**Face Coverings Required for Retail Businesses and Customers**

by Josse La Tour

Fullerton City Council voted 3-2 to require both employees and customers of retail businesses to wear cloth face coverings to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 on Tuesday, April 21. This was an enhancement of the county of Orange’s recent mandate for face coverings at certain essential businesses. The order took effect April 24.

Per the County order, and the Fullerton addition, all employees and customers of any grocery store, pharmacy/drugstore, convenience store, gas station, restaurant, food preparation establishment, banking establishment, or retail store in Fullerton who may have contact with the public must wear a cloth face covering while at work, or while shopping. The banking establishments included in the order are only those that do not have a physical barrier system (i.e., Plexiglas) between employees and customers.

**Medical Workers at St. Jude Urgent Care:**

(From left to right) Kristen Condon, LVN, Manager, Patty Tu, PA, Angela Salazar, MA, Katelyn Minyard, RN, BSN, Halette Patea, RN, BSN, and Debbie Camacho, RN, BSN.

Thank you for your service. See related stories on pages 2 and 14.

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**CITY LAYS OFF 153 PART-TIME EMPLOYEES**

In his weekly report on April 16, Fullerton City Manager Ken Domer announced that the city of Fullerton has laid off 153 part-time employees due to revenue shortages caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

“The City expressed thanks today to 153 part-time employees in the Library, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works Departments who are unfortunately being separated from employment as a result of operational disruptions and substantial revenue reductions due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” Domer wrote. “Preliminary projections are that the City will end the current Fiscal Year with over $3 million less in revenues than originally budgeted, due to the affects of the health crisis on local retail and the travel industry. Projections for the next Fiscal Year continue a reduction in revenues, which will significantly affect the City’s ability to provide services and programs.”

“The City and our residents have been greatly served by a dedicated and hardworking core of part-time employees who staff everything from customer service desks, perform engineering duties, assist library patrons, and are our primary staffing at community centers, events, and programs,” Mayor Jennifer Fitzgerald said.

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**Mayor Hosts Virtual Town Hall**

by Matthew Leslie

Fullerton’s Mayor Jennifer Fitzgerald held her first “Virtual Town Hall” via video feed from the mayor’s office in city hall on the morning of Monday, April 27. Characterizing the virtual method as “stilted and awkward,” she lamented that she was unable to “have a face to face conversation right now” with constituents because of the current stay at home orders given by the governor to slow the spread of COVID-19.

After thanking healthcare workers, frontline responders, City staff, and public safety officers, she thanked the Fullerton community for “adhering outstandingly” to the governor’s order.

She urged residents not to forgo calling 911 during an emergency, and explained that responding medical teams are observing special COVID-19 rules, wearing special gear if symptoms of the virus are suspected.

Mayor Fitzgerald then offered some items of recent news, beginning with the city council’s vote to issue a proclamation requiring the wearing of face coverings by customers of essential businesses. It adds customers to the county of Orange’s requirement that employees of specified essential businesses wear face coverings. The Board of Supervisors’ vote occurred earlier on the same day as the Fullerton City Council’s vote. She noted that the council vote had not been a unanimous one, but declined to mention that she had been one of two dissenting votes, arguing that night that the decision to require face coverings on customers should be made by the businesses themselves, and not required by the local government.

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**Not Able to Pay Rent This Month?**

by Jane Reifer

Remember, if you did not pay residential and/or commercial rent this month due to COVID-19, you need to let your landlord know in writing within 30 days of the due date (probably right now!) to be able to take advantage of the city of Fullerton’s eviction moratorium. Writing can be by e-mail or text if you’ve communicated with your landlord that way before. You will still need to pay your rent, but you have 180 days to catch up. City ordinance, FAQs, guidelines, and sample letter here: www.cityoffullerton.com/evictionmoratorium.

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**The Fullerton Police Department in the Time of Coronavirus**

by Christine Romer

While many of us are staying safe sheltering at home, the Fullerton Police Department is keeping us and themselves safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

Through strategic planning and deployment, Chief Robert Dunn has managed to put more than the usual contingent of officers on the streets of Fullerton keeping residents safe, and at the same time, taking measures to protect the health of department employees.

No department member, whether sworn officer or civilian employee, has contracted COVID-19, although there has not been universal testing.
**Caravans for St. Jude Medical Workers**

A group of Fullerton residents organized a car parade on Saturday April 18, to show their appreciation, support, and love to the nurses and medical workers at St. Jude Urgent Care in Fullerton. These residents drove by, honking, waving homemade signs, and showering them with love and appreciation during this stressful time that we all are experiencing.

Some also brought the workers pizza and other food just to say thank you.

“We all want to let them know we are thinking of them during this difficult time and that all their hard work doesn’t go unnoticed,” Melanie Gutierrez, who helped organize the caravane, said. “I know they can easily get overlooked. I know many people are donating masks, gloves, gowns, and food for the workers at the hospitals and I wanted to also show love, appreciation, and support for all of the workers at St. Jude Urgent Care as well. They are frontline workers even if they don’t work in the hospital setting.”

The Urgent Care Center gets many patients because some people are too scared to go to the ER at this time. They also sees patients who have the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

“It’s great to see how much the community rallies around supporting one another—of course by keeping with our social distancing guidelines,” Gutierrez said. “We went out just to thank them and let them know heroes don’t always just wear capes... they wear scrubs.”

**Town Hall with Chief Medical Officer of St. Jude Hospital**

by Jane Rands

Assistant Professor of Infectious Disease at UCI School of Medicine Saahir Khan, MD, and Gastroenterologist and Chief Medical Officer for St. Jude Hospital in Fullerton Dr. Sajen Matthews, participated in a COVID-19 town hall call held by State Senator Ling Chang on April 29. Each answered constituents’ questions read by Senator Chang.

Dr. Kahn explained that hospitals were able to handle the number of patients at or near the peak without being overwhelmed or needing to make any difficult triaging decisions.

Some hospital staff across the county have tested positive despite wearing eye protection and surgical masks or N95 masks while performing high-risk procedures with infected patients.

They believe the infections were contracted from the community or from other staff. More strict social distancing, temperature checks, and universal mask-wearing throughout the hospital are the rule now.

Dr. Kahn differentiated between two kinds of tests for COVID-19. One test (called PCR) is administered using a swab to take a sample from the nose or throat which is tested to detect genetic material of the virus. The other is a serologic test using a blood sample to detect antibodies to the coronavirus in late stages of infection. The first is most appropriate to test people with symptoms or to screen high-risk staff and healthcare workers. The second determines whether a person has been infected in the past and may not have been tested by the PCR method because they had mild or no symptoms.

Dr. Kahn said there will be community testing in Orange County by UCI, the same as USC in LA County is doing. But he recommended against paying $75 to $100 at what he called “pop-up clinics.” There are over 100 antibody tests offered that are not yet validated nor are they FDA approved.

He warned, “A single test does not tell you that you have immunity from the virus.”

No test tells you that you have immunity, and it is not yet known whether having had COVID-19 confers immunity.

A vaccine will not be ready until at least late 2021. Unfortunately, there might be only clinical trials, not yet FDA approved, in time for the expected surge in the fall, he said.

The amount of molecular diagnostic testing (PCR) will have to “dramatically increase” in order to effectively track the virus. Community testing can help determine the extent of the spread, but it is not as good as individual contact tracing, he said.

He closed by saying, “You have done a really good job of social distancing” and “we need to stick to that.” We are still at risk, particularly as other states reopen and people travel here. We should “maintain vigilance in California.”

Dr. Matthews answered questions related to St. Jude’s capacity to provide care for COVID-19 patients and their current capacity to begin scheduling elective surgeries.

On March 9 the hospital had its first COVID-19 patient. Since then, there have been 97 treated for the virus in total. At most, there have been 25 patients at one time. Currently, there are about 17, according to Matthews.

Typically, patients have been in the hospital for 2 weeks. Thirty of 100 ventilators were used, with at most 10 being used simultaneously. Their capacity exceeded demand, as the hospital was “well prepared.”

Surge planning increased the hospital’s capacity to 100 patients with nurses, physicians, anesthesiologists, and other staff ready if needed, but he said, “The surge was not as bad as we expected,” as evidenced by the removal of the tent in the parking lot last week.

Dr. Matthews feels the hospital will be able to handle the second wave, “much, much better than the first time” as St. Jude is maintaining capacity and has systems in place for a second wave. The plans they worked hard to pull together in March—contact tracing, testing, and treatment—are now processes set in place. Matthews said the hospital participated in clinical trials, had prona-
Covid-19 Updates From OC Health Care Agency

By Matthew Leslie

Orange County’s Healthcare Agency continues to update the public about their response to the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the County. During live press updates over the past two weeks, County officials announced the formation of an Economic Recovery Task Force, gave a brief overview of how federal monies would be spent, and announced the hiring of a new OC Healthcare Agency (OCHA) director, as well as the imminent retirement of another important official.

Statistics are posted daily on www.ocovid19.ochcahealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc. The number of infected persons was over 2,600 (as of May 2) and is increasing daily, as is the number of deaths, with over 50 as of May 2. With a population of over 3 million, the number of reported deaths in OC is far less per million than that of Los Angeles County, where over a thousand deaths have been reported.

The daily number of hospitalized cases in Orange County has risen over time, currently high of 178. Fewer than half of these cases are in ICU each day. Officials believe there is a sufficient number of hospital beds across the County for both immediate and non-immediate infections, but some facilities still lack critical supplies, including ventilators for the seriously ill patients.

County government does not reveal in what cities patients have died from COVID-19, but it does post a count of cumulative known cases per city, also updated each day. Fullerton, with a population of 142,824 has seen its total creep up day by day to over 90 (as of May 2). The number has risen by a few each day it is reported. County Health Officer Dr. Nichole Quick continues to stress that the numbers of infections known in specific cities should not be interpreted to mean that one city is necessarily safer than another, as individuals may have contracted the virus in a different city or county from where they live.

Critics of tracking and stopping the spread of COVID-19 say it is greatly increased capacity for testing. The County has tested over 35,000 people, but has prioritized testing for food service employees per city, also updated each day. Fullerton, with a population of 142,824 has seen its total creep up day by day to over 90 (as of May 2). The number has risen by a few each day it is reported. County Health Officer Dr. Nichole Quick continues to stress that the numbers of infections known in specific cities should not be interpreted to mean that one city is necessarily safer than another, as individuals may have contracted the virus in a different city or county from where they live.

The rollout of a new testing program is expected to provide necessary data when and how businesses and schools might begin to emerge from weeks of closure.

**County’s Health Care Agency**

Governor Gavin Newsom has announced plans for 80 testing sites throughout the state, several of which, according to Dr. Quick, will be in Orange County, but locations are yet to be confirmed. The tests will be PCRs, with samples collected by swab into nasal passages. The County health lab can have results ready the next business day following a test, but commercial labs like Quest Diagnostics can sometimes take longer to process results because of backlogs.

One particularly important industry where testing is needed is in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), which are, as yet, not required to test staff for COVID-19, even though large numbers of elderly people, identified as especially vulnerable to suffering the worst effects of the virus, are housed in close contact. The State has been tracking SNFs across California for infections among patients and residents. No facilities in Fullerton have yet reported infections, but 9 across the County have. Most are under the State’s threshold of 11 for reporting individual numbers of cases. However, four facilities in other cities had from 14 to 45 residents who were positive for COVID-19. Dr. Quick emphasized that the OCHA contacts SNFs to offer testing of staff. CEO Kim answered the Observer’s question about whether the OCHA had performed mandatory testing of SNF staff by saying that the facilities would have an incentive to keep their staff members healthy to avoid patient/residents’ deaths, evidently not meaning that they would be bad business for them otherwise.

On April 20, 3rd District Supervisor Ed Wagner announced the formation of a county Economic Recovery Committee, which was to begin meeting the following day. The committee included County CEO Kim, who chairs the Orange County Business Council and representatives from the hotel, hospital, entertainment, retail, and grocery industries. Wagner was also hoping to recruit members to represent hi-tech businesses and a representative of the Automobile Association of Southern California. The committee is tasked with helping to formulate a responsible plan for the eventual reopening of the economy, virtually shut down by the current stay at home order issued by the state.

According to CEO Kim, the shutdown will cost Orange County as much as $240 million in revenues and costs, with a June 1, second quarter deficit and the county facing a $300 million deficit by June, when a new preliminary budget is due. Although the County has some funds in reserve, it is acknowledged that the County has consultants exploring a possible future sales tax. Although the County will receive about $454 million in federal aid to respond to the pandemic, those funds cannot be used to backfill lost revenue. Instead, they are meant to be spent protecting public health, although local government responses to the crises can be reimbursed.

In response to naturally circulated images of large crowds enjoying unse-
For the time being Fullerton City Council meetings will be held virtually. The public may submit comments via the “e-comment” feature on the City’s web site. The invocation was given by Imam Qaisar Waheed from the Islamic Center of Fullerton. Councilmember Ahmad Zahra reminded the public that the month of Ramadan, a month of fasting for the Muslim community, has begun.

**Closed Session**

Before every public city council meeting, there is a “closed session” in which council meets with various parties to discuss items outside the view of the public. During this closed session, Council met with staff to discuss negotiations with various City employee groups regarding benefits and working conditions specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Public E-Comments**

Harry Langenbacher wrote, “Please provide toilets and hand washing stations for hundreds of people still living without sanitary facilities in Fullerton. Shelters have filled, public restrooms are closed, unsheltered people are on streets and in parks, sleeping in their cars. Many are cooking, eating, washing themselves and hiding. They have nowhere to practice recommended hygiene, putting them at risk of infection. We are in this together. Their health is the community’s health. The community needs to protect them from this pandemic.”

**Council Communications**

Councilmember Ahmad Zahra, who is Fullerton’s representative on the Orange County Water District (OCWD) board said that they have finalized a budget that will not include a rate increase for Fullerton. He asked that the City extend the Safe Parking program for people living in their cars (which is set to expire May 9) for at least 3 months. He asked for Southern California Edison to brief the community in the Richman and Highland neighborhood where lights have been out due to a malfunctioning transformer. He suggested the City create a plan of action for reopening our economy, including an Economic Recovery Task Force. Councilmember Jesus Silva gave a “shout out” to our school district, who have been feeding a lot of kids and families through daily lunch programs during the school shutdown. He also commended Dr. Jessie Jones and the Center for Healthy Neighborhoods, who are supporting the school shutdown. He also commended Dr. Jessie Jones and the Center for Healthy Neighborhoods, who are supporting the school shutdown. He also commended Dr. Jessie Jones and the Center for Healthy Neighborhoods, who are supporting the school shutdown.

Zahra suggested the City create an Economic Recovery Task Force.

**Agenda Forecast**

The next Fullerton City Council meeting is Tuesday, May 5, at 6:30pm. Agenda items include: Bashula Brothers, Inc. for Lease Amendment at Fullerton Transportation Center, SB 743 Threshold, Short-Term Rental Regulations, Temporarily defer collection of specified development impact fees.

**City Enters Agreement with Water District for PFAS Treatment**

Council voted 5-0 to approve a 30-year agreement with Orange County Water District (OCWD), which will provide funding for construction of PFAS (groundwater contaminant) treatment systems and a portion of ongoing operational and maintenance costs for impacted Fullerton water wells. The city of Fullerton has up to nine wells (with one of the wells slated to be re-drilled) impacted by PFAS. There is currently one major production well, located at the City’s Main Plant in the City of Anaheim, which is off-line due to detections of PFAS. While the permanent treatment systems are being constructed, which could take from 18 to 36 months, the City may have increased costs related to importing water and construction of temporary treatment systems, if necessary. PFAS are a large group of chemicals which are harmful to human health that have been in use for many industries since the 1940s. The chemical properties of PFAS make them difficult to remove through chemical and biological processes employed in conventional water and wastewater treatment. Over the last year, many agencies within Orange County have been testing for PFAS as ordered by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW). This testing may result in up to 71 OCWD wells being removed from service. Because of the regional nature of this groundwater contaminant, OCWD has taken a leadership role in developing groundwater treatment solutions.

**Hillcrest Park Duck Pond Improvements Approved**

Council voted 5-0 to move forward with the Hillcrest Park Duck Pond Improvements Project. The funding, which had already been earmarked for the project before the COVID-19 pandemic will come from the Park Dwelling Fund, rather than the General Fund. Three Peaks Corp, who will be building the project, won the construction bid in the amount of $829,600. In addition to Park Dwelling Funds, this project is also being funded by a $380,000 California River Parkway Grant.

To address concerns about the timing and funding of the project, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Public Works Director Meg McWade said, “This is [using] Park Dwelling Funds. It’s a specific funding source that can only be used in this way [for park improvements], and it has been set aside for this project....In order to meet the grant deadline, construction must happen this spring.” The Hillcrest Park Duck Pond Improvements Project is the third of the current series of Hillcrest Park Rehabilitation projects. This project includes the restoration of the existing Duck Pond area located at the intersection of Harbor Boulevard and Brea Boulevard.

The project area is part of the City’s storm drain system and therefore the work will include renovation of the drainage facilities to reestablish a naturalized creek by modifying the existing concrete waterway and stabilizing the area. Other improvements will include new drought-tolerant landscape and irrigation, seating areas, walkways, lighting and widening the sidewalk along Brea Boulevard. New fencing will be installed adjacent to the Brea Boulevard sidewalk, matching the previously installed fencing along Harbor Boulevard. A new decorative metal guardrail, with a pattern intended to mimic the look of tree branches, will also be installed on the existing historic bridge that crosses the creek.

City staff communicated with Three Peaks Corp regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic and the contractor stated they had adequate staff, equipment, and materials to begin the project. Unless additional health orders are issued that limit construction, the City anticipates construction will begin in late May and conclude by September.
Mayor Hosts Virtual Town Hall

Continued from front page

Nonetheless, during the virtual town hall she described the new rule as a “belt and suspenders” approach intended to ensure the highest degree of safety during the pandemic. She also claimed that many in town were divided on the necessity of the requirement. Some of the public questions she addressed later in the presentation concerned the new rule, including inquiries about how it will be enforced. She noted that the City’s municipal code allows for enforcement if necessary, but declined to elaborate. The Fullerton Police Department indicated in a separate message to the Observer that they would respond to calls for service, but that their goal at this time was to “educate the public and spread awareness of the Coronavirus.”

Another community update items included promoting the City’s COVID-19 email newsletter, the City’s collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to deliver meals to local seniors, grocery distribution through Second Harvest, and the City’s Senior Buddies program.

Members of the public had been invited to submit questions via the City’s Instagram account and through email prior to the meeting. The Mayor responded to over twenty of them, sometimes several at once if the subjects were similar enough to one another. Many of the questions were related to the current COVID-19 emergency, although a few addressed long-standing problems such as the lack of infrastructure repair.

A question about how much authority the City had over which businesses would be allowed open was followed by a statement that the City must follow the guidelines of Orange County’s Health Care Agency (OCHA) to ensure that proper social distancing, hygiene, and general safety requirements would be followed. She said she was closely watching the actions of the County’s Board of Supervisors and a new Economic Recovery Task Force, recently formed to plan for an eventual reopening of the County economy.

Responding to a question about when local restaurants might be able to open and what their occupancy rules would be, Mayor Fitzgerald said she supported both social distancing and safety measures for everyone in the community.

The mayor expressed her concern for the City’s business owners and employees and addressed a resolution that the City Council would continue for the next phase of restoring the Fox Theatre on Harbor Blvd. With safety precautions of wearing face masks and social distancing being observed, the group met and discussed such issues as the projected scope of work, the schedule/timeline, as well as most-haves, and would-like-to-haves so as how to best use the $2.5M State grant that the Fox received, as well as some historic tax credits. The goal is to get the Fox open and operational in 2021. Currently, construction is scheduled to begin this August. This next phase will include infrastructure, safety improvements, mechanical repairs, new bathrooms, as well as some upgrades to the lobby and hopefully on the auditorium’s beautiful murals. The Fox Theatre was built and opened in 1925 and has been closed since 1987. It is a landmark that is near and dear to many Fullertowners.

Fox Restoration Progresses

Architects from the DLR Group met with select board members of the Fullerton Historic Theatre Foundation on February 6 to discuss their plans for the next phase of restoring the Fox Theater on Harbor Blvd. With safety precautions of wearing face masks and social distancing being observed, the group met and discussed such issues as the projected scope of work, the schedule/timeline, as well as most-haves, and would-like-to-haves so as how to best use the $2.5M State grant that the Fox received, as well as some historic tax credits. The goal is to get the Fox open and operational in 2021. Currently, construction is scheduled to begin this August. This next phase will include infrastructure, safety improvements, mechanical repairs, new bathrooms, as well as some upgrades to the lobby and hopefully on the auditorium’s beautiful murals. The Fox Theatre was built and opened in 1925 and has been closed since 1987. It is a landmark that is near and dear to many Fullertowners.

Mayor Jennifer Fitzgerald

have responded to such calls in parks and at private residences.

Returning to the subject of the new face-covering requirements, when asked what factors the council considered when adopting the new rule, she referred to the recording of the council meeting wherein the decision was made.

One resident asked whether or not the issue might return in a future meeting, while another asked why the council had not implemented a city-wide requirement for the wearing of face coverings while outside, as other cities and counties had done. Another resident asked why the more than fifty comments submitted to the council prior to the April 21 meeting had not each been read by the city clerk during the virtual meeting, rather than the mayor herself simply asking at the time for a quick count of how many supported or opposed the idea. She replied that the governor’s emergency orders allowed exemptions from having to follow California’s Brown Act, thereby offering a legal mechanism for her decision, but not explaining why she chose not to have the council or the public hear the content of the comment submissions as many people took time to prepare for the meeting.

Mayor Fitzgerald referred to OCHA’s efforts to roll out a COVID-19 testing plan in the near future. Asked why Fullerton’s infection rate has steadily increased, she speculated that it might be related to the large population of vulnerable people in the city, referring to homeless people and those in nursing homes. The HCA will not reveal where infections occur locally. She said that the City Council would continue to elaborate. The Fullerton Police Department and non-profits will respond to calls in parks and at private residences.

The mayor suggested that the full council or the public hear the content of many of the comments that so many people have responded to such calls in parks and at private residences.

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Rent crisis rules.

Mayor Fitzgerald closed the approximately hour-long meeting by saying that she was “really proud of our community. We have really come together.” A recording can be found on the City’s website.
Better Together

A hot news tip came in from one of our readers so it needed to be checked out right away. OK, so it was just an excuse to get out of the Stay-at-Home house and drive around a bit. Windows up. News is essential. This banner was near the trail-head of our majestic Fullerton Loop MTB & Hiking Trail, which of course is behind the courthouse, right there where almost none of the hikers on the trail were wearing a face covering. (Note: To make deadline, most of this was written before the City Council ruling, and much has changed.) Checking into the website: www.goldenhillstogether.com led to a list of free resources for all of us as we get through these trying times. It’s always good to know that many who care about your well-being are out there and ready to help if necessary. If you need any resources, just head over to their website and hopefully you will be directed to where you need to go.

Better Apart

In the opposite direction, we find numerous stragglers who just don’t seem to feel the urgency when it comes to the constant bombardment of messages to stay at least 6’ apart and wear a mask when venturing out, if leaving home at all. Stay-at-Home may prove to be the best medicine—the jury is still out as of this writing. An unofficial tally over in and around downtown reveals that far less than 50% of us are heeding the recommendations. My welcome to stay, just don’t get too upset about it. At least someone would get a laugh out of the sight. Headed back the next day to see if it was still there and hey, what timing, there was a guy standing in front of it with a camera, the mask in hand. Oh well, nobody would expect it to last. When I circled around to head home, I saw that he had actually retied it more securely on the sculpture. Wonder what that was all about…

Wildlife Takes Over

No doubt you have heard about the proliferation of wildlife in cities all over the world. Animals of all sorts are now seen walking down the streets and in places like Yosemite, animals have come out of hiding to reclaim the areas their ancestors ruled decades ago. In Fullerton, at least in my part of our town, possums, lizards, and now, skunks, are out in the open and boldly going where few have gone before. Egads, it is 2pm and I just saw a mother possum with babies on her back walking in my back yard. So the nocturnal creatures are digging the sunshine as well as the lack of humans? A mud black phoebe bird’s nest is coming together on my garage and a finch nest is nearly complete right outside my kitchen window. Coyotes have been spotted in our downtown in the past, has anyone seen them there lately?

Two weeks ago, the city of Los Angeles registered the cleanest air on Earth. Unfortunately for my neighborhood, this week registered the foulest smelling air in some time. This disturbed skunk let loose and very soon neighbors all around got a whiff. Since it happened on 4/20 some thought it might be a celebration instead, but no. Fortunately, a few days later, the cloud had dissipated, although no doubt these creatures remain hidden at least for now. They are welcome to stay, just don’t get too upset with us humans.
Members of the public were able to submit e-mails and calls we’ve received, I would say the majority of Fullertowners want to implement this,” Councilmember Silva said, who also said he had seen people shopping without wearing masks.

“I would say 8 out of 10 people in the grocery stores these days are wearing masks but there’s always that 2 out of 10 that are not and they seem to take great pride in that,” Mayor Pro Tem Flory said.

“And that’s okay if they’re in their backyard but when they’re in a grocery store and the pharmacy and they’re bumping up against clerks who have to be there, then I say we should err on the side of caution.

Mayor Jennifer Fitzgerald, who voted against the order, said “I’m not going to mandate what businesses insist their patrons do. I believe consumers can make those choices on their own. I know when I go out to a grocery store or to deliver groceries for someone else, I wear a mask. I should assume that I’m asymptomatic...but I think that we all need to have that personal responsibility to make those decisions.”

Councilmember Bruce Whitaker also voted against the order.

“In our free market system, as consumers we can always vote with our feet,” Whitaker said. “I think we could support charitable efforts to provide more masks or protective equipment for those smaller businesses who are less able to afford some of those costs, and to try to provide a helping hand rather than that stick [of a mandate].”

Councilmember Zahra replied that he was recently able to secure 2,000 masks, a donation from a California manufacturer, that will go to businesses that can’t afford to provide masks for their employees.

“If we do not protect grocery checkers, for example, from people who come in who may be asymptomatic, who are breathing all over them, who are handling all the fruits and vegetables and cans, we’re not the ones who are going to bear the brunt of that decision. It is going to be some minimum wage grocery store clerk that’s going to bear the brunt of it, and I’m not willing to take the brunt of it, and I’m not willing to take that chance,” Mayor Pro Tem Flory said.

All residents of the City are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings whenever leaving their homes and to continue to frequently wash their hands, practice social distancing, and stay at home as much as possible, especially if sick.

ACROSS
1. Old Testament twin
5. Los Angeles Dodger Guerrero
10. “If all ___ fails…”
14. The Schools (in Claremont)
15. Indian prince
16. Self-referential
17. Notion
18. 2003 Benjamin Bratt TV series
19. Elevator inventor
20. When you’re craving a sweet treat
23. Rage
24. Developers
25. Oldest board game from Egypt
27. “City Slickers” actor Kirby
30. When you’re craving a scary donut
33. Facts and figures
36. “___ Lama Ding Dong” (1961 hit)
38. ___ blind eye
39. Suffix with bull or bear
40. When you’re craving a falafel
42. Apple operating system
43. “She doesn’t have ___ in the world.”
45. Ergo
46. Wriggling
47. When you’re craving Asian food with a Western flair
49. Blacksmith’s block
51. LEGO, e.g.
53. Sides (with)
57. 401(k) alternative
59. When you’re craving bangers and mash
62. Detective’s assignment
64. But goodie?
65. Youth immigration policy, abbr.
66. Worked
67. Willow twig
68. A Pac-Man ghost
69. Farmer’s place, in song
70. Loamy deposit
71. Hail Mary, e.g.
72. 2005 Benjamin Bratt TV series
73. “The Mask” actress Cameron
74. “The Mask” actress Cameron
75. Sides (with)
76. “The Mask” actress Cameron
77. A Super Burger
40. When you’re craving a sweet treat
44. When you’re craving a sweet treat
46. Hummus belonging to QB Manning?
48. Raymond Elementary, e.g.
49. Blacksmith’s block
50. Land in la mer
52. “That 70’s Show” character
53. Sides (with)
54. Accra’s land
55. When you’re craving
56. When you’re craving
57. 401(k) alternative
58. All-night party
59. Decorated, as a cake
60. “Garfield” dog
61. Fibs
62. Detectives assignment
63. Suffix with bull or bear
64. But goodie?
65. Youth immigration policy, abbr.
66. Worked
67. Willow twig
68. A Pac-Man ghost
69. Farmer’s place, in song
70. Loamy deposit
71. Hail Mary, e.g.

DOWN
1. Computer cleaner?
2. Four-door vehicle
3. Looks out for, maybe
4. When you’re craving an acai bowl
5. Queen hit “Under ___”
6. Online curve?
7. Commonly followed stock market index
8. Classifies
9. Common utterance from Morty of “Rick & Morty”
10. Punk–angst music
11. When you’re craving goza
12. Cookbook direction
13. “___ on Down the Road” (song from “The Wiz”)
21. “___ dam tootin’!”
22. Brats
26. Down Under bird
28. Political cartoonist Thomas
29. Warren Buffett’s hometown
31. Carbon compound
32. “Piece of cake!”
33. “The Mask” actress Cameron
34. Fungal spore sacs
35. When you’re craving satay with peanut sauce
37. Prayer’s end
40. On the up and up
41. Space ___ (arcade game)
42. Apple operating system
43. “She doesn’t have ___ in the world.”
45. Ergo
46. Wriggling
47. When you’re craving Asian food with a Western flair
49. Blacksmith’s block
51. LEGO, e.g.
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THE FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT HONORS OUR AMAZING TEACHERS

WEEK OF THE TEACHER
MAY 4-8, 2020

The Fullerton School District invites you to join us in honoring and celebrating all the incredible, dedicated teachers who serve the students in our District. We sincerely thank them for their adaptability, creativity, and tireless efforts to meet the needs of our students, especially during this unprecedented time.
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Newsom’s recent emergency act rescinding portions of the Brown Act, which determines local legislative public access procedures, the FJUHSD Board held their April 7 meeting by telephonic methods, which allowed persons who wished to attend the meeting to listen to the Board conduct public business. Board President Andy Montoya conducted the meeting and read all public comments.

Superintendent Dr. Scott Scambray chose not to share any timely information about the transition to distance learning for all of the 13,650 students and their families. He has published a letter on the FJUHSD website under COVID-19 Information.

The CSEA, the classified employees union, submitted a comment on behalf of their members that politely reminded the trustees of the vital services they are still performing services that had not been provided for the employees of their members. CSEA stated a deep and profound concern with the trustees of the vital services they are performing throughout the district preparing and dispensing food to families daily, transporting necessary resources to the campus sites, thoroughly deep sanitizing all school facilities, and the vital care provided by the aides for students with special needs. CSEA stated a deep and profound concern with the school district that after three weeks, there had been little training, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) had not been provided for the employees who are still performing services that bring them into human contact daily. They asked that the Trustees inform the administration to support the care and providing of these FJUHSD essential employees and provide the necessary protective gear and training to protect both the workers and their families.

The Fullerton Council PTA sent a comment that praised FJUHSD teachers for supporting and helping their students during this unusual situation. The PTA looks forward to seeing everyone in person in August.

The Trustees spent their final statements praising the administration for their leadership and efforts to shift to online learning for the students. The next FJUHSD meeting is scheduled for May 12 at 6pm. If you wish to attend, follow the instructions provided on the FJUHSD website at www.fjuhsd.org.

Until further notice, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District is closed at all locations until May 28. Free breakfast and lunch packs are available to all students under 18 years of age at all school locations from 11:30am-1:30pm M-F. All students are expected to continue their academic education by participating in online distance learning. The FJUHSD is currently working on alternative methods to celebrate the graduation of the 2020 senior class. More information can be found on their website.

We all cope in different ways, and right now is the time for compassion and patience.

We are all adjusting to our new lifestyle—mainly staying at home. For parents of school-age children, including our returning college-age kids, this intensive form of homeschooling is teaching life skills most often overall. With today’s hyper-intense schedules, many junior high and high schools have dropped the life skill classes and parents rarely have time to fit this in. Parents, you have the time right now. Teach your kids about how to make a workable budget. Start by giving them a pretend income of $2,080 a month (40 hours x $ 41.3 minimum wage a week). Use monopoly money or a sheet of paper and let them figure it out for themselves. Remember to include rent, utilities, car/transportation (don’t forget insurance and repair), medical, food, education, and some entertainment or clothing allowance. Don’t forget to add how to open a checking account, how to write a check (rent is usually still paid this way), and include how to cash a check. Talk about credit cards and interest payments. Another question many teenagers are concerned about is paying taxes. Show them how to fill out a basic tax form. Explain what a W-2 form is and how to fill it out. Then show them the 1040 tax form most young adults will fill out at the end of the year. It is an easy Google search.

Cooking is another very important life skill allowing you to practice math and science. Make dishes with ingredients you have on hand and show your kids how to read recipes. If you would also like to brush up on your cooking skills, multiple websites are available to show you videos of food preparation for easy and tasty dishes. Try Epicurious, Everyday Food, Serious Eats, and Cookie and Kate to get started. Don’t forget the wonder of cleaning up either, everyone in the house can cross-training in all duties: laundry, cooking, vacuuming, and cleaning the bathroom. There are plenty of skills and tasks to gain mastery over.

Fill out the 2020 Census together—that the Census determines how much federal money the state will receive for the next 10 years for infrastructure, education, and multi-ple grants as well as it determines our congressional and state legislative representation. This is a great civics lesson. The deadline has been extended into August and if you don’t want a census person knocking at your door, then fill it out.

Form a family book club, and if you have smaller children, read a book, a graphic novel, or a magazine together. Do not just consider the academic reading unless your child requests that of you. Many books are available for downloading on-line, and audio books on YouTube. Let everyone share their reactions to the reading and ask questions if they wish. Your teenager may not appreciate your point of view right now, but sharing different perceptions and bringing different life experiences to the discussion can add to our parent/child relationship.

The important thing during this time is to keep in contact with your family, allow everyone to share and ask questions. Remember, it is okay if parents don’t have the answers right away; we are all dealing with this for the first time ever. We are all learning together. We all cope in different ways, and right now is the time for compassion and patience. Some of these life skills your child may already be aware of and able to do, but ask, engage with them and make sure they are better prepared to launch into the new world as we come out the other side of this experience.
The Fullerton Police Department
In the Time of Coronavirus

Continued from front page

To prevent the possibility of the force being overwhelmed by illness, at the onset Chief Dunn divided patrol officers into three groups—one group to work from home and serve as backup, if needed. The remainder were divided into two teams, a day shift and a night shift with no overlapping middle shift. Members of those teams are not allowed to interact in person, thus preventing any cross-contamination, so that if one person gets sick in patrol it doesn’t take out all of patrol. Another protection is having officers sanitize their vehicles at the beginning of a shift in lieu of the daily vehicle sanitation briefing. In addition, the department has recently received two infrared thermometers so they can check officers’ temperatures before they go to patrol. And whenever in public they wear personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and N95 masks.

The department has identified additional backup forces to be called upon should a team be taken out by COVID-19. The Fullerton Detective and School Resource Officers who have been working from home, as well as the Gang Unit and Directed Enforcement Team. Finally, the Orange County Sheriff has offered assistance should the department suffer an outbreak.

Regarding crime in Fullerton, the Chief reports that there has been a 26% reduction in “part 1 crimes,” that is, robberies, homicides and other serious felonies. At this time last year there had been 53 violent crimes reported and this year there has been a 75%.

Three downtown eateries were recently robbed: Rialto Cafe, Les Amis, and Burger Parlor.

There has been a slight increase in property crimes, including motor vehicle theft, theft from vehicles, and both commercial and residential burglaries. Unfortunately, three of our downtown eateries were recently hit—Rialto, Les Amis, and Burger Parlor, probably by the same person. Police detectives have leads in these cases, but that does not provide relief to the business owners. In fact, due to the theft of its cash register, computer, and POS system, Rialto can no longer offer takeout and had to shut down completely. Another business has been victimized twice. While these kinds of burglaries follow a trend observed in other cities, the increase in residential burglaries seems surprising since more folks are staying at home.

Other vulnerable sites are City facilities that have been shut down and are unattended. These, as well as other areas where there are “increases in criminal activity,” are patrolled by the members of the FPD Special Weapons and Tactics Team.

While there have been reports of speeding on Orange County freeways, Chief Dunn says there has been no increase in complaints about speeding on Fullerton streets. Also, he reports that in recent accidents, investigators have indicated that speed was not a factor in any of them. That includes the accident on April 21 in which a bicyclist died after a collision with a vehicle on Orangethorpe, although that investigation is not yet complete.

Domestic violence calls have increased slightly and the Fullerton Police Department response to those calls remains the same, with officers’ response and investigation being done in person (while other crimes such as misdemeanors and property crimes are being handled by phone). The department will “take appropriate enforcement action as necessary” and can get a victim into a shelter, if needed. In the event that the abuser is in the same room and the victim feels that they would be endangered by calling police, they can use “Text to 911.” This can be initiated by any other text message by typing “911” into the recipient field.

A new rule requiring workers at grocery and drug stores, gas stations and other essential businesses in Orange County to wear a mask or face covering when interacting with the public, went into effect Friday, April 24. The city of Fullerton enhanced the County’s mandate by requiring face coverings be worn by customers of those essential businesses. This also went into effect on April 24. The purpose of the City’s order is to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus. If you enter a business and see patrons without masks, contact City of Fullerton Code Enforcement, (714) 773-5704.

Health officials have emphasized that the general public should not buy medical-grade masks, including N95s, which should be reserved for medical workers. Instead, a paper mask or cloth bandana will do, so long as the mouth and nose are completely covered. Face covering should be used whenever a person is outside their home. Wearing a mask does not eliminate the need for social distancing and washing your hands thoroughly.

The City’s regulation stems from the understanding that transmission of coronavirus occurs mostly through droplets from an infected individual, which fabrics can easily filter. Covering the nose and mouth does reduce somewhat the risk that a well person can breathe those droplets in, although their eyes are not protected. But the primary reason to wear a face covering is that it protects others around someone who may have contracted COVID-19 but does not show any symptoms and does not yet realize they have the illness. Face coverings are worn to protect others. While an Administrative Citation could be issued for violation of the City’s new order, the Fullerton Police Department approach is for officers to respond with “the goal of educating and getting an understanding.”

School Nurse Appreciation Day
May 6, 2020

The Fullerton School District invites you to join us in honoring and celebrating all the incredible, dedicated nurses who serve the students in our District. We sincerely thank them for their guidance and support, especially during this unprecedented time.

We Our Nurses
The current coronavirus catastrophe has necessitated government aid on a massive scale. The CARES Act was the largest economic relief package in American history at over $2 trillion.

But this was not the first time the United States government intervened on a massive scale to help keep America afloat in the wake of disaster.

During the Great Depression, president Franklin D. Roosevelt rolled out a series of large-scale relief efforts and began to weave the fabric of a social safety net, some of which still exists today, such as Social Security and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

Roosevelt called it the New Deal. At the time, unemployment had reached 25 percent—the highest in US history so far. Federal programs like the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were created to give people jobs, and simultaneously build up the country's infrastructure—new roads, dams, parks, public buildings and more were built.

The WPA alone gave over 8 million unemployed Americans jobs in its 8-year existence.

These government programs were not just for laborers. Artists, writers, actors, and musicians were also employed by the WPA to give folks not just jobs, but also hope and beauty in difficult times.

Today, nearly a century later, Roosevelt’s New Deal is primarily remembered in history textbooks and in the stories of its recipients, many of which still exist today and exist right where we live.

As if the Great Depression wasn’t bad enough to endure. Orange Countyians also faced three major natural disasters during the 1930s.

First came the devastating Long Beach Earthquake of 1933, which caused over $50 million in damage and killed 120 people throughout the region.

“In some cities every brick building was completely destroyed—city halls, libraries, police stations, post offices, etc,” Epting writes. Then came the 1937 Santa Ana Flood, followed by the 1938 Los Angeles Flood, causing millions more in damage and killing 113 people.

During this flood, “the Santa Ana River swelled to half the flow of the Mississippi River, to 317 cubic feet per second, and cities like Anaheim and Santa Ana were flooded with six feet of water.”

These floods not only destroyed buildings, they also destroyed acres of crops, which were the economic backbone of the region.

The following year, 1939, another disaster struck—a tropical storm (the only one of its kind to hit OC in the 20th century), which destroyed several piers and coastal buildings.

The 1930s were pretty rough. Because of these disasters, nearly every single community in Orange County was profoundly impacted by the New Deal,” Epting writes. “Dozens of city halls, post offices, parks, libraries, and fire stations were built; roadways were improved, and thousands were given jobs.”

How the New Deal benefitted Fullerton

“With a population of just over 10,000 in 1930, Fullerton was one of the largest cities in Orange County at the time of the Great Depression. Relief projects were numerous. It is probable that Fullerton received more aid than any other Orange County city,” Epting writes. “What is also unique about Fullerton is that nearly all of its New Deal buildings are still standing and preserved as local landmarks.”

“Maple School” (244 E Valencia Dr): This school was retrofitted and expanded following the 1933 earthquake. It was partially funded by the Public Works Administration (PWA). It’s an example of Art Deco architecture. Plans were drawn by architect Everett E. Parks.

Wishire Junior High School (315 E Wildshire Ave) Originally constructed in 1921, it was reconstructed and expanded during the 1930s with PWA funds. The style is Deco/Greco. Now it’s the School of Continuing Education.

“Pastoral California” mural on Plummer Auditorium (201 E Chapman Ave): Giant fresco painted by Charles Kassler under the Public Works of Art Project in 1934. Spanning 75 feet by 15 feet, the mural is unmatched in size and scope. One of the two largest frescoes commissioned during the New Deal.

Fullerton College (321 E Chapman Ave): In 1935, Fullerton architect Harry K. Vaughn teamed up with landscape architect Ralph D. Cornell to create a general plan for the new campus, to be partially funded by the WPA and the PWA. The first building was the Commerce Building, next was the Administration and Social Sciences building, then the Technical Trades building.

Fullerton Museum Center (301 N Pomona Ave): Fullerton’s first public library was an Andrew Carnegie-funded library built in 1907. Years of wear (and the 1933 earthquake) necessitated a re-building. In 1941, the Carnegie Library was demolished, and a new library was re-built by WPA workers. The building was dedicated in 1942. A new library (on Commonwealth) was built in 1973, and the Fullerton Museum Center has occupied the building since 1974.

Post Office (202 E Commonwealth Ave): The first federally-owned building in Fullerton, it was built in 1939 and funded by the Department of the Treasury, and built by crews of local workers. This post office also contains the mural “Orange Awaits” by Paul Julian, funded by the Treasury Department Section of Fine Arts. Paul Julian went on to have a very successful career at the Warner Bros. studios animating Looney Tunes shorts.

Police Station/Former City Hall (237 W Commonwealth Ave): The impressive Spanish Colonial Revival building is now home to Fullerton’s police department. Designed by architect George Stanley Wilson, the building was completed in 1942. One of the most distinctive features of the building is its extensive tile work.

“The History of Southern California” Mural in the Police Station: A three-part mural for which the WPA’s Federal Art Project commissioned artist Helen Lundeberg to paint in 1941. The mural depicts everything from the landing of Juan Rodrigues Cabrillo in San Diego in 1542 to the birth of the aircraft and movie industries in Los Angeles in roughly chronological order.

Hilcrest Park (1200 N Harbor Blvd): The amount of work done in Hilcrest Park during the New Deal was staggering, with projects being funded and constructed by the CWA, WPA, RFC, and SERA. Much of Hilcrest Park’s landscaping was done during this era, like the exception of the “Big Bowl.” Perhaps the most iconic feature of Hilcrest Park is the Depression-era stonework that runs throughout the Park. Today, Hilcrest Park represents the finest example of a WPA-era park in Orange County and has enjoyed federal recognition since 2004, so the structures are safe.

Amerige Park (300 W Commonwealth Ave): A wooden grandstand and stone pilasters were built at the baseball field in 1934. The grandstand was destroyed by a fire in the 1980s, but the flagstone pilasters remain.
In response to the increased number of hate crimes against Asian-American Pacific Islanders (AAPI), Congressman Gil Cisneros of California Congressional District 39 hosted a virtual town hall on April 27. He began by condemning racist language and actions against the AAPI community. He introduced Congressman Judy Chu from California Congressional District 27 in San Gabriel Valley, who chairs the congressional AAPI Working Group, as he is a member.

Chu said AAPI are facing more than a public health risk, they’re dealing with bigotry. She cited President Trump’s rhetoric in which he referred to COVID-19 as the “Chinese” or “Wuhan Virus” as a means to deflect from his reaction by his administration in the early days of the pandemic.

Trump continued to misname the virus and disseminated W.H.O. warnings that associating the virus with an ethnicity would create a stigma and perpetuate a false belief that people with Asian ancestry were more likely to have the disease. Chu said the anti-Asian actions started with dirty looks and culminated in physical violence around the country. Over 1600 anti-Asian crimes have been reported, and she is now concerned about what might happen when Stay-at-Home orders are lifted.

The “No Hate Act” (HR 3545) introduced by Congresperson Beyer (VA) to create incentives for hate crime count reporting and HR 6577 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to fund a national awareness campaign “to increase factual awareness and knowledge of COVID-19,” including “countering propaganda related to viral originations,” as stated in the resolution.

Organizations working to defend the rights of AAPI, provide support and build networks have been participating in the call. Stewart Kwoh, Founder of Asian Americans Advancing Justice LA said he expects incidents to continue because there have been so many deaths due to the virus and the president is “at war with China.” His organization has participated in a PBS special “Asian American” that will air May 11 and 12.

Manju Kulkarni, Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council said their “Stop AAPI Hate” website began on March 19, and since then over 1500 hate incidents have been reported from 45 states with 44% of reported incidents occurring in California. She said two-thirds reported verbal harassment, 10% were civil rights complaints such as workplace discrimination or refusal of service, and another 10% were for physical assault. She also reported that 44% of incidents occurred in a place in business and 9% of incidents were aimed at elderly Asians.

Alison Edwards from the OC Human Relations Commission said their organization has been reporting hate crimes since 1991. They collect reports from law enforcement, non-profits, and direct reports from victims. They also connect people affected to resources. She explained that hate crimes are criminal acts motivated by hate, which can have sentencing enhancements applied by the courts. Hate-motivated acts that are lawful, such as protected free speech, are also tracked.

Denise Crawford, President of the OC Asian-American Bar Association said that language barriers can complicate isolation. Their organization offers attorneys and other resources.

Two local victims of hate incidents since the COVID-19 pandemic described their stories. One, a woman named Yuka from Brea, said twice while shopping she encountered verbal assault from other customers who feared she was going to expose them to the virus. A young man named Christopher who rides the LA Metro to work said he encountered profane language and racial epithets, accusing him of spreading the virus, when he coughed and was wearing a mask over his mouth and nose.

Cisneros encouraged all people to “callout” this kind of behavior and show solidarity with AAPI community members.

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**United to End Homelessness**

**Virtual Town Hall**

by Harry Langenbacher

There are 7000 people experiencing homelessness in Orange County with about 2900 in shelters and 4000 unsheltered. On Thursday, April 30, OC United Way presented a webinar that was live-streamed on Facebook, which sought to explain how Orange County is dealing with homelessness during the COVID-19 crisis.

Lilly Simmering, Assistant Director at OC Health Care Agency, said that the most prevalent response from the County has been Project Roomkey, funded with $150 million from Sacramento and FEMA for noncongregate shelter living, aimed at providing housing for the homeless in homeless rooms. As of April 30, the County had 545 hotel rooms available, with two hotels for those who are sick/symptomatic or recovering from COVID-19, and three hotels open to “at risk” people, those 65 years or older, or those with underlying medical conditions.

Additionally, the County opened the Joplin Shelter which has a maximum capacity of 100 beds. Currently there are 44 sick/symptomatic and 112 vulnerable people housed in the Joplin Shelter. Project Roomkey accommodations are accessible only through referral by shelter providers, hospitals, law enforcement, and outreach teams such as Illumination Foundation and Mercy House.

By sight is careless because you don’t know if they have underlying conditions or not, so writing them off in that way is inappropriate. With Project Roomkey we have a model of how we can move forward to make the physical health of the homeless better, so we can be more innovative. We have been so focused on the mental health, we are seeing more than ever that physical and mental health considerations are both required.”

Price added, “We have learned that housing is the better approach than shelter. If you have 4 walls and a roof, you’re better off and we’ve learned this over and over during this episode. We are proud of our homeless prevention program, piloted by United Way, and funded by the pandemic relief fund. We have helped 800 households with direct financial assistance, $500 per household.”

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**Increase in Anti-Asian Hate Incidents and Hate Crimes**

by Jane Rand

In response to the increased number of hate crimes against Asian-American Pacific Islanders (AAPI), Congressman Gil Cisneros of California Congressional District 39 hosted a virtual town hall on April 27. He began by condemning racist language and actions against the AAPI community. He introduced Congressman Judy Chu from California Congressional District 27 in San Gabriel Valley, who chairs the congressional AAPI Working Group, as he is a member.

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**Project Roomkey aims to provide housing for the homeless in hotel rooms during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Dawn Price, CEO of Friendship Shelter and member of the OC Continuum of Care Board, discussed the two Friendship Shelters in Laguna Beach. One is a single room where everyone is on a mat on the floor. The other shelter is a dormitory with 3-4 people per room. “We are trying to keep people ‘at home’ in these shelters,” Price said. “We have increased hand washing and cleaning of surfaces. Staff and guests are wearing masks. The big challenge is social distancing within congregate shelters, so we are trying to decrease the number of those staying in shelters.”

She said they have changed the way they provide food services from handing out plates to handing out platters, in order to limit contact.

“Coping with mental health is challenging,” Price said. “Chronic health conditions are becoming more difficult to manage. Two folks in our shelter had symptoms of COVID-19. We called Illumination Foundation who took them to one of the hotels. They tested negative and were transported back to the shelter. They said they were never able to get their cleaning supplies, sanitizer, and meal volunteers.

Whitney Ayers, Regional VP of the Hospitality Alliance California, said that OC is at only about 60% occupancy in hospitals; however, of interest is the increase in new homeless people who are sick and accessing hospitals. One in three homeless people coming into the hospital have some kind of mental illness such as alcohol-related use disorders, schizophrenia, or other psychotic disorders. 90% of them have chronic disorders that need appropriate management. There is a 20% decrease of homeless coming into the hospitals overall; however, of the 80% that still are coming in, many more than usual are needing to be hospitalized for longer terms. Major factors are psychosis, delusions, heart failure, and septicemia. Hospitals are not designed to provide a therapeutic recovery environment, which is what this population requires.

“We have been reliant on county, state, and national stockpiles which has been problematic for us,” Ayers said. “We need shoring up of local stockpiles. Regarding adequacy of testing environments – we waited on federal guidelines to know who to test – but locally we’re trying to do better. We can reopen the economy when we have more tests. There has also been a shortage of swabs and other things.”

When asked about what the County has learned from this experience, Simmering said, “Now we know we need to be better prepared moving forward. To make assumptions of people by sight is counterproductive because you don’t know if they have underlying conditions or not, so writing them off in that way is inappropriate. With Project Roomkey we have a model of how we can move forward to make the physical health of the homeless better, so we can be more innovative. We have been so focused on the mental health, we are seeing more than ever that physical and mental health considerations are both required.”

Price added, “We have learned that housing is the better approach than shelter. If you have 4 walls and a roof, you’re better off and we’ve learned this over and over during this episode. We are proud of our homeless prevention program, piloted by United Way, and funded by the pandemic relief fund. We have helped 800 households with direct financial assistance, $500 per household.”

To learn more visit www.unitedwayoc.org
Admiring Neighborhood Flowers in Fullerton

The normal car-filled neighborhood streets of Fullerton are practically empty, except for the occasional delivery truck or postal service vehicle. This means that everyone is doing their part to stop the spread of coronavirus by staying inside their homes. However, I still see people walking, some with cloth face masks to cover their faces. They stroll through the neighborhoods with dogs and kids, getting out of the house.

One silver lining to this crisis is the fact that people’s lives are slowing down. They’re taking the time to get reacquainted with their neighborhoods. Spring is also in full bloom, bringing with it rain and blossoms, as if to remind residents that the cycle of life is still going on. Beautiful has disbanded, it doesn’t mean that we should stop admiring the flowers of other people’s yards. You can see what’s growing in someone’s flower garden from a safe distance on the public sidewalk without trespassing on their property, you can create your own garden tour, sort of.

Walking through my neighborhood, I’ve seen quite a few houses with drought resistant plants. Drought-resistant plants are tolerant of low-water conditions. However, there are a few important features to keep in mind when choosing a plant for drought-tolerance, whether it’s a shrub, a ground cover, or a perennial. First, think about soil type. According to David Beaulieu’s article on the Spruce website, “something that qualifies as a drought-resistant plant in a wonderfully loamy soil may struggle during a dry spell if it’s growing in sandy soil (through which water pour quickly as if running through a sieve).” Next, consider competition for resources. For example, when you plant under a tree, the available resources become scarce since the tree blocks out sunlight and rainfall, and takes a lot of the water for itself. Also, be sure to pay to fullerton on sunshine requirements or tolerance when planting. I’m assuming that when you think of drought-resistant plants, you generally think of full-sun plants. However, not all sun-loving plants endure excessive dryness (there are varying degrees of how much the plant can actually tolerate).

Some neighbors around Fullerton are even giving away plants. For instance, my mom recently picked up a succulent next to a sign that read, “Free” and planted it in her garden. Walking around, it appears that gardeners are still working, while other homeowners are taking the time to care for their own yards, which means that the landscaping around some neighborhoods of Fullerton looks absolutely beautiful. It is spring here, annuals have arrived. I’ve spotted many marigolds, pansies, and petunias outside. In case you’re unfamiliar, marigolds are flowers that fill the flower beds with hot colors such as orange and yellow, while pansies come in both warm and cool colors such as red, pink, orange, yellow, blue, purple, and white. Petunias grow well in flower beds and containers with red, pink, yellow, purple, and white trumpet-shaped blossoms. All of these annuals typically begin blooming in the spring and last until they’re killed off by extreme hot or cold weather.

Interestingly enough, some of the earliest springtime flowers are bulbs, which are normally planted in autumn. During the pandemic, many people have taken the time to prepare for gardening and grow their own food. Consider the benefits of starting a small garden or growing your own vegetables at home. It can be a great way to get some exercise and fresh air while also reducing your carbon footprint.

One silver lining to this crisis is the fact that people’s lives are slowing down. Since most subdivisions around Fullerton don’t have a beautiful flower garden from a safe distance on

On Pandemics, Pork Chops and Chicken Nuggets

by Sarah Mosko

I’ve wasted too much time lately combing the news for an answer to a crucial question about pandemics like COVID-19: Are they inevitable? Newscasters and the scientists, doctors and politicians they interview rarely venture beyond daily counts of the stricken to explain why we have pandemics. I suspect it’s because the answer is harder to stomach than the horror of the pandemic itself.

Animals humans raise for food are typically the intermediary hosts of viruses between the wildlife in which they arise and humans. Consequently, pandemics are a price we pay for eating animals and otherwise using them.

Comedian & political commentator Bill Maher recently jumped to humans in China’s “wet markets” where live fish, poultry and mammals – including bats, raccoon dogs and civet cats – are slaughtered on site to satiate the palate of some Chinese for fresh and exotic meats. Maher was correct that Chinese wet markets might be culpable for a number of lethal human virus outbreaks, including SARS coronavirus in 2003 and H7N9 Avian flu in 2013. However, Maher overlooked the uncomfortable fact that Americans’ insatiable taste for animal meat was at the root of other killer virus outbreaks. The H1N1 swine flu of 2009 emerged from a pig confinement operation in North Carolina and was a mutated descendant of a swine flu virus that sprang from U.S. factory farms in 1998. And, even though Chinese chicken farms are credited with the deadly H5N1 bird flu outbreak of 1997 (which killed 60 percent of infected humans), just five years ago a similar bird flu broke out in U.S. farms, prompting the slaughter of tens of millions of birds. Infections of pigs and turkeys.

A pandemic from eaten lentils and broccoli seems highly unlikely.

A pandemic from eaten lentils and broccoli seems highly unlikely. Recall also that the 1918 Spanish flu that killed over 50 million people worldwide sprang from farms in Kansas, possibly via pigs or sheep, before transmitting around the world via WWI U.S. soldiers.

Would Maher be naming shame COVID-19 the “American virus” had it originated in U.S. factory farms which provide 99% of Americans’ meat, dairy and eggs? Factory farms are ideal breeding grounds for infectious diseases. (All of the criteria for the coronaviruses (and undoubtedly inhuman) conditions in which animals are kept. Hence, an overwhelming preponderance of medically important antimicrobial sold nationally are used in food-producing animals.

Is it shocking to suggest that factory farms are America’s cultural equivalent of the “wet markets” in China? We might ask ourselves why we would keep the decades-long erosion of the social safety net, including lack of guaranteed workers’ wages, and oppose providing evidence that plant viruses are causative agents of disease in humans. A pandemic from eating lentils and broccoli seems highly unlikely.

Humans readily accept the suffering animals endure to satiate our appetite for meat, and pandemics are just one of the vast costs to us. Others include cardio-vascular disease, diabetes, antibiotic resistance, global warming, rainforest destruction, and air and water pollution.

For those who believe that only meat can provide adequate protein to fuel our brains and bodies, consider that Socrates was vegetarian and Patrik Buhunian, dubbed “strongest man on earth,” is vegan. An athletic documentary available on Netflix, The Game Changers, is an eye-opening starter for doubters that a plant-based diet can sustain optimal health.

Historically, epidemics and pandemics have led to important advances in public health, like widespread understanding of the germ theory, improved sanitation, penicillin and vaccinations. What will Americans learn from COVID-19? Will we rethink the decades-long erosion of the social safety net, including lack of universal healthcare and opposition to guaranteeing workers a living wage? Both history and science tell us that unless we do something differently, the next pandemic is somewhere just around the corner. This is driven home by study findings just published in April of six new coronaviruses discovered in Myanmar.

My hope is that the global heartache and societal disruptions from COVID-19 will spur a conversation that reaches deeper than blaming pandemics on wet markets and factory farming, but rather confronts humanity with the very real connection between pandemics and eating animals.
Seven Out of Ten Students Feel Tired, Bored, and Lonely during Quarantine

It has been 42 days since we’ve stopped going to school. Since then, we have been staying home and attending school remotely through distance learning. So far, I have been working on my school assignments and doing pretty much the same things every day. I thought that this quarantine would be fun because there have been times when I wished we didn’t have to go to school everyday. But, as time passes, I start to find this new way of life tiring and boring. I wonder if I am the only one who feels this way. Of course, everyone misses their friends, but do they miss a lot more, like I do? In order to find out, I conducted a small survey among my friends to see how the quarantine is affecting us. A total of 10 kids and teenagers responded to the survey. Seven out of 10 respondents feel lonely. Out of the seven who feel lonely, 3 of them also feel bored. In fact, the majority of students said that at some point, they are tired of being around their family 24/7. The other 3 respondents feel content about their situation. I am relieved to know I am not alone in feeling tired, bored, and lonely. In order to solve this, social media is the most favored way of spending one’s free time. Besides that, almost everyone is taking on hobbies such as cooking and crafting. These activities cannot, however, fix the fact that we all miss being with our friends and seeing them in school everyday.

These activities cannot fix the fact that we all miss being with our friends and seeing them in school everyday.

extracurricular activities were cancelled. The time that I never really thought about became the factor taking up all my time—other than school and I like spending more time with family.

Parlor, or The Old Spaghetti Factory. With most countries under complete lockdown because of this pandemic, countless restaurants, theaters, and all fun places are temporarily closed. Most people are in quarantine, staying home, except for grocery shopping, and that includes me. My quarantine began around March 13, and since then I have mostly stayed home.

Although some people say that they are bored and have nothing to do, fortunately, many hobbies, I work on at home: I like knit, cook, water-color, do calligraphy, read, and spend time with my rabbit. Since the start of my quarantine, I have started many new hobbies, such as crocheting and playing badminton. I am glad that I get to learn new things, so they can keep me busy. Occasionally, I go out for jogs or hikes at a nearby recreational trail. It is nice being able to go out and see people, while still practicing social distancing.

Sometimes, I wish that this was all over, so that I could go back to my normal life and see my friends every day, but at the same time, I like not going to school and I like spending more time with family.

My life used to be so busy, and I rarely had any free time, but now that I don’t go to school, I have realized that school was the factor taking up all my time—going to school in the morning, doing homework all afternoon, and doing soccer in the evening kept me so busy all the time that I never really thought about what would happen if school and my extracurricular activities were cancelled. Stay safe and healthy!

What’s Trending?

by Irene, 8th grade

Dare to Explore!

From endless baking to crazy online shopping sprees, people from all around the world are entertaining themselves with a wide variety of fun activities. To kill time, a large population of people have challenged the adventurous, at-home hair-styling.

People have taken on daring neon dyes, out-of-the-world cuts, and unique styles to bring about dramatic change in this self-isolation period. The buzz cut was certainly a trendy choice for men, and for women, bangs were an absolute must. But what caused so many people to be part of this hair-style craze?

Part of it is justified by the fact that hair salons are inaccessible, and the other half, to ease the stress of quarantined. To some, it may show off as impulsive and reckless, but to others, it is a source of freedom and escape. While it is certainly not your everyday activity, this crazy-hair-do challenge may bring fabulous results. And sometimes, change is not so bad after all.

Sources:
• www.vox.com/story/covid-19-quarantine-hair-makeover
• www.dailyherald.com/article/2020/04/quadarine-hair-cutting-0416
• www.allure.com/story/story-2020/04/62109619/quarantine-hair-cut-dye-bleach-dy-dollar-how-to

Help Someone Keep Their Job, Support Our Local Restaurants

You can even use Uber Eats or Postmates for some restaurants to deliver to your house. Stay calm and keep on eating.

For more restaurants around OC, go to www.ocregister.com/2020/04/10/orange-county-restaurants-offering-pickup-and-delivery-amid-coronavirus

Help Someone Keep Their Job, Support Our Local Restaurants

Are you tired of eating at home every day? According to the city of Fullerton website, we can only go to gas stations, pharmacies, and other stores that are essential.

To help our local restaurants, we can order delivery or take-out from most of them such as Fuoco Pizzeria, Burger Parlor, or The Old Spaghetti Factory.
constantly have this eerie feeling in the pandemic. We all have to do our part during the reassurance that everything will be ok.

and a knot in my heart. I thought I was going to get corona and die. My 8-year-old sees the into the kitchen for coffee. My 3-year-old is also very aware of the pandemic as a medical provider and at the same time I am showing my young boys to always give back and help others in need.

What gives me solace at night when I can’t sleep? That I still have my health, that I beat COVID-19 one more day. My family is healthy. I have food to eat and a soft bed to sleep in. I dream of hugging my mom and having a month vacation when we can go (as if that’s really possible...yeah it’s my dream, right?)

I also think about my favorite Disney ride that makes me so much joy, or the smell of popcorn on Main Street and how awesome it would be to be first one in line when they reopen Disneyland, to have their churros and delicious candy apples.

And somewhere between my mental war with COVID-19 and thoughts of churros I fall asleep.

I have been very fortunate to have great neighbors, coworkers, family, and friends that are constantly checking in on me and filling me with positive words. The drive-by caravan this past Saturday afternoon at St. Jude is a perfect example of this. It was put together by Melanie Gutierrez, an N95 mask donor.

This act of kindness by the community was so special and uplifting that I felt reenergized and in this moment all of my fears and troubles were washed away by tears of joy. I’m so thankful to have the support and love of so many.

I must also add that Orange County residents have been doing a very good job of working together by staying home and flattening the curve. If I could ask all of my patients and the public for something I would say please wear your masks when leaving the house, wash your hands well, continue to stay home and practice social distancing until Governor Newsom and Dr. Fauci state otherwise.

We are here for each other and are stronger together for it.

From Angela Salazar, Medical Assistant at St. Jude Urgent Care

I live in La Habra, am the mother of two young boys, and the wife of the head football coach of Fullerton High School. In October, I made the transition from working at a specialty practice as a medical assistant into Urgent Care. I have decided to go back to school for nursing at Rio Hondo and Urgent Care took me in as part of their family so that I am able to work and provide for my family while at the same time going to school to further my career in the medical field. At this time in my current career I have been presented a few opportunities to pursue something I am passionate about. I decided to apply at Urgent Care and at the same time this is the reason why I am continuing my career in nursing, to serve and help others in need regardless of the situation. It is pretty wild that a pandemic is occurring as I am in nursing school but I am more driven than ever. I am blessed and honored to serve those that are in need at this time. I am proud to be a part of St. Jude Providence and serve and help others in need during this pandemic and at the same time I am showing my young boys to always give back and help others in need.

From Debbie Camacho RN, BSN at St. Jude Urgent Care

I’ve been a nurse for 14 years. Of that time, I spent 10 years working at St. Jude and the last 4 years with St. Jude Urgent Care. Working during this global crisis is something I have never dealt with before. I have always been a surgical scrub nurse and doctor’s office, PPE (personal protection equipment) is in high demand. N95 masks, face shields, gloves, head and shoe coverers, sanitizers, and washing hands thoroughly is what I rely on to keep myself as well as my patients safe. Every person who walks through the door you hope and pray they do not have a fever, cough, or shortness of breath. They do get tested, you wish the test to be negative. No one deserves this.

I start each day asking the question, “have we reached our peak? Are we starting to flatten the curve? Are the number of cases decreasing?” A lot of thoughts go through my mind. This is the reason why I am continuing my career in nursing, to serve and help others in need regardless of the situation.
Dominio’s Owner Donates Pizzas

Tony Manos owns the Domino’s Pizza locations in and around Fullerton. With these challenging times, he wanted to help out the best way he knows how – by providing a hot meal to those who need it.

Tony donated 150 pizzas and more than 100 N95 masks to the St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton on Wednesday, April 29 at 11:30am and then to the night shift at 9pm

CalGIVE Donates Hand Sanitizer

Local non-profit CalGIVE Foundation’s current mission is a project called Support Our Cities, in which they are donating hand sanitizers (100% made in the USA and over 70% ethyl alcohol content) to first responders and active workers who continuously risk their lives for our sake. CalGIVE (Give Inspire Volunteer Educate) Foundation normally serves underprivileged students to realize their potential in music and STEM at the Boys and Girls Club. Unfortunately, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily halted their services at the Boys & Girls Club of Fullerton. To serve the community alternatively, they decided to donate hand sanitizers to those in post offices, fire stations, and more.

To learn more visit Calgive.org.

Pick Up Art Projects at The Muck and The Fullerton Museum Center

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center in Fullerton is providing free drive-thru art kits on Tuesdays. As we all continue to #stayhome, here’s an opportunity to bring the creativity home, too. Swing by between 10am and 12pm to pick up a free kids’ art kit! The Muck is located at 1201 W Malvern Ave.

The Fullerton Museum Center is also providing FMC Kids Art to Go free art kit pick ups every Wednesday through May 27. Pick up is now located at outside patio. The Fullerton Museum Center is located at 301 N Pomona Ave.

Your Dental HEALTH

by Paul E. Nelson, D.D.S.

Closing Gaps

The gap that can occur between any two teeth, known as a “diastema,” most commonly appears between the upper front teeth. This gap may result due to a mismatch between small teeth (inherited from one parent) and large jaw bones (inherited from another). Otherwise, a diastema between the upper front teeth may be caused by an oversized labial “frenum” (the band of tissue that connects the upper lip to the gums between the upper front teeth). When an overly extended frenum causes the tooth separation, a “frenectomy” may be recommended to alleviate the force exerted by the tissue. Subsequently, the gap may close on its own, or the dentist may be able to close the gap with bonding or veneers.

501 N. Cornell Ave., Suite 1, Fullerton 92831.
To schedule an appointment please call 714-992-0092
www.paulnelsondental.com

Australian Swim School
(inside Meridian Health Club)
1535 Deerpark Dr. Fullerton CA 92831
australianswimschool.com

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Social Distancing and the Consent of the Governed

Let me be clear: I favor social distancing to save our lives. Sheltering in place works. It interferes with the transmission of coronavirus and other viruses and pathogens. However, I am also afraid that the seemingly random and unequal application of distancing guidelines and laws will create dangerous pushback. I have frankly been surprised at how well most people have accepted this most radical change in how we live our lives. We have not been perfect but have been pretty amazing.

However, our attention spans are limited and commitments do get re-examined and not always rationally. This is already starting to happen and, tragically and predictably, the revolts are falling mainly against partisan lines. For the moment, so-called conservatives are starting to rally against big government telling them what to do. In Ohio, Wisconsin, and Michigan, people, mostly conservatives, are protesting. They are demanding the right of assembly and to worship. However misguided I believe they are, they may well have a legal case. One court has stayed a state regulation forbidding religious gatherings.

But perhaps more important than their legal argument is the doctrine that the legitimacy of any government derives from the consent of the governed, and I fear that rules and regulations that differ from city to city and state to state and that may be capricious and arbitrarily applied, will erode the consent of the governed and not just of conservatives.

Wait a while and liberals will object to being electronically tracked and monitored. Over-reaching big tech was the bugaboo of liberals only a few weeks ago with Google and Apple seen as the bugaboo of liberals only a few weeks ago. If it is only an edict, what is its legal application, and will it be enforced by the courts? If so, who gets arrested? If not, who gets fined? Must our children go to school, or just foolishly create non-compliance.

Societal forces which most impact their residents about the institutions and other repercussions of the actions of the people on their ill-considered beer run; I am judging the lack of clarity in both the law and its enforcement. How far can you go for beer, or steak, or medicine? Must you go to the Whole Foods three miles further to Costco? If so, who will pay the price?

As the season grows warm and cabin fever increases, we can anticipate more questions, protests and confrontations. These will grow as people see the unequal application of the rules and fines. No one expects Ivanka Trump Kushner to be cited for traveling from DC to her father’s country club in New Jersey; just as no one will cite Trump and his minions for standing 10 feet away from each other.

No one would be surprised if my friend was asked nicely to get off the beach in Marina del Rey that is literally his backyard. He wasn’t cited or yelled at. But neither should anyone be surprised that some college kids from Northern California were issued $1,000 citations in the parking lot of a 711 for driving from Fremont to Santa Cruz to buy beer and see the ocean. These are the inconsistencies that rightly, wrongly, or just foolishly create non-compliance.

I’m not defending the judgment or actions of the young people on their ill-considered beer run; I am judging the lack of clarity in both the law and its enforcement. How far can you go for beer, or steak, or medicine? Must you go to the nearest source? If so, does this mean I have to go to the Whole Foods less than a mile from my home and not three miles further to Costco? If so, who proposed, passed, and signed that law? Is it as open as what is its legal basis and, without jury trials, how will these tickets/fines be adjudicated and appealed?

Again, I must repeat that I am for social distancing, but I greatly fear that bad edicts make bad laws and spotty enforcement will get important savings policies thrown out by our increasingly libertarian-oriented courts.
California and the world will definitely need a plan for in between waves of COVID-19 (virus) outbreaks. Smooth and steady transition to remaining restrictions are better than flipping the light switch fast. Let’s not cause an explosive rebound in cases that could overwhelm healthcare system capacity and corporate profits. This will yield buy-in all around.

It must be said out loud that we need to reinstate a gradual “return-to-work/school” order when science, math, and data back it up. First, we ask that government representatives at all levels please reorganize and do things in the right steps. Second, make a marketing plan to educate the public before changes occur, using appropriate languages and outlets. This will help them to recognize that the signal will be clear, concise and firm, but with a steady pace in mind. Stay-at-home orders need to be managed by the State Emergency Management Office, which must coordinate at the County and City level. Please allow science, math, data, and a healthy moral compass to guide your decisions.

We have a first grader that is so precious and healthy. My vision is for students and teachers to be smart, physically distancing as the new normal in our community. Brainstorm ideas with teachers to come up with solutions, codes, face shields, masks patterns, and problem-solving actions prompts tears of joy in me and it has calmed my nerves and upset stomach.

Patricia Hanzo Falleron

Do you look forward to getting cards from friends and family? Take a moment and imagine how our lives might be different without the United States Postal Service:

- Do you look forward to getting cards and letters from friends and family?
- Subscribe to any magazines?
- Were you planning to vote by mail in the presidential election this November?

Now, Donald Trump and his Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin, are trying to exploit the coronavirus to liquidate the Post Office once and for all. There was bipartisan support to include ample funding for the Post Office in the coronavirus relief package that passed last month. But Mnuchin got that shaved down to just a loan—too little, too late, and which hasn’t even come through yet. Now Trump says he’ll fight any attempt to save the Post Office unless it sharply raises its rates.

Millions upon millions of Americans rely on the Post Office—for basic exactness. When the delivery guy brings your mail, the consumer and financial matters, to participate in our democracy, and to survive a global health emergency unlike any other humanity has faced for at least a century.

Tell Congress to make sure the United States Postal Service has all the funding it needs, and now in the future, no strings attached.

Robert Weissman
President of Public Citizen

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Re: “OC Healthcare Agency Recommends Face Coverings”

On April 11, you published the article “OC Healthcare Agency Recommends Face Coverings” that, at the time of publication, the OC Health Care Agency press conference on April 9. The author provided statements from the Fullerton Police Department on how they will respond to noncompliance and the importance of face coverings but lacks certain information. He quoted Dr. Nicole Johnson saying that masks can be made “from a variety of materials” but did not provide more information. Face coverings do not necessarily mean surgical masks or N95 respirators. That lack of correct information can lead people in the general public to purchase unnecessary medical supplies that only add to the shortage. Face coverings can be homemade and don’t have to look like a surgical mask. It can be as simple as a scarf or bandanna wrapped snugly around your mouth and nose. Not every one has the ability or knows how to make the homemade face coverings. But that should not stop them from protecting themselves. Safety is not guaranteed once your face covering is in place. Proper handling and cleaning of your covering is vital. Do not grab your covering near your mouth or nose and machine wash after each use.

Stay Safe, Shana Coleman

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Re: “Hidden Lakebed Hiking Trail”

Going to, and suggesting to others that they go to public places, even if they are in sight. One of the only ways that we as individuals can help is to limit going or for others to go for non-essential errands or business. We are in the position of correct information can lead people in the general public to purchase unnecessary medical supplies that only add to the shortage. Face coverings can be homemade and don’t have to look like a surgical mask. It can be as simple as a scarf or bandanna wrapped snugly around your mouth and nose. Not every one has the ability or knows how to make the homemade face coverings. But that should not stop them from protecting themselves. Safety is not guaranteed once your face covering is in place. Proper handling and cleaning of your covering is vital. Do not grab your covering near your mouth or nose and machine wash after each use.

Hidden Lakebed Hiking Trail

—

Gretchen Cox, Falleron
I appreciate your continued effort to distribute the Fullerton Observer during these challenging times. I wanted to share a picture with a message of inspiration, and getting through these tough times. The photo is from the plaque on the park bench at Acaia Park in Fullerton, in memory of my son Daniel. I hope you have a wonderful day!

-Maureen Flynn-Becerra

Community Resources

City of Fullerton
COVID-19 Website

Meals On Wheels Fullerton
www.mnowfullerton.com

Dine Fullerton
www.dinefullerton.com

Orange County COVID-19 Hotline
833-426-6411

Orange County COVID-19 Website
www.ocovid19.ochealthinfo.com

California Department of Health
www.officeonaging.ocgov.com

OC Office of Aging
1-800-510-2020

Office On Aging Website
www.ocdp.ca.gov

California State COVID-19 Website
www.covid19.ca.gov

In the late nineties I was the house photographer for Steamers Jazz Club. I was also a working wildlife photographer having traveled all over the northwest as well as Alaska and Canada taking pictures of land and wildlife for clients. I was asked to do a shoot for a client of Yosemite from west to east. I told them there were stock shots of all they wanted available but they asked for something new. So I traveled up Hwy 395 and got a motel room in Lone Pine for the first night as I was going to shoot Mt. Whitney also. I was going to stay a week so I thought being outside of the parks and going in everyday was the better plan. The next morning I ate breakfast, packed my gear, and drove in through the east end near Whitney Portal. I photographed Whitney and people climbing Whitney, also a mirror lake with trees reflecting in it, watched a Coyote eating a small animal about a hundred feet from me and watching me warily as I took its picture. That night I ate in Lone Pine and went back to the room to write.

The next morning I drove to Lee Vining, got a room for three days and drove into the Park by way of Tioga Rd. I photographed most of the waterfalls from all angles as well as big trees, more lakes, a river, some deer. Never saw a bear or wolf over the course of the three days. Satisfied, I headed south again wanting to eat in the same diner in Lone Pine and spend the last night there. After dinner I walked the streets and passed a t-shirt shop and went in and picked up some souvenirs for my grandchildren. As I approached the counter I saw poster with a Mountain Lion in a gun sight with the words "Shoot It! Shovel It! Don't talk About It!" I lay my stuff on the counter; when my turn came I asked lady if she believed in that kind of wanton destruction of wildlife. She glanced up at the poster and turned to me and said "Do you have cattle...?" I smiled and said "No I have no cattle..." "Well if you had cattle you'd understand..." "Ma'm there are a million cows/cattle..." "Yes Ma'm I guess I am...

Thom Pari

This Land is Our Land

In the late nineties I was the house photographer for Steamers Jazz Club. I was also a working wildlife photographer having traveled all over the northwest as well as Alaska and Canada taking pictures of land and wildlife for clients. I was asked to do a shoot for a client of Yosemite from west to east. I told them there were stock shots of all they wanted available but they asked for something new. So I traveled up Hwy 395 and got a motel room in Lone Pine for the first night as I was going to shoot Mt. Whitney also. I was going to stay a week so I thought being outside of the parks and going in everyday was the better plan. The next morning I ate breakfast, packed my gear, and drove in through the east end near Whitney Portal. I photographed Whitney and people climbing Whitney, also a mirror lake with trees reflecting in it, watched a Coyote eating a small animal about a hundred feet from me and watching me warily as I took its picture. That night I ate in Lone Pine and went back to the room to write.

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Fullerton Republican Women Federated Makes Masks to Share with the Community

Some members of the Fullerton Republican Women Federated (FRWF) saw that there was a need for masks in the community and stepped up to help out. Knowing that many groups were already making masks for medical workers, FRWF members decided to make and give away masks to the general public in hopes that if more people were wearing them, it might help cut down on the number of people needing to seek medical attention. So out came the sewing machines, scissors, and lots and lots of fabrics, much of which was purchased for this specific project. Spearheaded by FRWF 2019 past-President Gretchen Cox and 2020 1st VP Martha Lace, enough masks were made to distribute at the April 15 and April 16 Farmers Markets, and also to donate to the Fullerton Police Dept. so they could share them with staff as well as with community members they may interact with who might not have one. The police dept. got those on April 17. Learn more at www.fullertonrepublicanwomen.org.

FRWF members Martha Lace and Gretchen Cox.
Re-Thinking Food Systems

CSUF undergraduate in geography Audrey Wright discussed how our current food system (i.e., centralized agriculture) thrives upon the exploitation of the land, people, and other species. “Animals are jam-packed in facilities where they are slaughtered by the masses in inhumane and unsanitary conditions—for human consumption,” Wright said. “Animal agriculture is the #1 cause of pollution, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. Ecosystems that are disrupted because of human activity tend to lose their biggest predators first. While all these predators are dying off, smaller animals like rats become vectors for more and more viruses.”

According to a 2010 study, degraded habitats harbor species that carry many of the viruses that can infect humans, and biodiversity loss amplifies viral infections in these remaining species. There are fewer hosts, so the animals that exist have more of these viruses in them. A 2020 study showed that almost half of new diseases that jumped from animals to humans (i.e., “spillover,” a term coined in 1940) can be traced to changes in land use, including agriculture and wildlife hunting.

In the tropics, new agricultural land has come at the expense of rainforests, savannah, and other eco-systems, and future expansion will clear even more of these forests and other eco-systems. As we degrade the biosphere and thus promote biodiversity loss, it creates more opportunities for viruses to jump hosts from animal to human.

Human-Caused Disasters

Geography professor Ruben Lopez said that it is misleading to call this current pandemic a “natural disaster” because it takes the onus of responsibility off our shoulders completely, when in reality human choices and behaviors have contributed to this disaster.

He referred to a 2012 book called Spillover, which details how viruses move between the natural world and humans. One cause of “spillover” is biodiversity loss. Ecosystems that are disrupted tend to lose their biggest predators first. While all these predators are dying off, smaller animals like rats become vectors for more and more viruses.

“Animals are jam-packed in facilities where they are slaughtered by the mass, and gone down, and biodiversity loss amplifies viral infections in these remaining species. There are fewer hosts, so the animals that exist have more of these viruses in them. A 2020 study showed that almost half of new diseases that jumped from animals to humans (‘spillover’) can be traced to changes in land use, including agriculture and wildlife hunting. In the tropics, new agricultural land has come at the expense of rainforests, savannah, and other eco-systems, and future expansion will clear even more of these forests and other eco-systems. As we degrade the biosphere and thus promote biodiversity loss, it creates more opportunities for viruses to jump hosts from animal to human. A sustainable economy is one that operates within Earth’s regenerative systems. Recent maps during the pandemic have shown the skies becoming clearer in the world’s major cities, pollutants going down, and wildlife reclaiming space. “Earth will endure. It regenerates, it heals,” she said. “We can make the choice of being part of that process... A resilient sustainable economy can be observed in indigenous cultures with circular economies.” A circular economy is an economic activity that operates within Earth’s regenerative systems. It’s an economy focused on sustainable, renewable resources, as opposed to infinite new production.

Seeds of Change

Anthropologist Moises Placencia continued this theme of re-imagining our food systems, encouraging people to think about where their food begins—and where and how it is grown. He encouraged people to think about a food system that incorporates social justice. He discussed the idea of food sovereignty, which means the involvement in and the protection of local food sources, knowledge, livelihoods, and the environment. For example, the North American Traditional Indigenous Food System (NATIFS) seeks to connect native peoples to their native food ways. Another group is called the Sioux Chefs, who seek to develop and maintain food sovereignty with delicious menu items. He also discussed the idea of community supported agriculture (CSA)—local community farms. He helps manage a two-acre small community farm in Santa Ana. “Honestly, the first step is just picking the fruits in your own backyard,” he said.

Taking Action Locally

Fullerton resident Jose Trinidad Castaneda, the climate justice organizer with the Climate Action Campaign, spoke about the importance of becoming involved in local politics and organizing to make the changes we wish to see in the world. He discussed the need to stop burning fossil fuels. A lot of oil wells are still active in Orange County and Huntington Beach. He discussed a path toward 100% clean energy which is called Community Choice Energy. “It’s essentially democratizing our energy systems so that we don’t have a monopoly anymore like SoCal Edison that sets the rates for us. Instead, we the people can decide what energy mix we get—cleaner energy and lower rates,” Castaneda said.

Other climate solutions include the creation of “a world class transit system in Orange County” and movement toward a more plant-based diet. “We need to continue these kinds of conversations at a policy level. At the same time—young people, we need to step up... We need to become the next iteration of our government—one that’s ecologically sensible,” Castaneda said. Dr. Amber Gonzalez closed with a quote from Arundhati Roy: “Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”