Slow Down: Back to School Means Sharing the Road

With school back in session, ICHA encourages University Hills drivers to be extra attentive while driving when children and buses are present. Please review these guidelines to ensure safe travel.

- **School safety patrols or crossing guards**: Be sure to obey their directions. For the crossing guard's safety, allow them to safely get to the side of the road before driving ahead.
Stopped school buses and children crossing the street: Some school buses flash yellow lights when preparing to stop to let children off the bus. The yellow flashing lights warn you to slow down and prepare to stop.

The law requires you remain stopped as long as the red lights are flashing (CVC §22454). If you fail to stop, you may be fined up to $1,000 and your driving privilege could be suspended for 1 year.

- Speed Limits: When driving within 500 to 1,000 feet of a school while children are outside or crossing the street, the speed limit is 25 mph unless otherwise posted. Also, if the school grounds have no fence and children are outside, never drive faster than 25 mph. Some school zones may have speed limits as low as 15 mph.

California Department of Motor Vehicles

**2019 University Hills Community Survey**

Survey Respondents Report a High Level of Satisfaction Living in University Hills

A majority of 2019 University Hills Community Survey respondents rated their overall satisfaction with living in University Hills at either “4” or “5” on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being “Extremely Satisfied.” The survey, conducted online in January, received 489 responses (out of roughly 1,400 rental and homeowner households). The survey asked residents to consider a range of issues affecting quality of life, housing unit characteristics, physical surroundings, public safety and services provided by ICHA, and community social interactions. Among respondents, 84% of apartment dwellers and 90% of homeowners chose a “4” or “5” on the satisfaction scale, as did 81% of condo owners and 79% of townhome owners. Respondents reported high levels of general satisfaction and were neither more (nor less) satisfied whether they had lived in University Hills for less than a year or more than 20 (or a number of years in between).

For more information about the data and how well it represents the views of University Hills residents, click the button below:
Survey Articles to Come

- Demographics (including pets)
- Resident perceptions about features of the physical environment (including housing units and common area amenities)
- The quality of services provided by ICHA
- Community life and culture

The University Hills Resident Survey was carried out under technical direction from Ken Chew, a demographer, long-term resident, former Chair of the Homeowner Representative Board and former Chair of the ICHA Board. He is analyzing the survey and also contributed to this article.

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Dear Neighbors,

This email is a reminder about the OC Goes Solar group discount for rooftop solar that is currently on offer through November 1, 2019.

The selection committee chose Aikyum Solar as the contractor for the third round of installations. Many residents of University Hills had very positive experiences with Aikyum last year. The discount is available to any homeowner in Orange County. You can find sample pricing and more at https://uhills.org/oc-goes-solar.

Note that at these discounted prices, OC Goes Solar installations pay for themselves in 4 to 6 years based only on electricity savings — depending on how your electricity use and rates change over time. After that payback period, you may pay only the minimal $13/month that SCE charges to stay connected to the grid. Plus, the system may be considered a capital improvement that may impact the sales price of the home. Please contact the ICHA Sales Office for additional details. Over 200 University Hills residents have participated in this program so far.

Also note: 2019 is the last year that homeowners can receive a federal tax credit of 30% of the cost of the system. After the end of the year, the tax credit will start to decline. (See more info here.) That means that now is a great time to go solar.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email solar@uhills.org. Good luck!

The OC Goes Solar Team
Liz Griffin Is Sworn In as UCI Chief of Police

Elizabeth “Liz” Griffin has been sworn in as Chief of Police at the University of California, Irvine. Griffin replaces interim Police Chief Paul Cooper. Griffin comes from the Long Beach Police Department, where she served as commander for the past six years. At UCI, she oversees a team of 49 officers and more than 60 public safety and professional staff. Griffin manages an operation that includes patrol, administration, investigations and emergency management, as well as Public Safety Services at the UCI Medical Center. “Chief Griffin’s depth of experience and community involvement makes her the right person to lead the UCI Police Department and advance our community-policing efforts,” said Ronald Cortez, UCI’s Chief Financial Officer and Vice Chancellor for the division of finance and administration, including campus police.

A graduate of the LAPD West Point Leadership Program and the FBI National Academy, Griffin is a member of the California Peace Officers’ Association, FBI National Academy Associates and Los Angeles Women Police Officers & Associates. Griffin earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice at California State University, Fullerton, and a master’s in emergency services administration at California State University, Long Beach.

UCI Campus Implements Glyphosate Ban; University Hills Renews Commitment to Non-Toxic Landscaping and Pest Control

In May, University of California President Napolitano issued a ban on glyphosate-based herbicides at all UC locations, effective June 1, 2019 (see the letter). Glyphosate is the active ingredient in the weed control product commonly known as “RoundUp.” The campus has implemented the ban. ICHA made a commitment two years ago to discontinue use of glyphosate. No anti-coagulants have been used for rodent control in University Hills in over five years. Organic insecticides are used almost exclusively.

ICHA, as a member of UCI’s Integrated Pest Management Team, has advised the campus on organic herbicides and pesticides it has used successfully. Management has supported the Sustainability Committee in posting materials about herbicides, pesticides and anticoagulant rodent control products on uhills.org.

ICHA remains committed to non-toxic flora and fauna control. But we also need community members to do their part. Please read on for simple ways to reduce the rodent population in University Hills to create a more pleasant neighborhood for all.

ICHA Rodent Control Best Practices

ICHA is committed to controlling the University Hills rodent population while working to protect native wildlife and domestic pets against secondary chemical impacts. ICHA does not use anticoagulant rodenticide products commonly found in many household rat treatments. ICHA is collaborating with the HRB, Orange County Vector Control and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources to address concerns about environmental impact while reducing a rodent population that has increased due to the wet winter and surge in plant, seed and fruit growth.
Do Your Individual Part

- Pick up all fallen fruit.
- Never leave uneaten pet food outside overnight.
- Keep pet food in sealed metal containers if stored in the garage or other outbuildings.
- Keep palm trees and plants well trimmed.
- Discontinue the use of birdseed feeders.

Click here for more rat reduction tips from OC Vector Control.

What’s Been Done

ICHA has been experimenting with “swift-kill” snap traps designed for rodents. The snap traps are an alternative to bait. ICHA monitored the snap traps twice a week May through June. During that two month period, approximately 200 rodents were eradicated.

Fire Prevention Pruning for University Hills Is Completed

University Hills recently completed annual pruning as part of its fire prevention program. In collaboration with the Orange County Fire Authority and UCI Department of Biology, ICHA has identified the following as priorities for improving resistance to fire in areas adjacent to University Hills:

- Identified a fuel modification pruning zone in and around the UCI Ecological Preserve and Natural Community Conservation Planning areas. **Grass and vegetation is cut back annually in the areas marked in red on the map below.**
- Integrated grass and cactus areas into landscaping (low fuel).
- Grouped trees and shrubs to separate dense fuel areas.

Map shows area where potential combustible fuel is cut back annually

UCI PD Introduces Mail Theft Information Page

Last month, the UCI Police Department introduced a new UHills Mail and Package Theft webpage to help University Hills residents report mail and package theft. The page includes information about how to report theft of US Postal Service deliveries as well as private carrier deliveries. It also includes an electronic Community...
Awareness Form. Once completed, the form automatically displays the location of a reported theft on a UHills Mailbox and Package Theft map. The Mail and Package Theft webpage is an essential tool for residents to help fight mail theft in University Hills.

LOCKABLE MAILBOX GUIDELINES

ATTENTION RENTERS

ICHA Rentals' Annual Preventative Maintenance Program will begin the third week of September continuing through January, 2020.

During that period, ICHA will perform routine maintenance to ensure the proper functioning of carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, plumbing fixtures, electrical fixtures, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

*Advanced notice of specific inspection dates will be posted and sent to each resident.*

New Software Implementation & Billing

ICHA is implementing new property management and accounting software. As with any project of this size and complexity, some aspects of the rollout have taken longer than anticipated. For example, some University Hills homeowners may notice billing statements being sent to a different email address than it was previously. In addition, the Water Usage section on your billing statement is still not populating with data. We expect that issue to be resolved by the next billing cycle. *(For more detailed information about your water bill, please see the Water Use & Responsibility fact sheet).* Please note that you are responsible for your bill, regardless of whether you receive it in a physical mailbox or email.

*We appreciate your patience as we move through this process.*

If you have questions about your bill, please contact Jennifer Barb, Director of Finance atichaacctg@icha.uci.edu

MASTER GARDENER WANTED

The Homeowner Representative Board is seeking to form a group of Uhills resident gardeners interested in volunteering to assist other residents who may need a helping hand in designing and maintaining their landscaping. If you have a green thumb or architectural experience, please contact Kim at 949-824-2424 or kim.encinas@icha.uci.edu or Andrew at 949-824-4068 or andrew.herndon@icha.uci.edu.
Community Room Plays Starring Role in OC Registrar of Voters Video

Last month, the Orange County Registrar of Voters chose the University Hills Community Center as its primary location for a public service announcement video about California Senate Bill 450, The California Voters Choice Act. The Act, passed in 2016, authorizes counties to conduct any election as an all-mailed ballot election. To participate, jurisdictions must provide ballot dropoff locations, voting centers and must conduct community outreach. The Community Center Community Room has long served as a polling place, so it was a natural choice for the Registrar of Voters to stage its educational video.

The photo below (left) provides a glimpse of how the Registrar of Voters plans to ease the voting experience, with large, numbered signs offering guidance to prospective voters.

For more information about the California Voters Choice Act and its impact in Orange County, go to the Orange County Registrar of Voters website.
Cardboard boxes delivered from Amazon and other retailers are recyclable. Cardboard boxes should be flattened and placed loosely in green or gray recycle bins. For more recycling tips, see City of Irvine's Recycling Guide.

Clear rain gutters before the rainy season arrives. Flush landscape yard drains. Start with the drain furthest from the street and wash from the rear of the property to the front to clear debris and sediment from drains.

A very important maintenance note: If you do not use your A/C on a regular basis, run your A/C for 10 minutes once a month, this will ensure your system runs properly when you do need it. A/C coolant also functions as lubricant for moving parts. Running A/C systems ensures that lubricant is distributed efficiently.

Renters: Large, oversized, bulky items should not be placed in the trash bins. Please contact the Rental Department at 824-6254 to arrange for a special pick-up.

Homeowners: Waste Management provides four free curbside pickups for oversized items per year. Contact WM at (888) 904-8168

ICHA reserves the right to send to an unsubscribed e-mail certain important communications such as construction notifications or emergencies. The unsubscribed status will be respected for all other ICHA or HRB communications.