Oven] then Hob Nob. So there’s been all kinds of different iterations of this,” Real said.

One of the most standout features of the remodel is the different types of classic and chic tiling on the floors, walls and bar. Another homage to Dorothy Hoersch is that the subway tiles are placed vertically instead of horizontally as seen in a photo of her in front of the restaurant in the ‘40s.

The remodel comes as many restaurants struggled for revenue during the pandemic. Hob Nob Hill received government assistance but Real still estimates the restaurant lost a million and a half dollars.

“That’s gonna be hard to recoup. But we had to do this for us or else there wouldn’t be a 10-year future ahead of us. This remodel could last 10 years or more the way it’s set up,” Real said. “We’re hoping that in that time we can recoup some of that lost revenue during COVID.”

The restaurant used to attract many office workers escaping the buzz of Downtown for their lunch break. Warchol said they had many ‘high-rollers’ like judges, City Council members and even Mayor Todd Gloria. It was not well-suited for takeout. Real said in a morning with the interior open, the restaurant will make more just

in coffee sales than they did in an entire day of takeout-only service.

Hob Nob is open for all three meals per day which is becoming less common. Warchol and Real are working on attracting more evening customers by updating the dinner menu and adding craft cocktails. Real said the remodel is not about attracting a new demographic but about adapting to the changing demographics in Bankers Hill.

The restaurant remains committed to making all menu items from scratch including pastries and bread. Many of the classic diner items remain on the menu like roast turkey sandwich and chicken fried steak although the point of sale system is letting them track which items are actually selling. Over the years, Warchol added many lighter, healthier options. Real also brought in new bistro items. He is working to save money by reducing waste through using the same ingredients for multiple menu items. He is sourcing more local items such as the coffee blend they use from Cafe Moto.

Like many restaurants, they are currently short staffed. Warchol brought in some staff members to help her reorganize the back and paint the walls but still laid off many during the remodel. Today, they are still struggling to hire new talent. Many waitstaff have been at the restaurant for decades. Some chose to come back after being laid off but others did not. One longtime busboy died during a coronavirus surge in Tijuana.

“He was with me for over 20 years... I don’t care how old he was, he worked so hard. It was sad. It was sad,” Warchol said, voice cracking.

Real said many current staff members are working six or seven days a week which is “not sustainable.” The nationwide shortage of service workers has prompted conversations about how the industry compensates staff members. Real and Warchol are trying to balance paying a fair wage with remaining in business as San Diego raises its minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Tips at the restaurant are pooled and split between waiters and busboys. The managing partners were shocked during a recent interview when a candidate asked for \$35 an hour – more than either of them make.

“Losing a Hob Nob Hill would be a major blow to San Diego,” Real said. “It’s an institution. It’s a tradition.”

Real was brought to the restaurant with his family as a child.



Original owner Dorothy Hoersch in front of subway tiles on the exterior of the restaurant.

Warchol loves when people come in and explain that their grandparents were the first ones to bring them to Hob Nob Hill. She hopes the restaurant remains open so more generations can share the memory of coming to the Bankers Hill diner.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at [kendra@sdnews.com](mailto:kendra@sdnews.com).



The old ticket wheel remains by the kitchen as one of many reminders of Hob Nob Hill’s past.



The new bar features many craft cocktails.



The interior only has non-porous materials so it can be quickly sanitized.

## ESTATE PLANNING CHECKLIST

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

To be sure your estate planning is in order, here are a few things you might do:

1. Be sure you have a will or, better yet, a “living” trust which directs where your property is to go when you die. A trust is usually the best way to go when your own property having a total value in excess of \$166,250, since a probate (with its high costs) can thereby be avoided. Otherwise, your estate—except for death benefits under insurance policies, “POD” bank accounts, annuities, pension plans, IRAs, and property held in joint tenancy—will pass by the “laws of succession,” which may not be to your liking, and will still require a probate.
2. Re-check the provisions of your trust or will to be sure the trustee(s)/executor(s) you have designated, and your beneficiaries, are the ones you still wish.
3. Be sure the beneficiaries you desire to receive life insurance proceeds, IRAs, and annuities, and pension benefits upon your death are correctly listed in the account holder’s records. We have seen mistakes.



4. If you have a living trust, be sure the legal ownership (title) of the properties you intended to be held in your trust has, in fact, been transferred to such trust.

5. Be sure you have a current, versus old (“stale”), advance health care directive, under which you have appointed an agent to make emergency health care decisions on your behalf, and have stated your wish as to withholding or retaining life support where you are expected to die. You should also have a current general power of attorney under which you have appointed an agent to assist you with your financial affairs should the need ever arise.

*The above statements are not to be taken as legal advice for the reader’s particular situation. Richard F. McEntyre practices law in the area of estate planning and administration, having served the San Diego community as a lawyer for over 40 years. Chris von der Lieth is an attorney who has worked with Dick for over 7 years. Affordable rates. Highest quality services. House calls available.*

Our office is conveniently located at 2615 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 101 (in Mission Valley just east of Bully’s restaurant) (Telephone (619) 221-0279) [www.richardfmcintyre.com](http://www.richardfmcintyre.com).

# Beware of COVID-19 vaccination card fraud and scams

## District Attorney News

By SUMMER STEPHAN



California has at long last reopened. Vaccines are available to the public and many social distancing regulations have been relaxed or eliminated altogether. These steps toward a return to pre-pandemic normalcy are encouraging, but consumers still need to be cautious about COVID-19 related scams and other fraudulent activity.

Although it appears that California will not be implementing a vaccination passport system, vaccination verification may be necessary to enter some businesses and large events. The government issued COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards are now the official method of vaccine verification in California. And of course, that means vaccination verification has created a market for fraudulent and stolen vaccine cards nationwide.

The San Diego County District Attorney's Office and other offices across the state have reported incidents regarding the attempted sale of official blank vaccination cards. Scammers are also selling forged cards in person and online. In San Diego County, we've received reports of social media ads targeting consumers by selling fake vaccination cards. And, on various social media platforms, fraudsters have been stealing personal identifying information from photos of legitimate vaccination cards posted by users.

It is illegal to fraudulently produce vaccination cards bearing official U.S. Government seals. In some cases, such actions could include charges, such as identity theft and falsifying medical records and forgery. Currently, an estimated 35% of San Diegans have not been vaccinated, and there is a large population at risk of becoming a victim of any of these predatory schemes. Here are some tips to identify and avoid them:

- Only official vaccine distributors can provide an official COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card. You can find an official distributor at [myturn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov). Official vaccination cards will always include the name of the person vaccinated, the type of vaccine provided, and dates of when the doses were administered. The COVID-19

vaccination and the accompanying record card are **always free**. Any request for money or compensation is a scam.

- Photos of vaccinations cards are a valid form of vaccine verification in California as well as documentation from a health-care provider. Sharing this information on social media puts your personal identifying information at risk of theft or fraud. Do not post images of your vaccination card or medical records on social media.

- Be cautious about federal or state government imposters. Today, there is no official national or California vaccine verification app, certificate, or passport. Any contact from the state or federal government asking for personal information or money to obtain these forms of verification are scams and can be reported to the Consumer Protection Unit of the San Diego County District Attorney's Office.

- Confirm any vaccine verification policies with all activity and event venues directly. Do not rely on information from third parties about whether vaccine verification is needed.

- Review California's official vaccination verification policy at [covid19.ca.gov/vaccines](https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines) before you attend an activity or event.

- Research before you buy or provide personal information for COVID-19 related goods and services. Always be sure you are dealing with a reputable business and official or authorized government entity. Check review sites and scam alerts before moving forward with purchases or providing personal information.

- Monitor scam alerts, such as the San Diego County District Attorney's news page at [danewscenter.com/news](https://danewscenter.com/news).

As your District Attorney, I'm committed to increasing communication and accessibility between the DA's Office and the public. I hope these consumer and public safety tips have been helpful.

The Consumer Protection Unit is comprised of Deputy District Attorneys, Investigators and Paralegals dedicated to protecting consumers and law-abiding businesses from fraudulent or unfair business practices. To report a consumer complaint, you can call (619) 531-3507 or email [consumer@sdcca.org](mailto:consumer@sdcca.org).

—Summer Stephan is the San Diego County District Attorney.

# Tackling nuisance properties in your neighborhood

## City Attorney News

By MARA W. ELLIOTT



Safe and healthy neighborhoods benefit all of us. And when even one property is allowed to deteriorate, we are all imperiled by the hazards it creates: Yards piled high with flammable junk, festering pools of stagnant water, infestations of rats and roaches that spill over property lines.

My office intervenes in situations where dangerous property violations persist, and inspections and warnings by police, fire marshals and City Code Enforcement inspectors are ignored. We provide relief to the neighborhood and help the occupant obtain resources that may be necessary to address drug addiction, hoarding behavior and other mental illnesses.

My Office's Nuisance Abatement Unit focuses on quality of life crimes by addressing nuisance and substandard housing properties throughout San Diego. It has successfully petitioned the court to appoint a receiver to bring 22 challenging properties into compliance.

The California Health & Safety Code authorizes the court to appoint a Health and Safety receiver when a property has substandard housing conditions and when the violations are "so extensive and of such a nature that the health and safety of residents or the public is substantially endangered." Working under the direction of the court, the receiver is charged with cleaning up the property, relocating the occupants if necessary, and even offering them counseling or other assistance to address the underlying issues that allowed their home situation to escalate out of control.

Our Nuisance Abatement Unit has pursued Health and Safety receiverships in cases involving abandoned buildings and general public nuisances, but most involve hoarding.

Here are just some of our cases:

- In a Pacific Beach house, piles of furniture and trash inside the home created a serious safety hazard for the occupants, which included young children. The bathroom sinks drained into buckets and water leaks caused mold throughout the structure.

- The yard of a City Heights man was overtaken by squatters, who filled his property with junk and debris while he

was busy caring for his seriously ill wife. The trespassers set fires in the canyon behind the property, endangering the entire community. Police were called to the address 117 times in three years. The homeowner had no way to evict the squatters and clean up his property.

- An elderly couple was forced to live in their Bay Ho backyard because there was too much trash inside their home to safely enter it. They lived in a camper shell for five years, took sponge baths in the yard, and cooked on a portable camp stove. Feral cats, skunks, and possums lived alongside them in the piles of debris.

- A University Heights home had a 20-year history of excessive junk, abandoned cars, and a strong stench from rotting food inside and out. The occupant cleaned it up twice after being contacted by authorities, but when it became a nuisance again, the court appointed a receiver to step in.

- A man living in a house in Bay Terraces that had no working toilets or showers was collecting urine in hundreds of plastic bottles stacked in his backyard. Doors and windows were blocked by a ceiling-high accumulation of trash, creating an extreme fire hazard.

My Office does not get involved until Code Enforcement inspectors have visited a problem property repeatedly to determine the extent of the issues, and the occupants or owners are issued warnings to comply with the Health & Safety Code.

If the problems are not addressed, the City issues a legal Notice and Order to vacate and repair or demolish the property. The notice clearly identifies every violation, compliance measures, and informs the property owner that failure to comply could lead to the appointment of a receiver. By law, the property owner has a reasonable amount of time to correct the violations. The City makes every attempt to work with the property owner before seeking a receiver, which is always the last resort.

If you have a property in your area that appears to pose an extreme health and safety hazard, please contact the City's Code Enforcement Division at 619-236-5500, the Nuisance Abatement Unit at 619-533-5655, or email [CityAttorney@sandiego.gov](mailto:CityAttorney@sandiego.gov).

—Mara W. Elliott is the San Diego City Attorney.

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

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# Pride kicked off with community march

By Luke Johnson



A crowd of people holding flags and banners march from Balboa Park to Hillcrest on July 11 during the Resilient Community Pride March. The San Diego Black LGBTQ Coalition were at the front of the march.



A young marcher walks underneath the large rainbow flag held by fellow marchers to escape the summer heat during the Resilient Community Pride March from Balboa Park to Hillcrest on July 11. (Photos by Luke Johnson)



A crowd of people holding homemade signs march from Balboa Park to Hillcrest on July 11 during the Resilient Community Pride March.



A crowd of people holding flags and banners march from Balboa Park to Hillcrest on July 11 during the Resilient Community Pride March.



Michael Noriega dances in front of the approaching crowd holding a pride flag during the July 11 Resilient Community Pride March from Balboa Park to Hillcrest.



A marcher holds a homemade sign as the crowd of fellow marchers pushes into Hillcrest during the July 11 Resilient Community Pride March from Balboa Park to Hillcrest.

## Important Information for Downtown San Diego and National City Residents

### Notice of Proposal to Close Local Payment Office

This notice is for SDG&E® customers in Downtown San Diego and the National City area. SDG&E plans to file an application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) seeking approval to permanently close the San Diego Branch Office located inside the California Coast Credit Union at 440 Beech Street, San Diego, effective immediately, and the National City Branch Office at 2405 E. Plaza Blvd., National City, on June 30, 2022.

#### Authorized Payment Locations

For your convenience, you may pay your bill at the following nearby locations with no additional charge. These locations are open longer hours including evenings and weekends. Payments made at these locations are posted to your account the same day. For a complete list of more than 50 payment locations, visit [sdge.com/APL](https://sdge.com/APL).

#### Locations near Downtown San Diego

- Walmart**  
2121 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, CA 92102  
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sunday
- Food Bowl Market**  
3035 Cedar Street, San Diego, CA 92102  
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. every day
- David’s Friendly Market**  
543 32nd Street, San Diego, CA 92102  
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. every day
- Base Liquor**  
3201 National Avenue, San Diego, CA 92113  
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. every day

#### Locations near National City

- Pure Clean Water Store**  
2433 E. Plaza Blvd., National City, CA 91950  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday
- Walmart**  
1200 Highland Ave, National City, CA 91950  
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sunday  
Accepts Cash or Pin-Based Debit Only
- Envios y Novedades El Frijolito**  
1460 S.43rd St, Suite C, San Diego, CA 92113  
9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sunday

#### Other payment options

- Enroll in [sdge.com/MyAccount](https://sdge.com/MyAccount) to make online payments through your bank without a fee, view your energy use, print a copy of your bill, receive texts and email alerts, and more.
- To pay with a credit or debit card, call **1-800-386-0067**, or pay online at [sdge.com/residential/pay-bill](https://sdge.com/residential/pay-bill). There is a convenience fee of \$1.50 per transaction

#### Service Orders and Non-Payment Transactions

For service orders and more information, please call our Customer Care Center at **1-800-411-7343**. For customers with hearing impairments, the TDD/TTY number is **1-877-889-7343**.

#### Public comments

If you have concerns related to these prospective closures, you may contact SDG&E, the CPUC or both. SDG&E will accept public comments related to the planned closure for 60 days following the date of this publication. Copies of all public comments received will be provided to the CPUC as part of SDG&E’s application process.

Mail: SDG&E  
RE: Branch Closure  
P.O. Box 129831 SD1120, San Diego, CA 92112  
Phone: 1-800-411-7343 TDD/TTY 1-877-889-7343  
Email: [DowntownBranch@sdge.com](mailto:DowntownBranch@sdge.com) or [NationalCityBranch@sdge.com](mailto:NationalCityBranch@sdge.com)

Mail: CPUC Public Advisor’s Office  
RE: SDG&E Branch Closure  
505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: 1-866-849-8390  
Email: [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)



# Little Italy Social Club launches

Little Italy  
Culture & Heritage

By TOM CESARINI



Coming late this summer, the Little Italy Social Club, a membership program that will provide guests with a wide range of activities and events, will launch in the intimate setting of Amici House in the Little Italy dog park. Proceeds from our program help to support arts, culture, and heritage in our community. Following are some highlights of our new club. For more information, visit [convivosociety.org](http://convivosociety.org).

## Films al Fresco

Celebrating the art of fine filmmaking with outdoor screenings of classic, international, Italian and Italian American cinema—and the fresh popcorn is free, of course.

## Musicarramba! International Music Series

Prepare to be captivated by a series of musical performances showcasing local artists from diverse musical backgrounds.

## Piano Bar Karaoke

Who doesn't like to sit around a piano, sip some vino, and sing along to some favorite tunes? We know your inner performer can't wait to get out.

## Pizza in the Park

Presented by master chef Giuseppe Monaco of Cucina Caprese, the wood fired pizza creations will be sure to delight all you pizza aficionados.

## Canvas and Cask

Unveil your inner artist as you indulge in a guided painting



course (with wine, naturally)—make new friends while you create your masterpiece with artistic flair.

## The Art of Limoncello

Enjoy a master class in creating the traditional Italian liqueur—you will engage in a lesson in perfecting the technique, and you can also leave with a bottle to take home and enjoy.

## VinoFest

Our signature wine-tasting events, highlighting the myriad regions of Italy, along with educational background and some musical accompaniment to enhance your experience.

## In Cucina

Learn the art of preparing traditional and contemporary Italian cuisine from top chefs, and after the lesson you can savor your culinary creation.

—Tom Cesarini is the chief leadership officer and founder of Convivio and also serves as the Italian Honorary Consul in San Diego. Convivio provides advocates, donors, and volunteers the organizational capacity to advance Italian cultural identity, preserve Italian cultural-heritage assets, cultivate community and fellowship, and foster multicultural awareness through the humanities. Visit: [convivosociety.org](http://convivosociety.org) | Follow: @convivosociety



Padres bring fans to Little Italy (Photo courtesy Little Italy Business Association)

# Welcoming back summer events in Little Italy

Little Italy News

By CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ



We are so excited to welcome back our favorite summer events to our beautiful neighborhood. From the Wednesday Mercato, to the Little Italy Summer Film Festival and sipping on some spritzes at some of the best restaurants in the city, Little Italy is bound to have something for everyone this summer!

**ArtWalk Little Italy Summer Series** – Taking place at the Piazza della Famiglia and the adjacent block of W. Date Street, each one-day show will include thirty select artists exhibiting their stunning works of art. The event will run every other Sunday including August 22, September 5, and September 19 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., giving locals and visitors incredible opportunities to purchase one-of-a-kind art from local, national, and international artists in a variety of mediums.

**Little Italy Summer Film Festival** – Each year the Little Italy Association partners with Cinema Little Italy to show great Italian films (with subtitles) at the Amici

Park Amphitheater, located at the corner of W. Date and State Streets. Grab a few snacks, bring a blanket and enjoy movies under the stars with friends and family. The Little Italy Summer Film Festival happens every Saturday night of the summer in the charming neighborhood. Starting July 17th running through September 18th! \$10 donation accepted at door.

**Little Italy Wednesday Mercato** – We're welcoming back the Little Italy Wednesday Mercato starting Wednesday, August 4th! Similar to the treasured Little Italy Mercato on Saturday, the year-round Little Italy Wednesday Mercato offers a selection of farm fresh produce, pastured eggs, poultry, meat, fish, baked goods, dips and spreads, yogurt and select local arts and crafts brought to the neighborhood by California farmers, fisherman and artisan food-makers. The Little Italy Wednesday Mercato occupies three blocks on W. Date Street between Kettner Boulevard and State Street including the Piazza della Famiglia.

**San Diego Padres Italian Heritage Nights** - The Little Italy Association, Convivio and the Italian Cultural Center are proud to partner with the San Diego Padres for the 2021 Italian Heritage Nights on Friday, August 6th, Saturday, August 7th and Sunday, August 8th games vs the Arizona Diamondbacks. Tickets can be purchased from the Little Italy website and ticket holders will receive a limited-edition commemorative San Diego Padres Italian Heritage Night hat. A portion of the ticket will go back to support the non-profits; the Little Italy Association, Convivio and the Italian Community Center.

There's nothing like enjoying the fresh summer air in Little Italy. Outdoor dining is still alive and thriving, so as you come down to some of your favorite events remember to stop by some of our local restaurants and shops as well. The food, drinks and ambiance are "chef's kiss." As our local businesses continue to deal with an employee shortage, please also remember to be patient and lead with love and kindness.

Can't wait for you to enjoy Little Italy this summer! Ciao

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy's District Manager since 2000. Reach him at [chris@littleitaly.com](mailto:chris@littleitaly.com).

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Brunch _____	Greek Cuisine _____	Sports Bar _____
Burger _____	Happy Hour _____	Steakhouse _____
Business Lunch _____	Health Food Store _____	Sushi _____
Cafe _____	Indian Cuisine _____	Thai Cuisine _____
Casino _____	Irish Pub _____	Vegetarian/Vegan _____
Catering _____	Italian Cuisine _____	Wine Bar _____
Chinese Cuisine _____	Juice/Smoothies _____	
Cocktail _____	Lunch _____	

Business & Retail

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Credit Union _____	Manicure / Pedicure _____	Veterinarian _____
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ONE BALLOT PER PERSON. BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED, HAND-DELIVERED BY 5PM, OR VISIT  
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OR, MAIL YOUR BALLOT TO SAN DIEGO NEWSPAPER GROUP OFFICE AT  
1621 GRAND AVE. SUITE C. SAN DIEGO, CA 92109

# Opening Day Hat Contest

## Fashion Files

By DIANA CAVAGNARO



Del Mar Opening Day Hats Contest brought hat aficionados out eager to enter the contest on July 16 at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club. This year brought more than 100 contestants who competed for more than \$4,000 in cash and prizes in four different categories. Doors opened to a limited capacity as they leaned on the side of caution. There were approximately 16,000 horse and hat fans that attended the race-track on this opening day 2021.

Studio Savvy Salon owner, Deena Von Yokes brought models dressed for hats, fashion, and fun as part of the Hats Contest that she now directs every year. They were wearing

dressess by fashion designer Stephanie UgoChi Iwuaba. These stylish creations were topped off with chapeaus designed by Christine A. Moore. The contestants came dressed in coordinated outfits to compete in front of the



Grand Prize Winner Rebecca Smith  
(Photos by Diana Cavagnaro)

judges. One of my favorite ensembles was a bird in a nest hat, with a birdcage purse, and birdcages in the heel of the shoes.

Lori Shelton of San Diego won First Prize for the Best Racing/All Others theme. Shelton created a racing hat using the yellow and purple colors of the Breeders Cup. She added a matching purple



Lori Shelton, First Place in the Best Racing theme

dress and shoes for a standout look. Belinda Berry from Walnut Creek won First Prize for the Most Glamorous. She wore a huge hat made out of turquoise and white ostrich feathers and added a white dress with a turquoise band and matching white shoes. Kathy LaBordo of San Diego took First Place for the Best Fascinator



Designer UgoChi Iwuaba (Lt) with models wearing her creations.



Birdcage heels

wearing a huge flower hat. The flower was off white and coordinated with a black dress and shoes and topped off with a clock purse.

Rebecca Smith from Encinitas won First Prize for the Best Flower hat which was designed by milliner Christine A. Moore. The hat was made of white horsehair with a fabric rose sitting atop the hat and finished with millinery veiling. She matched the ensemble with a white dress and bone shoes. Smith was also the Grand Prize winner receiving two VIP tickets to the 2021 Breeders' Cup World Championships at Del Mar, valued at \$1,000. She was also awarded a \$300 cash prize plus a Studio Savvy Salon Gift Basket of \$250 for a grand total of more than \$1,500 in prizes.

In addition to this racing season, The Del Mar Thoroughbred Club will host the Breeders' Cup World Championships at the Del Mar Racetrack on November 5 & 6. This prestigious international event is returning for the second time to Del Mar and will be televised live by the NBC Sports Group.

The Del Mar Thoroughbred Club will run a full season until September 6. In addition many of the cultural and community events are returning. For more information visit [dmhc.com](http://dmhc.com)

—Diana Cavagnaro is an internationally renowned Couture Milliner based in San Diego. Learn more about our Hat Designer, Teacher & Blogger at [DianaCavagnaro.com](http://DianaCavagnaro.com).




Stylish Hat Contestant




Bird chapeau with a birdcage purse.



Racegoer Peggy Stern



**The Department of the Navy  
Announces a 30-Day Extension to  
the Public Comment Period for the  
Draft Environmental Impact  
Statement for the Navy Old Town  
Campus Revitalization**



Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Navy prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with modernization of the Old Town Campus (OTC) to support Naval Information Warfare Systems Command's (NAVWAR) current and future operational readiness.

The public comment period began on May 14, 2021 and ends on August 12, 2021.

**SUBMIT COMMENTS:**

- Online through the project website:  
[www.NAVWAR-revitalization.com](http://www.NAVWAR-revitalization.com)
- By mail to:  
Navy OTC Revitalization EIS  
Project Manager  
Attention: Ron Bochenek  
750 Pacific Highway, Floor 12  
San Diego, CA 92132-0058

All comments must be postmarked by **August 12, 2021** to be considered in the Final EIS.

Visit [www.NAVWAR-revitalization.com](http://www.NAVWAR-revitalization.com) for more information or to submit comments online.



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**Upcoming Events**

**August 12-14**  
San Diego Swim Week  
showcases luxury swimsuits  
and will be located at 1040  
7th Avenue. For tickets visit  
[sandiegoswimweek.com](http://sandiegoswimweek.com).

**September 12**  
Fall Bridal Bazaar with fashion  
shows presented by Gretchen  
Productions at the San Diego  
Convention Center. Two shows  
presented at noon and 2:30 p.m.  
For more info: 760-334-5500.

**September 16**  
Art of Fashion, The Country  
Friends partners with South Coast  
Plaza on the Annual Runway  
show and Luncheon at The Inn at  
Rancho Santa Fe. For tickets visit  
[events@thecountryfriends.org](mailto:events@thecountryfriends.org).

**September 25**  
The Show Must Go On...So Strut!  
Vista Hill and A New PATH Fashion  
Show at the Sheraton San  
Diego Hotel & Marina. Boutique  
shopping, luncheon and theatrical  
fashion show presented by  
Gretchen Productions. For more  
Info: 619-670-1184.

# Trucks, antiques and lobsters – all in one place

## Gaslamp Landmarks

By SANDEE WILHOIT



One of the very few lots in the Gaslamp not originally owned by Alonzo Horton is the site of the Pioneer Warehouse building. Originally pueblo land, it had been acquired in 1869 by Ephraim W. Morse, a good friend of Alonzo Horton and an important man in early San Diego history. Shortly thereafter, Morse sold the property to Horton for \$5,000. The parcel then changed hands on a regular basis until February 20, 1913 when it was deeded to Roscoe Hazard and Elwyn B. Gould, two local businessmen. The two gentlemen acquired the lot from Hannah V. Prentice for \$10.

Hazard came to San Diego from Arizona in 1900. He became the founder and owner of R.E. Hazard Contracting Company which built most of the freeway networks throughout San Diego County.

**Pioneer Truck Company/  
Warehouse**  
(1918 & 1925)  
301 Fourth Avenue (Original Main  
Entrance)  
310 Fifth Avenue  
Architect: Eugene Hoffman  
Architectural Style: Commercial

Over the years, he acquired a \$2 million dollar collection of horse drawn vehicles which he ultimately donated to Old Town State Park in 1974. Elwyn Gould, originally from Chicago, was brought to San Diego in 1899 by his parents. He became a nationally known businessman and civic leader. He was president of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce in 1922 and 1923. He additionally served as president of several business companies, as well as the San Diego Museum. In his latter years, he was founder of the San Diego Community Chest, which became the United Crusade (United Way). He was also one of the organizers of the Old Globe Theater.

These gentlemen were co-owners of the Pioneer Truck Company, originally located on the corner of Fourth and K St.

In 1918, they hired Eugene Hoffman to design a fire-proof warehouse for their ever-expanding business. As the San Diego-Arizona and Santa Fe Railroad spur tracks led to what would become the receiving bays for the warehouse, it was no wonder the venture was becoming a growing success. Horton's nearby wharf was also a bonus.

The structure, a six-story rectangular building, 65,000 square feet in area, was considered fire-proof. It was constructed on a concrete foundation with a steel frame and a brick facing. All the

doors were made of steel and commercial grade concrete plaster was used throughout the interior. The design was simple with only ornamental flat pilasters rising the full height of the building along the west facade. The flat roof featured a slight overhanging parapet, and the doors and windows were symmetrically spaced. There were no windows on the east facade, as an addition was planned for this area. However, even though the addition never materialized, this blank space did not go to waste. It served as a background for advertising. The structure also sported two freight elevators with a five-ton capacity each and two passenger elevators. The main entrance faced the bustling commercial street of 5th Avenue, while the side and rear entrances served as the distribution centers.

Adjacent to the north side of the main floor were the general offices of the various Hazard-Gould companies, with a fireproof wall separating them from the main showroom. The mezzanine floor housed offices for manufacturer's agents and jobbers, as well as lavatories for the employees. The warehouse also contained a room for fumigating rugs and special rooms for the storage of pianos, trunks, and automobiles on the fourth floor. Individual lockers of various sizes were available on the fifth floor. The sixth floor was used as a packing department for



Views of the warehouse (Photos by Tim Trevaskis)

household goods. The total cost to erect this structure was \$175,000.

Some faction of the Hazard-Gould enterprise occupied the building until at least 1940. In 1949, Hazard sold his half of the business to Gould, who continued the enterprise as Lyon Van and Storage. It subsequently served Montgomery Ward and several furniture companies as a warehouse. In the early 1970s it was the home of Fischer Office Interiors, Inc.

By June of 1979, the Paul G. Francis family had purchased the building to house merchandise for their antique business. Retail at the site included Unicorn Arts and Antiques and the Old World Restaurant and Deli. In the late 1980s, the warehouse was converted into live-work lofts over retail shops and restaurants. Many of the interior brick walls were knocked out and replaced with glass to allow for wider expanses of space. These beautiful

craftsman-style apartments are still available, but the rent has increased by about 100% since the '80s!

Rockin Baja Lobster restaurant currently occupies the street level. With its outdoor patio seating, it provides diners a sweeping view of the Convention Center, several hotels and the popular Gaslamp Quarter. Rockin Baja had previously been at the Old Bonita Store in Bonita, which dates back to 1891. These historic buildings rock!

The Pioneer Warehouse building continues to thrive and is a prime example of the adaptability, transition and repurposing of one of downtown San Diego's largest brick and concrete buildings.

—Sandee Wilhoit is the historian and lead tour guide for the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation at the Davis-Horton House. She can be reached at [swilhoit@gaslampfoundation.org](mailto:swilhoit@gaslampfoundation.org).

## Quick tips to improve your home internet experience



As more households are working and learning from home these days, here are some easy tips to help improve your internet experience.

**Use audio instead of video for virtual meetings.** Video calls can be a strain on your service. Consider video for must-

see moments. Or turn the camera on only when you're speaking.

**Doorbell cameras and pet cams.** When you're home, lower the resolution on doorbell cams and pet cams. You can still effectively monitor the areas. And turn off pet cams if you're at home.

**Get a 360 View.** Cox Panoramic Wifi gives you wall to wall coverage, including those dead zones in your home. If you have Cox Panoramic Wifi, use the Cox Panoramic Wifi app to:

- Manage devices on your home internet;
- Pause the wifi on other devices (like the kids' iPad) when you're on important video calls.

**Computer Virus Protection.** Computer viruses and malware can slow down your internet. Use the free Cox Security Suite Plus powered by McAfee to protect your home computer. Cox Panoramic Wifi customers can turn on Advanced Security in the Cox Panoramic Wifi app.

**Secure your wifi.** Password protect your home wifi to keep out unauthorized users.

**Location, location, location.** Your internet experience may be slowed down if your wifi router or modem is in a bad location. Remember to:

- Elevate your modem or router on a shelf or tall piece of furniture (wifi signals travel outward and downward);
- Avoid placing your router near a microwave, mirror or fish tank, which can affect the signal.

For more tips, visit [www.cox.com](http://www.cox.com).



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Café Virtuoso

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

destined to end up in a landfill. So when Covid restrictions were lifted, she jumped at the chance to start the Zero-Waste Coffee Container Program.

In addition to being environmentally friendly, Britton loves to help the community as well. She installed the San Diego Coffee Training Institute in her café where anybody can learn the ins-and-outs of what it takes to become a premiere barista. One of her participants is Father Joe's Villages who offer their clients job training in the hospitality industry as a gateway to graduating and becoming independent with their own home and career.

Britton is thrilled about her Zero-Waste Coffee Container Program and also about partnering with Clear Blue Sea — who share the same passion for the environment as she does. Venezia Zandrelli is the director of sustainability at Clear Blue Sea and is just as enthusiastic as Britton about the program.

"Clear Blue Sea is devoted to discovering and implementing many methods of accomplishing our mission to rid our oceans of plastic pollution," Zandrelli stated. "With the development of our Floating Robot for Eliminating Debris (FRED), we've created a scalable solution that we foresee becoming an indispensable tool for cleaning plastic from oceans around the globe. By creating and encouraging more participation in programs like this one with Café Virtuoso, we can help to ensure less plastic from ending up in our ocean ecosystems in the first place."

Britton's baristas are also passionate about being a part of the solution as she is. Britton said, "You know what's funny is that – and I knew immediately when I told the staff about it they would be happy to wash these reusable jars – I knew they would because it's a good cause, you know? So, if you can get your staff to buy in, that's a huge part of the success of any program."

This goes for her customers as well who are very loyal to her organic brand. "I think overall, our customers are pretty receptive, and a lot of the people that come here – because we're organic and we have really good customer service and we're really friendly – I think those are the type of people that are more drawn to that kind of a process anyway."

On weekdays, it's mostly local Downtown workers who come in with their jars to fill with coffee or tea. But on the weekends, there is a cult following of fellow ecology aficionados who drop in from all around to support her. And Britton appreciates the loyalty that comes with them. "On the weekends, it's people from all over the county that drive here, we're kind of a destination. We've been doing this for a long time and the café is so well known that people will come out of their way which always makes me happy and sort of surprises me too!"

—Vince Meehan is a local freelance writer.

# Father Joe's

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

located in Chula Vista, will open in September.

"It was in order to start getting people engaged in the work of helping people in the streets by donating their goods, and not only by donating their goods, but then also making those goods available for those who could benefit from purchasing very good quality merchandise at low prices. It helped the community at large in a sense, but also help those who are on the street so it was a win-win," explained Deacon Jim Vargas, the current President and CEO of Father Joe's Villages.

When Father Joe started, the ministry served one meal per day to unhoused people. Through his tenacity, it expanded from the region's oldest homeless service provider to the largest in terms of the breadth and depth of the services offered, according to Vargas.



Retail driver for Father Joe's Village, Henry Underwood, wheels a bin of donated clothes from Uptown Cheapskate to his truck on July 13, 2021. (Photos by Luke Johnson)

Donating items remains an important first step for many San Diegan's to engage with Father Joe's mission.

"It's a way for donors to give to us. They want to be part of the Father Joe's Village experience. Maybe they don't have big checks they can cut, maybe they don't have time to volunteer, but

this stuff where they can donate makes an impact," said Joseph Scatena, director of retail operations. "Then they've had a good experience. They understand how it benefits the organization and then all of a sudden, they're like 'hey, I'm going to donate my car,' and then maybe down the years they go 'I can [send] a check.' ...It makes these long-term donors become part of the family."

Father Joe's partners with local businesses to receive some of those first-time donations. Uptown Cheapskate is a high-end resale clothing store based in Carlsbad. When people come in to sell their clothes, they are offered a chance to donate any clothes that the store declines to sell to a Father Joe's bin. It is a convenient way for people to donate the clothes they are already trying to get rid of.

"When we tell them Father Joe's, it's really nice because then



Father Joe's warehouse inventory in San Diego on July 13, 2021.

SEE **FATHER JOE'S**, Page 14

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Fill in the blank cells using number 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle.

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

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1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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			58						59					
60	61						62	63				64		
65						66						67		
68						69						70		

#### CLUES ACROSS

1. Calls balls and strikes
4. Turkish officer
9. Repaired shoe
14. Grass genus
15. Small, sealed vial
16. Primp
17. Immoral act
18. A tool to communicate
20. Crumbles away
22. Egg-like
23. Districts (abbr.)
24. Dressed
28. Small island (British)

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Unhappy
2. Silk fabric
3. Unbroken view of a region
4. Middle Eastern territory
5. \_\_\_ and Andy, TV show
6. Central processing unit
7. Department of Housing and Urban Development
8. Midcentury newspaper columnist
9. Weapon
10. Delivered a speech
11. Probably going to happen
12. Midway between northeast and east
13. Danish krone
19. Synthetic resin (abbr.)
21. Fall slowly in drops
24. Bestow an honor upon
25. Childishly silly
26. Related on the mother's side
27. Populations of related plants
31. Coherent
32. Tribe of ancient Britons
34. Financial firm Goldman \_\_\_
35. Stephen King thriller
36. Went in again
40. Commercial

51. Conversations
55. Distinctive manner or pronunciation
58. Cyprinids
59. Appropriate to a festival
60. Pearl Jam frontman
64. Wrath
65. Italian city
66. A way to get there
67. A nose or snout
68. German seaport
69. A horse for riding
70. Airline representative (abbr.)
41. Poking holes in the ground
45. Prisoners of war
47. Pursued pleasure
48. "Seinfeld" character
52. Body of water
53. Hovering vehicle (abbr.)
54. People who utilize
56. Nostrils
57. Inner mass of some fungi
59. Honor lavishly
60. Midway between east and SE
61. Turn down
62. Small round mark
63. Expected at a certain time

A	S	G		O	E	I	S		N	E	O	W	E		
B	E	N		E	L	O	H		V	N	E	I	S		
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9	6	2	3	8	1	5	7	4
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4	1	7	2	3	8	9	6	5
6	9	5	7	1	4	3	2	8
2	3	8	9	5	6	7	4	1

# Father Joe's

CONTINUED FROM Page 13

they know it's not going to like a Good Will, they're donating to the homeless. They feel good about it," said Ashley Chappell of Uptown Cheapskate.

The wealthy clientele of the store often bring in high-quality items that Father Joe's will be able to easily sell in their own thrift stores or in one of their auctions. A Father Joe's driver picks up the bin stuffed with clothes behind the store's counter every week.

Just two days after Carroll died on July 11, Henry Underwood made a trip in his blue Father Joe's truck to pick up that week's donation. Underwood has been with the organization for a few years but he knows it is a good



Retail driver for Father Joe's Village, Henry Underwood, wheels a bin of donated clothes from Uptown Cheapskate to his truck



Retail driver for Father Joe's Village, Henry Underwood, unloads the donated clothes at Father Joe's main warehouse in San Diego after making the drive from Uptown Cheapskate on July 13, 2021.

workplace based on the fact that many of his coworkers have stayed with the organization for over 20 years.

"There's a lot of great results even on the employee side," Underwood said while loading the truck. "Father Joe's is a really good organization."

Underwood previously worked at a nonprofit where he said there was a lot of discrimination – something he has not encountered here. He said that sense of equality came from the top.

"I met [Father Joe] personally and I actually talked with him and actually been around him. He's a very, very good person," he said.

After making his pick-ups for the day, Underwood drops off his load at the warehouse on E Street where other staff members sort it into three main categories: household items, clothes and books. Around 80% of the items that come in are sold, either at

weekly wholesale auctions, in thrift stores, a monthly web auction for the priciest items, or in clothing bales sold in India or Pakistan, according to Scatena. The remaining items were either earmarked for use directly for the village or are recycled.

The multiple methods of selling items are to get the most revenue possible for the donations. A \$2,500 bike could easily sell in a thrift store but Scatena said they will likely make more than \$1,000 off it through the online bidding on the last Sunday of the month. The thrift stores on Imperial, in Hillcrest, in Pacific Beach and now in Chula Vista submit lists of items they need that are then delivered to them as they are donated. Lower quality items or simply items the thrift stores do not need at the moment are sold in bulk at the weekly auctions. Often the buyers resell them at the swap meet or in Mexico. When clothes are falling apart or they get tons



Father Joe's warehouse inventory in San Diego on July 13, 2021.



Ashley Chappell and a fellow coworker at Uptown Cheapskate sort donated clothes into piles before they are picked up by Father Joe's retail driver on July 13, 2021. (Photos by Luke Johnson)

of the exact same shirt, they are baled and sent across the ocean.

Scatena has worked to make the retail operation more efficient in the past year since he was hired so the organization is a good steward of the donations. He said the retail side of the organization has made over a quarter of a million dollars in profit this year that will go straight back into funding Father Joe's homeless services.

Staff vacancies have troubled the organization recently. On the website, over 70 open positions are looking for candidates. Scatena said a lack of drivers meant they can no longer do close to 80 pick-ups per day. The wait for an individual to have a driver come to pick up a donation is around three weeks. Scatena started a priority pick-up program where people who want to offload their discarded stuff quickly can pay a third-party company to pick up their items within 72 hours and drop it off at Father Joe's as normal. Father Joe's does not profit off

the program but it helps the donors who take part in it have a positive experience.

The retail side of Father Joe's has expanded and changed over the years, much like the rest of the organization, but remains stalwart in its mission of funding services for the poor, attracting new donors, and providing affordable clothing for San Diegans.

"The face of homelessness changed, sure, and the dynamics have changed and funding sources – they change. Those have all changed, but the basics, is what we continued," Vargas said.

Despite Father Joe's death, Vargas said his legacy lives on in the comprehensive services model he founded. Underwood said the connections Father Joe made locally and globally live on and continue impacting people even though he is gone.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at [kendra@sdnews.com](mailto:kendra@sdnews.com).



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Humane  
society  
volunteer

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

“[It] took me two-and-a-half hours to get out of the hospital. And when I saw what the animals did for people, even a short visit. It's kind of like, okay, we need to do that for other people,” she said.

Today, she has a therapy dog, Buster, and therapy cat, JJ, who have visited hospitals, schools, jails, libraries, senior citizen's houses and assisted living centers.

Heitz is warm and quick-witted with the ability to bring comfort to those suffering and entertain a packed school assembly.

While much of those visits stopped during COVID, birthday parties and scout meetings are starting to invite her again.

Typically at these events, she puts Buster at the front of the room and has the kids yell orders like “Sit! Jump! Roll over!” In reality, Heitz is at the back of the room

giving Buster hand signals about what to do.

“They think they're getting him to do stuff when he's actually responding to hand signals, but they get a kick out of it,” she said with a laugh.

For a reading program at libraries and schools, Buster sits with children who are struggling to read. They get to practice to the encouraging presence of the dog.

“I had a little kid came up and he said, ‘I don't want to read,’ and I would say, ‘That's too bad Buster here wants you to read.’ He looks at me sideways like I'm telling him a lie. He said ‘Yeah? What does Buster like?’ I said ‘stories about animals.’ He said, ‘Does he like gorillas?’ and I said, ‘I don't know, he might be a little scared.’ So he goes gets a book about gorillas and he sits down. He's reading the book and then he reaches over and puts his arm around Buster and says, ‘Don't be scared. This is the gorilla.’” Heitz was torn between laughing and crying at that moment.

During the pandemic, SDHS unveiled Anipals, a program for dogs to write letters to people in

isolation. A medical professional in a closed unit during COVID received a letter from Buster about his adventures chasing squirrels.

“Her family asked that she get a letter, and she wrote back ‘It made it made everything much, much better to get a letter from a puppy,’” Heitz said. “Buster can't type well, by the way, so I helped him.”

In addition to donating time, Heitz' monetary donations have funded new sinks in the kitten nursery, scholarships for SDHS behavior training, and a new dental x-ray machine to the El Cajon Campus. Heitz said SDHS has a number of donors who help fund large projects so she talks to staff and volunteers to discover what small problems are being overlooked. In the kitten nursery, there was only one sink to wash hands and make formula which was not adequate for stopping the spread of infection. From there, she has funded new sinks in other rooms where the current ones were not meeting the needs of animals and people.

“I'm taking over the world one sink at a time,” Heitz laughed. She



Heitz in front of the new kitten nursery sink. (Photos courtesy SD Humane Society)

sees her role as talking to people to find budget shortcomings and overlooked problems so she can fill in those holes.

“Volunteers like Judi are truly a rare find. Her support goes beyond volunteering,” said Dr. Gary Weitzman, president and CEO, San Diego Humane Society. “Judi always goes the extra mile to donate much-needed equipment and critical funds to advance not only the welfare of our animals, but also our community of pet lovers. We're incredibly lucky to have Judi's steadfast assistance and expertise. She plays a vital role in helping San Diego Humane Society provide exceptional care for animals in the San Diego region.”

Heitz is proud of some of SDHS' new programs that are keeping pets with families and out of shelters. The scholarships for the behavior center allow families who adopted a pet during the pandemic to train it out of behavioral issues so the animals will not be returned to the shelter. Dogs at the shelter with problematic behaviors are also trained so they're more likely to be adopted instead of just euthanized because no one wants them.

“It's good for the family, it's good for the kids, it's good for the pet — everybody wins,” she said.

Another new program Heitz supports helps victims of domestic

abuse escape. Often abusers hold the animal over the victim because the victim does not want to leave them and many shelters for victims do not allow animals. The SDHS program puts those pets in foster homes until the survivors have stable housing again.

SDHS also has free spay clinics and free food clinics that are often utilized by unsheltered San Diegans.

“A lot of the people are homeless because they couldn't afford a place in San Diego because of their animals. They wouldn't give up their animals so they're living in their cars,” Heitz said. “One of the major things about the Humane Society is to keep the animals with the people, so that we don't have so many animals in the shelter.”

For her part, Heitz is fostering kittens until they are ready to be adopted and adopted a cat with brain damage. All of these efforts are to unite pets with pet lovers so they are not stuck in the shelter.

“I have been incredibly lucky. I have more than enough money. I'm retired. I have everything I need. I have more than enough. And the responsibility to those who have been given much, much is expected,” Heitz said.

—Reach Kendra Sitton at [kendra@sdnews.com](mailto:kendra@sdnews.com).



Heitz with her therapy dog Buster.




Heitz holding a cat in the shelter.

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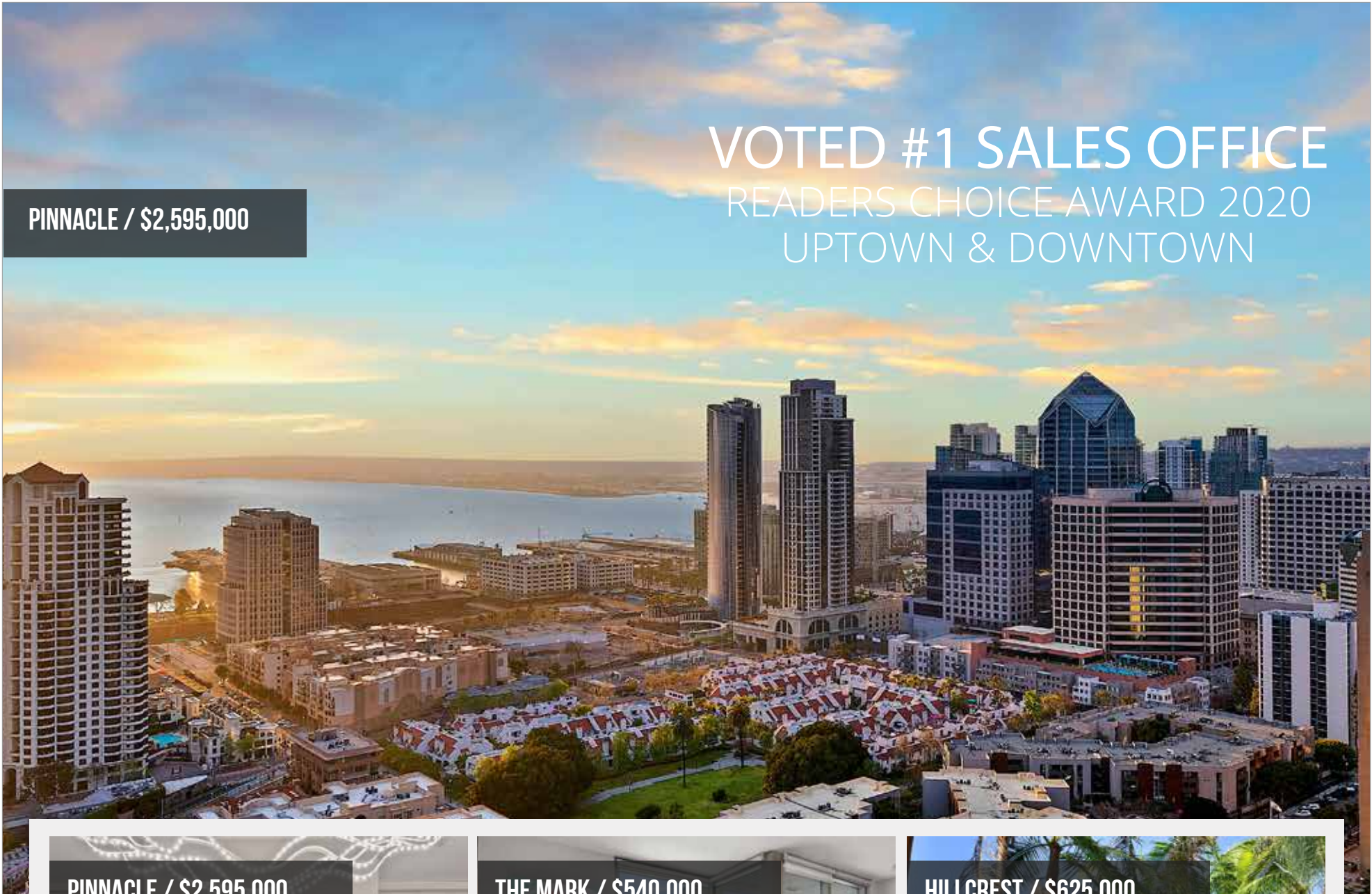




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