

Winter 2015

# ROLANDO PARK REPORTER

A publication for the residents, workers, and businesses of Rolando Park and their supporters



Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month ♦ 7 pm ♦ Rolando Park Elementary School Room 25 ♦ 6620 Marlowe Drive



## December 14 Meeting – “Bring a Neighbor” Holiday Social

### Mark your calendar!

Please join us for an evening of food, drinks, music, some great door prizes, and community socializing. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share and of course, a neighbor.

There will not be any guest speakers for this meeting, but we will be acknowledging community volunteers who have made a difference this past year.

## January 2016 Meeting – Annual Goal Setting



At our January meeting, attendees will suggest priorities and programs for 2016. Members will then vote for their first, second, and third choices. The votes will be tallied and the results announced on Nextdoor, our website, and by email blast.

This is an important meeting, as it sets the RPCC agenda for the year. Please plan to attend and help guide the priorities of RPCC for the next year.

## RPCC 2016 Membership Drive

Membership is \$12 per household or business per calendar year. This is your chance to join with others to improve our community.

Thanks to community support and volunteers, RPCC completed many successful community projects in 2015:

- In January 2015, became a 501(c) (3), allowing donations to RPCC to be tax deductible and enabling the Council to apply directly for grants
- Launched a new and dynamic website, [rolandopark.org](http://rolandopark.org) that provides up-to-date community resources, news, and events
- Hosted 10 RPCC community meetings with a myriad of guest speakers to address relevant community concerns
- Replaced 15 existing Neighborhood Watch signs and installed 23 new signs through donations and volunteers
- Collaborated with several City groups and the community to have four new four-way stops installed
- Pursued funding with our City Councilperson, Myrtle Cole, and the San Diego Unified School District to have fencing installed at the Zena Canyon opening
- Installed our Little Free Library through donations and volunteer efforts

Please help support our many community improvement projects by renewing your membership for 2016 or joining RPCC this year.

## 2016 Board Election Results

The 2016 Board Nominating Committee presented the ballot with a list of candidates at the November 9 RPCC meeting. All ballots were returned with a unanimous “Yes” vote for all candidates.

Your 2016 Rolando Park Community Council Board is:

- President: Betty White
- Vice President: Sonia Lang
- Treasurer: Lynn Edwards
- Secretary: Judy Fleischman
- Member-at-large: Laura Sechrist Molenda
- Member-at-large: Heather Erwin and Kathryn Kern (shared position)

Betty, Sonia, Lynn, and Laura volunteered to serve for another year. We welcome Judy, Heather, and Kathryn, who are joining the board for the first time.

Judy is a long-time resident with family who also lives in Rolando Park. She is a retired teacher who continues to do substitute teaching.

Heather and Kathryn have both lived in Rolando Park for about two years and have jumped into many activities with RPCC. Both are also involved with the University Avenue Improvement Group.

Special thanks to Gerrie Flaven and Sonia Fleischman for driving the Board Nominating Committee search and the election.



RPCC is funded in part by a grant from the Ariel W Coggeshall Discretionary fund of The San Diego Foundation.

**2015 RPCC Board**

**President**

Betty White  
[betty@rolandopark.org](mailto:betty@rolandopark.org)  
 619-542-9968

**Vice President**

Sonia Lang  
[sonia@rolandopark.org](mailto:sonia@rolandopark.org)

**Treasurer**

Lynn Edwards  
[lynn@rolandopark.org](mailto:lynn@rolandopark.org)  
 619-665-3535

**Secretary**

Vacant

**Member-at-Large**

Laura Sechrist Molenda  
[laura@rolandopark.org](mailto:laura@rolandopark.org)  
 619-300-1747

**Little Free Library**



The Little Free Library has been completed!

There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony **December 5, 11 am** at 4021 Loma Alta. Please join us to celebrate the opening of our Little Free Library!

Thanks to our donors for funding the library. Thanks to **Steve Roche**, who built the library, **Steve's son**, who constructed the library roof, **Bonny Camren**, who painted the library, and **Dave Castro** who installed the library.

We also need to fill our library with donated books. We need books for all ages, child through adult. If you have books to donate, you can bring them to the RPCC December "Bring a Neighbor" social on Monday December 14 at 7 pm, Rolando Park Elementary, Room 25.

Once the library is up and running, you will just be able to "Take a book. Leave a book" and that will keep our shelves full.

**Board updates**

Regretfully, **Fiona Maguire** had to leave the board this fall. Her position will be filled in January 2016 by Judy Fleischman.

**Rolando Park Banners**

Our grant proposal for funding for our banner project was submitted to the office of the County Board of Supervisors for a Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant. If funding is granted, we will then begin work on the banner design. We are also working with Councilmember Myrtle Cole's office to have our borders along University and College avenues declared a banner district.

**Trash Container Reminder**

City of San Diego Municipal code requires that all containers must be placed at the designated point of collection by **6 am** on your scheduled collection day.

All containers must also be removed from your designated point of collection by **6 pm** on your scheduled collection day.

**Chollas Creek Drainage Channel**

Along the northern boundary of Rolando Park, the Chollas Creek Drainage Channel runs between the businesses facing University Avenue and the homes with backyards that abut the channel on the south side. It is most easily visible at Rolando Blvd, just north of Vista Grande. You can see the drainage channel, which is filled with palm trees on the east side of Rolando Blvd.



Per an article in the Union Tribune on November 2, 2015:

*"Vegetation in a channel may be seen as a flood risk factor by some, but Becker [Eric Becker, senior engineer for the water quality control board's Wetland and Riparian Protection Unit] stressed that plants and shrubs help filter pollution out of water and keep downstream bodies of water cleaner."*

Neighbors have expressed concerns regarding the flood possibilities of the channel for some time. With El Nino rains predicted this winter, the RPCC has been in communication with the City of San Diego regarding our channel since May 2015. We made every attempt to be scheduled for maintenance in 2018, the nearest possible date, but have been unable to confirm with the City that our channel made the cut for the 2018 list.

At this time, our only resource if there is flooding associated with the Chollas Creek Drainage Channels is to take pictures of the damage and call the Storm Water Hotline at (619) 527-7500 to request emergency services.

Another hotline where you can report blocked drainage channels is (619) 235-1000.

For more information on the Chollas Creek Drainage channel, go to [rolandopark.org](http://rolandopark.org), select Projects → Active Projects, and scroll down to Clean Up of Chollas Creek.

## University Avenue Improvement Group

Did you know Rolando Park’s border of University Avenue spans three City blocks, one mile, from College Avenue to 69th Street? Divided into two City Districts, District 4 to the south in Rolando Park and District 9 to the north in Rolando Village, University Avenue is home to many businesses and several residential homes.

In summer 2014, a group of Rolando Park neighbors began meeting to discuss options for improving and revitalizing our University Avenue Business District. Lacking its own formal Business Improvement District (BID) and not part of the established College Area Business Improvement District, Rolando Park’s stretch of University Avenue felt underrepresented and overlooked. With open spaces for lease, seemingly vacant storefronts and pockets of distressed appearance, neighbors recognized an opportunity to fill the gap between what the Business District offers and what Rolando Park neighbors want.

This informal gathering of neighbors soon turned into the University Avenue Improvement Group (UAIG) and now, just one year later, UAIG is meeting regularly once a month and gaining momentum.

In 2015, the University Avenue Improvement Group, with the support of the Rolando Park Community Council:



- Hosted a Law Enforcement Walk along University Avenue with District 4 Councilmember Myrtle Cole, Chief of Staff Jimmie Slack, and SDPD. The walk provided an opportunity to identify concerns, ask questions, and seek a commitment in helping make safety and revitalization a priority.
- Strengthened our communication with local business owners and property owners, those tenured and those new to the area. UAIG helped welcome new businesses [Bourre Southern Bistro](#), [WeiWei Asian Express](#), [Planet Fitness](#), and [Garden Kitchen](#).

- Formed relationships with liaisons from the City of San Diego, Civic San Diego, and the College Area Business District. Our liaisons shared their experiences and expertise on how to reinvigorate a business district, communicate with business owners, and identify available small business resources.
- Surveyed Rolando Park residents to determine exactly the types of businesses our neighborhood wants and would support in the business district. UAIG can now bring greater focus to future development based on the community’s input.

We thank our neighbors who continue to volunteer their time and efforts toward improving our business district. Change will take time, but we’re just getting started!

We also thank our Rolando Park community for welcoming new businesses along University Avenue. We have many business owners who are excited to be in Rolando Park and want to support the needs of our community. Our enthusiasm and patronage go a long way in helping our local businesses thrive.

For UAIG updates and meeting times, please visit [rolandopark.org](http://rolandopark.org) and [Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com).

## Using Nextdoor – Tips from the November Meeting

At our November meeting, Vice President Sonia Lang gave a great presentation with some helpful tips for using Nextdoor. For additional help, go to [help.nextdoor.com](http://help.nextdoor.com).

The screenshot shows the Nextdoor Home Page for the Rolando Park neighborhood. Key features highlighted include:

- Home Page:** The main navigation bar and central content area.
- Ways to invite your neighbor to Nextdoor:** A callout pointing to the 'Invite neighbors' button in the top right.
- Your Profile, Bookmarks, Account Settings, Help Center, and Sign Out:** A callout pointing to the user profile dropdown menu.
- Search by topic, member name or keyword:** A callout pointing to the search bar at the top.
- Post a message:** A callout pointing to the 'Post a message, event, poll, or urgent alert to neighbors' button.
- Learn about your neighbor or Private Message them:** A callout pointing to the profile of a neighbor in a post.
- Inbox:** A callout pointing to the 'Inbox' link in the left sidebar.
- Messages by Category:** A callout pointing to the 'CATEGORIES' section in the left sidebar.
- Join or Create a Group:** A callout pointing to the 'YOUR GROUPS' section in the left sidebar.

**Community Numbers & Links**

**San Diego Police Department**  
24-hour non-emergency issues  
(619) 531-2000

**Community Liaison Officer**  
Terry Hoskins  
(619) 516-3091  
[thoskins@pd.sandiego.gov](mailto:thoskins@pd.sandiego.gov)

**Report graffiti**  
Graffiti hotline  
(619) 527-7500  
[Graffiti online complaint form](#)

**Councilmember MyrtleCole**  
(619) 236-6644  
[myrtlecole@sandiego.gov](mailto:myrtlecole@sandiego.gov)

**Broken water lines and leaks**  
619-515-3525  
[www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water)

**Report water waste**  
(619) 533-5271  
[waterwaste@sandiego.gov](mailto:waterwaste@sandiego.gov)

**Broken streetlights, signs, and potholes**  
619-527-7500  
[www.sandiego.gov/street-div](http://www.sandiego.gov/street-div)

**Service request**  
[Map method](#)  
[Text method](#)

**Missed trash collection**  
858-694-7000  
[Service request](#)

**Loose dogs**  
619-236-4250  
<http://www.sddac.com/>

**Community Calendar**

**Rolando Park Community Council Events**

▪ **Rolando Park Community Council Meetings**

December 14, 7 pm  
*“Bring a Neighbor” Holiday Social*

January 11, 7 pm  
*Annual Goal Setting*

February 8, 7 pm  
**Arleth Rubio**, Senior Protective Services Worker, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services on the need for foster and adoptive parents in Rolando Park

March 14, 7 pm  
*TBD*

▪ **University Avenue Improvement Group Meeting**

December 5, 8:30 am  
Meeting site TBD; contact [laura@rolandopark.org](mailto:laura@rolandopark.org) or look for details on Nextdoor

**Other Community Events**

▪ **Lean and Clean**

Dec 12, Jan 2, Feb 6, Mar 5 – Saturday, 9 am to 11 am  
Meet at the pocket park, corner of College and College Grove (SE corner, across from Chase Bank), 9 am.

Contact Audrey, [audreyj99@cox.net](mailto:audreyj99@cox.net), for more information.

**Support Our Local Business Community**

**FRESH . SUSTAINABLE . FROM SCRATCH.**

At Garden Kitchen everything is handcrafted from scratch using fresh ingredients, opting for local & organic when possible.

TUES - SAT: 5PM - 9PM

**GARDEN KITCHEN**

4204 ROLANDO BLVD  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92115  
619-431-5755

Menu Changes Daily, Visit Us Online:  
**GARDENKITCHENS.D.COM**

2015 #4b

**Rolando Park Community Council Membership**

Membership dues are \$12.00 per **calendar** year, per household. You can pay by check or cash at a general meeting, through PayPal (additional \$1 service charge) at [rolandopark.org](http://rolandopark.org), or by mailing a check made out to RPCC along with this form, to RPCC, PO Box 152352, San Diego, CA 92195.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ \$12 dues only or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation + \$12 dues.



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