

Observer Volunteer Journalist

Out of My Mind columnist, **Jon Dobrer**, is a stand-up political satirist, author of five books, syndicated columnist, university lecturer, and retired clergy. He became an *Observer* volunteer in 1998.
Read Out of My Mind on page 12



Francine Vudoti editor of the Young Observers page started writing for the *Observer* when she was eight (2006). At twelve she began encouraging other young writers and editing their stories.
Read Young Observers on page 9



Emerson Little began writing for the *Observer* in 2015 while still in high school. He is a photographer, writer and videographer with a passion for art, the environment, and local Fullerton history. He is teaching at CSUF.
Read Video Observer on back pg.



Joyce Mason After retiring from the English Department at Fullerton College, I found that I missed writing and analyzing literature, so I volunteered to write a column on film for the *Observer*. I have been doing this since 1998.
Read Hits & Misses on pg. 10



The Kims in their garden before having to dismantel planters and dig up their persimon tree which is a Korean tradition and symbol of joy. *Read story on pg. 17*

Fullerton Observer

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Fullerton Police Department receives \$1 Million to start a Social Worker program

Supervisor Chaffee provided \$1,000,000 in Fourth District Discretionary Grants to the City of Fullerton, which will fund the hiring of two licensed clinical social workers, the purchase of equipment, and two unmarked police vehicles. The program follows Supervisor Chaffee's efforts to bolster the public health care workforce in Orange County by creating a Master of Social Work (MSW) Stipend Program at Cal State Fullerton.

"We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with Supervisor Chaffee in bringing a much-needed resource to our community," said Fullerton Police Chief Robert Dunn. "Data will be collected during this pilot program, and we hope the metrics will show that this model is successful and can be expanded or repli-

cated in other cities."

The Fullerton Police Department Social Worker Program represents a change in how cities approach policing in the community. By dispatching social workers alongside or instead of police officers, the program ensures that individuals in crisis receive the most appropriate and effective assistance, including crisis response, mediation, referrals to healthcare providers, and providing treatment plans and case follow-ups. Additionally, the social workers will employ de-escalation techniques to resolve conflicts peacefully.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors and Fullerton City Council unanimously approved the Program on Tuesday, July 18, 2023.

Fullerton Police start 30-Day Test of Drones as First Responders

The Fullerton Police Department, in partnership with Flying Lion and Fullerton College, began testing the Drone as a First Responder (DFR) concept on July 26. The 30-day trial period will determine if the program is effective for our community.

DFR, as employed by FPD, will consist of drones positioned at a high point in the city, providing the ability to immediately deploy them to emergency incidents. In many cases, drones can arrive before first responders on the ground.

The DFR Program follows all established FAA guidelines, privacy laws, and Fullerton PD Policies regarding

using Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS/Drones).

The UAS program has adopted the call sign "Hornet" in homage to the Fullerton College "Hornets." Chula Vista, Santa Monica, Hermosa Beach, Hemet, Beverly Hills and others are also testing the Flying Lion program. For more info visit flyinglioninc.com or www.cityoffullerton.com/government/departments/police/the-team/specialized-units/unmanned-aerial-system?locale=en

How do I make a complaint?
 Contact Fullerton Police Department
 (714) 738-6716.

WOMEN OF WISDOM SHOW FEATURING 70 LOCAL WOMEN & ARTISTS IS AT THE FULLERTON MUSEUM IS EXTENDED TO AUGUST 13

Fullerton resident, Donna Edman, has photographed and compiled a book to honor the wisdom of 49 mature women between 50 and 95 years of age. The portraits are in a current show at the Fullerton Museum along with paintings by several local women artists.

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Deadline for writers and ad submissions is August 21.

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At left: Ashni Patel stands in front of her PowerPoint at the book club she organized.

At right: Ashni Patel's Summer Book Club Participants: Sianna, Leia, Royal, Layla, Shivani, Aria, Kaavya and Samaira

Ashni Patel's Summer Book Club

"It's so critical that we stay grounded in our neighborhoods and maintain connections in an increasingly global world," said Shailey Patel, "My daughter, Ashni Patel (age 11) hosted a book club for eight rising 4th grade girls this summer, who read *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. This is a Newberry Award winning book. This is the second year she shared her love of learn-

ing (and aspirations to be a teacher) with this group. It's astounding to me that young people these days can make such an impact and have fun along the way."

Ashni created powerpoints, taught the girls about different literary viewpoints and administered vocab and weekly quizzes. Her book club took this initiative one step further with

fundraising to benefit Holocaust survivors or the Museum of Tolerance in LA in keeping with the theme of their book.

"I read this book in fifth grade. It's a good book for them to learn one year ahead of their grade level. I also think this book helps them learn history and about the difficult times the Jewish community faced. It's a great story and an important lesson about overcoming challenges," said Ashni.

Building a House in Mexico

by Sinead Seale

I had the privilege of going on an amazing trip to Baja, Mexico with my church group FCC and Birch Street Friends. When I was asked to go on this trip I immediately said yes and was excited, but also unsure what the outcome would be.

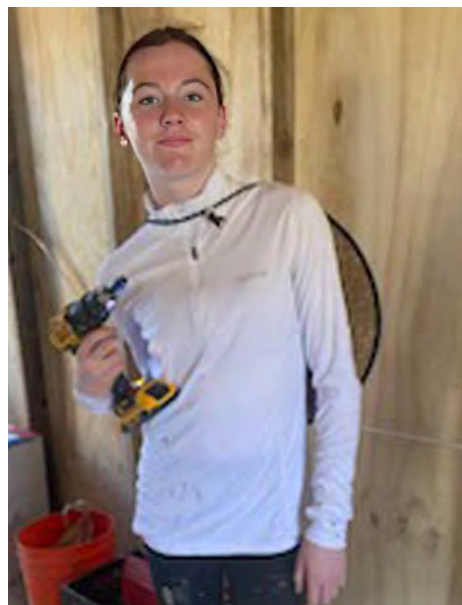
When we got to La Poloma it was very different compared to California and I realized how incredibly blessed we are. The houses in Mexico were mostly built out of old tires, tarps, and anything they could find.

We started Friday in the hot afternoon sun until 6 pm. The first day I was painting most of the time. I watched people bring wood up and down. Tires were used on the hillside as stairs to get up and down from the area.

The second day of working, I was in the house putting up drywall and mudding in the heat. The trip was short, but I learned so many new things in just a weekend.

By the end of the weekend everyone had learned something new that they otherwise wouldn't have if they didn't go on this trip. I know that if I didn't go on this trip I would regret it for the rest of my life, so if you have a chance to serve God while helping others it's so worth it.

The family who got the house were so happy and I learned so much. It was not just a trip to me, it was truly a life changing experience that I will never forget.



Left: Sinead spackeling drywall. Right: Sinead takes a break from drywalling
Below: Church group FCC and Birch Street Friends build the house frame.



Fullerton Observer

The *Fullerton Observer* community newspaper, founded by Ralph and Natalie Kennedy, Roy and Irene Kobayashi, and other friends in 1978, is staffed by local volunteers who create, publish, and distribute the paper throughout our community.

This venture is a not-for-profit one. Revenues are plowed back into maintaining and improving our independent, non-partisan, non-sectarian community newspaper.

Our purpose is to inform Fullerton residents about political, economic, and social forces which impact their lives. We hope that this knowledge can empower residents to participate in constructive ways to hold these public and private entities accountable, so they serve Fullerton in lawful, transparent, and socially responsible ways. We seek to promote a sense of community and an appreciation for the values of diversity with which our country is so blessed.

Distributed on the first and third Monday of every month except only once in January, July & August.

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City Planning Reporter
Library Reporter

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Ameena Mirza Qazi: Illuminating Paths of Justice and Equality by Krish Gupta



Ameena Mirza Qazi's exceptional dedication to civil rights, social justice, and equal representation has made her an extraordinary advocate and an inspiring voice for the marginalized. Through her legal expertise and activism, she has left an indelible mark

and is a guiding-light for positive change in society.

Ameena's journey as a civil rights attorney began with an unwavering commitment to challenging systemic discrimination and unlawful practices. Her work with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the National Lawyers Guild exemplifies her fearlessness in protecting the rights of American Muslims and other marginalized communities.

In one landmark case, she co-counseled a wrongful death action and §1983 claim against the LAPD, resulting in a \$1.7 million verdict that underscored the importance of accountability and constitutional rights.

Ameena's expertise in free speech issues has made her a pivotal figure in advocating for open dialogue and expression. Her national and international speeches on civil rights issues facing American Muslims shed light

on their challenges in exercising First Amendment rights. Ameena's collaboration with the ACLU of Southern California and Hadsell, Stormer, and Renick, LLP on a class action lawsuit against the FBI exemplifies her dedication to challenging government practices that infringe upon individual freedoms. Her advocacy for free speech and social justice aligns with her vision of a society where all individuals can express themselves without fear of persecution or discrimination.

Beyond her legal work, Ameena actively empowers communities through workshops and presentations, fostering understanding, solidarity, and support for those facing discrimination. Her involvement with organizations like the South Asian Network (SAN) highlights her commitment to fostering inclusivity and representation for underrepresented communities. Ameena actively shapes policies that

protect civil liberties and promote social equality by serving on advisory boards and boards of organizations like the ACLU of Southern California and the Public Law Center.

Ameena Mirza Qazi's legacy of activism and advocacy inspires individuals to join the fight for a more just and equitable world. Her legal victories and unwavering commitment demonstrate that positive change is possible, even in the face of challenges. Ameena's journey exemplifies bravery for future generations of activists and advocates, reminding us that dedication, compassion, and expertise can transform society. Her contributions leave a lasting imprint on the journey toward a more inclusive and equitable future.

The Peace and Justice Law Center
2501 E Chapman Ave, Ste 245,
Fullerton | www.pjlwcenter.org



People line up to Harbor Blvd to say one last farewell to Angelo's and Vinci's Restaurant.

A Message of Thanks from Angelo's and Vinci's by Cynthia Peck

It is with heartfelt gratitude and emotional tears that I let you know we are closing our doors for the final time after dinner on Tuesday, August 1, 2023.

Dear Guests ~

Team Angelo's and Vinci's are so very humbled by your continued support over the past 52 years. It is an honor to be a part of your precious memories, your celebrations, and your traditions for three and four generations. Your stories fill our hearts. And the gift of your continued patronage has inspired us, allowed us to support our families, and donated decades of annual fundraisers for the hungry and homeless.

From our simple beginnings as a beer & wine cafe at the Fox Theatre to our current location for 925 people, you've

supported us through the growth, the changes, and the challenges. We are a family, and you are a part of that family, a connection forever. For that, there are no words great enough to thank you. We will never forget what you have given to us, this restaurant, and this community you've so fondly nicknamed "A&V's."

There has never been, nor ever will be again, the extraordinarily unique dining experience of Angelo's and Vinci's Ristorante. We are so grateful to have shared this beautiful adventure with you all.

Grazie! to a fantastic group of purveyors, suppliers, maintenance and repair crews, CPAs, advertisers, insurance agents, attorneys, security services, police, fire and health departments, and SO many more that have kept us

operational through this half-century.

And, with a truly grateful heart, I thank each and every one of my incredible team, past and present, for their heart, talent, contribution, hard work, and dedication to make Angelo's and Vinci's "A Place to Eat, A Place to See, A Place to Be." The responsibility and management of any restaurant is intimidating, but you have excelled here since 1971.

T-E-A-M, my Angelo's and Vinci's family, you are forever in my heart, forever with my gratitude, and forever in my fondest of memories.

Then quite simply, to our founder, the infinitely creative entrepreneur, actor, dancer, choreographer, my beautiful husband, Steven Peck (1928-2005)...my love always ~ Cyn

NOCCCD will continue to wave the Pride flags

NOCCCD Board Trustee Bent tried to ban the PRIDE flag at the July 25th meeting claiming that it was about neutrality. After over 3 hours of public comment the ban failed as there was no second to move the motion. NOC Community Colleges will continue to fly the pride flag.

"I am an American citizen by birthright and am proud to be American. However, the US Flag does not represent safety/inclusion to me. The PrideFlag, however, does," said a Fullerton resident who spoke at the meeting.

"In the '80's we had Vincent Chin and recently a string of anti-AAPI hate crimes. Despite being an American citizen, I have to perpetually prove that I am an American, with micro-aggressions hurled at me such as, 'No, where are you REALLY from?' The PrideFlag, to me, says, 'It's cool. You don't have to talk or look like us. You can sit with us,'" said Bernard.



USA National Karate Champions
Adam Kraus and Joseph Toletino

Local wins the USA National Karate Championship

Lifelong Fullerton resident Adam Kraus was the National Karate Champion, for his weight (67 Kg), in Virginia last month. He used Elite Kumite that when translated means "grappling hands" and is one of the three main sections of karate training, along with "Kata" and "Kihon."

Some of the many memories of Angelo's and Vinci's Restaurant

"We had our wedding dinner rehearsal and wedding there over decades ago. Sad that it will be shut-down. We will be there for dinner a few more times before August 1." **Paul**

"A&V was the destination for my husband's and my first date, over 30 years ago. Unfortunately, his car broke down en route, but we eventually made it back there! He grew up in Anaheim and loved going to A&V. I'll never forget the delicious food, wonderful service, the scary areas and upstairs banquet room. It was always an adventure. Thank you for being a wonderful memory in our lives." **Janet**

"For me it was a New Year's Eve tradition. Dine at A & V's and then stroll First Night Fullerton. The food and service were great and put us in a celebratory mood!" **Ric**

"Having worked in the old neighborhood 'back in the day', I remember when Steven created the restaurant, affording his dancers an opportunity to 'make ends meet.' I got to know the whole family, Charlie, Lou, Richie, Robert, Charlie Jr and Cynthia.

Great memories of great people! You will always be remembered if even a single person speaks of you. Love and the Best in the future." **Michael**

"Hands down best pizza and lasagna around, been going there for years no other pizza in town comes close. Really gonna miss it" **Joseph**

"This was a family staple over my 40 years in Fullerton. Although we didn't go often, we had multiple parties and memorial services here and they all had a place in our heart. As a kid I loved the basement and as an adult, I would love to take my nieces and nephews down there to witness their reactions to the 'monsters'. Such a Fullerton landmark that I'm sad to see go..." **Eric**



Firefighters, EMTs, Nurse, and FPD Officers were given an award at the council meeting on July 18, 2023. Pictured from left to right in council chambers: Fire Chief Adam Loeser, CHOC MICU Amanda Terry, FFD Engineer/PM Sean Nicolini, FF Jeet Mayadas, Falck EMTs Brockton Troutman and Jared Barboza, FPD Corporal Victoria Chandler, FPD Chief Bob Dunn, and Mayor Fred Jung. Not able to attend were: FFD Capt./PM Dan Lancaster, FF Noah Grinstead, and FPD Kevin Kirkreit.

City Council Notes: The Council meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Upcoming agenda information and streaming video of meetings are available at www.cityoffullerton.com
 City Hall is located at 303 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton
 Contact Council at (714) 738-6311 or council@cityoffullerton.com

JULY 18 MEETING REPORT by Leah Han

Recognition Awards

PRESENTATIONS: "We are here for a very positive situation and want to take a moment just to recognize the team of professionals that on May 15th saved a two-month-old baby boy who had stopped breathing. Responding to a baby not breathing is one of the most emotionally stressful calls any first responder can receive. Still, this team made this a positive outcome." said Fire Chief Adam Loeser as he shared the whole story and proudly recognized several EMTs, police officers, and firefighters with a certificate from the city.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- "How residents can give to the people who serve the community, like the EMTs awarded today," Maureen Milton asked.
- Todd Harrison also thanked the fire department and stressed the importance of keeping the mobile home parks.
- A resident said he was arrested for trespassing while attending church. He accused the Fullerton Police of racism.
- Anjali Tapadia shared a petition with 163 people in favor of the Associated Road lane reduction. She expressed her dissatisfaction that it was tabled.
- Susan Patrella was outraged by the tree trimming in Fullerton by West Coast Arborists. She said that the tree canopy is being destroyed, and there is

- now a lack of shade in District 5.
- ZJ Hahn accused Councilmember Dunlap of voting on an appointee when he did not have enough information. He also said there is a lack of sidewalks on Page St in front of Orangethorpe Elementary School. Parents must walk with their children in the street to get to and from school.
- Kayla Sato from OC Environmental Justice said that housing is a human right and agrees with Curtis Gamble, who said we should treat our unhoused with respect and care. An unhoused person noted that there was some illegal dumping by private corporations. It was somewhere by Yorba Linda Blvd. There is sewage coming out of the faucets, and I wanted someone to look into that.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

City manager Eric Levitt addressed the comment on tree trimming by Susan Patrella and explained that he regularly received backlash from people who think there is too much or not enough tree trimming. However, he will look at the specific streets mentioned in the comment.
 Councilmember Nick Dunlap responds to the public comment about the appointee vote. He clarified that he received packets of resumes from

interested parties over a month before the vote. He also added that local newspapers do not have facts. The *Fullerton Observer* reported on the June 20th City Council Meeting that "Dunlap, who found the email as the vote was called, looked at the resume very briefly and then voted to approve." The video can be watched anytime on the city website under meetings and agendas.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra:
 Celebrated the 4.5 million dollars received for the Fullerton Museum from state funding. He thanked Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva for \$1 million and Senator Josh Newman for \$3.5 million. Zahra also encouraged everyone to visit the Women's Festival at the museum on July 22nd.

Councilmember Dr. Shana Charles:
 Cautioned residents to stay hydrated and recommended checking on older people during this heatwave. She shared that the budget for the upcoming fiscal year was voted on during the OCPA board meeting at the end of June. Charles encouraged residents to look into this information since it is public. She said OCPA has a financially stable and robust reserve. "Rates are set low, saving 2% over SCE," Charles explained, "Even with reconsideration, Fullerton, Buena Park, and Irvine are a strong trio." Charles also celebrated her first community meeting at Chapman Park and her first monthly District 3 newsletter being sent out. To receive newsletters, you can email shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com. She also invites residents to her office hours on Thursdays from 12 pm to 2 pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Whitaker:
 The council appointed Whitaker to the Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency (SARPA). He and other officials went on an inspection tour of the Prado Dam, where many improve-

ments have been made recently. After the heavy rainy season, atmospheric rivers were a concern. Significant improvements have been made in the outflow area from the dam where the dam operator controls the releases. "The dam is a very large area, a kind of serpentine, which leads from the dam to the Green River golf course where the concrete bottom of this channel ends," said Whitaker. The capability of the dam has been increased to handle up to 30,000 cubic feet per second (cu ft/s). It is now very close to completion.

Due to the changes to the spillway, the mural at the Prado Dam will not last more than five years. The improvements will increase the height of the sides of the spillway and narrow the spillway. "Anyone who hasn't had a close-up look at either Prado Dam or the mural should see them," said Whitaker, "You can do environmental tours in that area this time of year and get a close look at the dam. They do plan on restoring the mural after this rebuild."

Mayor Fred Jung

Thanked congressional representatives for their \$2.5 million earmarks for the necessary upgrades to our aging Police Department facility which used to be our City Hall. The \$2.5 million was raised by Congressmembers Michelle Park Steel and Lou Correa. An additional \$1,000,000 for a water well was awarded by Lou Correa.

POLICE SOCIAL WORKER PILOT PROGRAM

OC Supervisor Doug Chaffee presented the proposal for a two-year pilot program where the Fullerton Police Department employs social workers. It aims to better police response time, help people without homes, and respond to mental health crises. It also seeks to decrease the number of civil lawsuits and improve relations

between the police and the public. Social workers can also help police officers who experience difficult situations while working in the field. The program will cost one million dollars and includes getting less intimidating police vehicles for the social workers. It was approved unanimously.

(Tentative) AGENDA FOR AUGUST 1 & 15 CITY COUNCIL

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Tuesday, August 1, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MILLS ACT • HOUSING LOAN APPEAL • BALCOM AVE SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT • LIBRARY CONFERENCE RM TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES • INSURANCE PROGRAM Report & Recommendations • POINTE COMMON AFFORDABLE HOUSING & LAND DISPOSITION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MISCELLANEOUS STORM DRAIN REPAIR from ACACIA AVE to VALENCIA DR <p>Tuesday, August 15, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOISE ORDINANCE • JULY 2023 CHECK REGISTER • MONTHLY COMMITTEE ACTIVITY & ATTENDANCE REPORT • TREASURER'S REPORT for QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30 |
|--|---|

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

- District 1: Fred Jung Mayor (714) 738-6311 fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com
- District 2: Nick Dunlap Council (714) 738-6311 nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com
- District 3: Shana Charles Council (714) 738-6311 shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com
- District 4: Bruce Whitaker ProTem (714) 981-8474 bwhitaker@live.com
- District 5: Ahmad Zahra Council (714) 738-6311 AhmadZ@cityoffullerton.com

COUNCIL NOTES by Leah Han by Leah HanCONTINUED

CALCITIES CONFERENCE

CalCities Conference helps cities expand and protect local control through education and advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all Californians. It also serves as a technical and advisory resource to CalCities through its policy committee representatives.

The council voted on a voting delegate for the annual CalCities Conference in Sacramento. Councilmember Charles nominated Councilmember Zahra as a delegate. Councilmember Dunlap and Mayor Jung voted against it, while Councilmember Zahra, Councilmember Charles, and Mayor Pro Tem Whitaker voted for it.

Passed 3-2, Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra is the elected delegate.

TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR FMEF AND FMA

• Fiscal Impact

Fiscal Year	FMEF	FMA
2023-24	\$2,652,010	\$659,191
2024-25	\$3,925,158	\$961,376
2025-26	\$5,036,933	\$1,243,176
2026-27	\$5,892,657	\$1,461,840
Total	\$17,506,758	\$4,325,583

The Fullerton Municipal Employee Federation (FMEF) represents 261 budgeted positions, includes non-sworn classifications, and all city departments are the city's largest labor group. The Fullerton Management Association is the management group representing 68 positions and includes non-sworn and mid-management positions in most city departments. Agreements for both groups expired right before July 1st.

The city has agreed on a four-year term from fiscal year 23/24 through fiscal year 26/27. Significant points are an 8% salary increase effective July 22nd, 2023, and 4% and 3% each year after. There is a provision for a small stipend for having a commercial driver's license Class A or B, a retention pay program for the term of this agreement of a \$3000 compensation for 15 years of service, and a \$4500 stipend for 20 years of service.

The city is eliminating over-time and the city's current practice of picking up the employees' member contribution towards CalPERS and then offsetting that by reducing the cost-sharing formed by the employees.

Effective January 1st, the city is contributing an additional \$300 towards the city's health insurance contribution in the form of flex credits. It has developed a cost-sharing arrangement based on Kaiser rates for years going forward—additional changes to consider are a move to the CalPERS health insurance program.

There's agreement on recruitment and retention. Leadership is looking for ways to improve our recruitment processes and has developed a more formal mechanism for looking at possible out-of-class situations.

The Fullerton Management Assoc. (FMA) agreement is similar to the FMEF agreement, with additional provisions for management staff who have to work selected special events to be able to receive some overtime pay, such as First Night and Fourth of July.

FMA also has a retention pay provision that is slightly different. They have a 10-year increment of \$2500, a 15-year increment of \$3000, and a 20-year increment of \$4000.

FMA is looking to eliminate the employer-paid member contribution and offset that by removing the cost share and improving the health insurance program in the same manner as with FMEF. FMA has introduced a provision allowing a retiree to receive a reimbursement for medical up to a certain amount for medical expenses if they move out of state and purchase a medical plan out of state.

FMA has a \$100 increase to retiree medical for employees that retired with specific criteria such as years of service and dates of retirement—retaining the option to reopen on the CalPERS issue. Staff recommends that we approve the resolutions.

Passed 3 to 2 (Charles, Jung, and Zahra Yes) (Whitaker and Dunlap No)



Rendering of 245 N State College Blvd underground parking entrance.

MINOR SITE PLAN AT 245 N STATE COLLEGE BLVD

Planning Manager Chris Schaefer presented the proposal at 245 N State College, which is a proposal for a multifamily project. The proposed project involves the construction of 25 townhomes over one level of underground garage parking. There would be four 3-bedroom units, 8 three bedrooms plus a private roof deck, and 13 two-bedroom units with private outdoor terraces.

This project utilizes the state-allowed density bonus that includes 15% of the total units reserved as deed-restricted rentals to very low-income individuals or households because the project would provide these three units.

They were entitled to three concessions, including a reduction of common open space, a reduction in building separation standards, and an increase in building height by 1 foot.

They could reduce the parking standards, but they have met the city standards, which is 56 spaces.

The landscaping plan provides at least ten mature trees and some smaller trees scattered throughout the property.

Staff recommended that the City Council approve the resolution denying the appeal and upholding the Planning Commission approval.

An appeal was made by the adjacent neighborhood and brought before the city council. Concerns were raised about trash pick-up, fire safety, private owners who could modify the property, and adding more cars to an already dangerous driving area.

Kara Block with DFH architects said, "There is a fire department connection along the State College Blvd at the front of the building and there is a standpipe in the rear of the building on the stairway that accesses both the garage and the upper level and provides coverage."

There were several residents in favor of the project with suggestions. Maureen Milton said the project looks like another Entrada waiting to happen. (thousands of people displaced after a fire).

A vote to deny the appeal passed 4 to 1 (Whitaker No).

WHAT IS ON THE AUGUST 1ST AGENDA EXAMINED

#16: The Pines at Sunrise Village Development. Another step by the City to establish a Mello-Roos district.

#17: Pointe Common Development (1600 West Commonwealth). More steps in the process to turn over a 2.75-acre slice of "surplus" City land to a developer in exchange for building 65 affordable housing units.

#18: A motion to modify the General Plan to add two dwellings to the Historic Preservation Element (444 W. Malvern and 125 West Elm).

#19: More historic property. Minor revisions to an agreement with a homeowner concerning improvements at 333 West Whiting.

#20: Pedestrian Crossing at Chapman (and wall) at Hart Place. Hart Place is just east of the main PO. South (and north) of Chapman, Hart Place is a cul-de-sac with a wall and a passageway separating it from Chapman. There is a marked crosswalk here that staff recommended removing last year (it is currently unsafe as designed). As a result of the staff's suggestion, nine residents of Hart Place (there are 12 houses in the block south of Chapman) sent a letter to the Council supporting the removal of the crosswalk and, in addition closing the opening in the privately owned wall (opening belongs to the City). Their reasons are "a lot of transient and loitering foot traffic," resulting in littering, "attempted burglaries," etc. No numbers or ideas of how this compares to other streets in the area are given. The street is the most direct route to the PO and surrounding businesses for residents, and the street immediately to the south has some multi-family buildings. A more critical issue (and the reason for my

lengthy discussion) is that this cul-de-sac/wall opening/crosswalk is on the Bicycle Master Plan as a key link from the depot to the University using the Wilshire Bike Blvd and lightly trafficked Victoria and the northern segment of Hart (a traffic signal would be required). Because it threatens the integrity of the Bike Plan, this proposal was voted down by the Active Transportation Committee (October 9, 2022) and the City Council (November 1, 2022). What has changed and why this is back before the Council is unexplained. The only comment is that the staff has received "multiple inquiries" since November.

#21: Appeal of a housing improvement loan denial. There are too many liens on the property, and the applicant has too many resources.

#22: RV parking. The City is trying to redefine its definition of "RV" to comply with a judge's finding that the current definition is too vague. Item contains both "urgency" and "non-urgency" ordinances. The first would go into effect immediately.

#23. Proposes a pilot program with Edison to convert street lights. The City has 3000 high voltage series lights, which have become increasingly hard to maintain and replace. Edison proposes replacing 37 around Commonwealth School with LED lights at no cost to the City. Edison would own the poles and lights etc. Connections would be overhead. There is also a future cost savings to the City. Details are sketchy. What is the downside? Why does Edison want to do this? Not straightforward; other than that, the LEDS would use less electricity.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
303 W. COMMONWEALTH, FULLERTON

- **August 1 at 5:30pm:** City Council
- **August 2 at 6:30pm:** Planning Commission
- **August 7 at 4pm:** Transportation & Circulation
- **August 14 at 5:30pm:** Cultural Arts Subcommittee
- **August 14 at 6:30pm:** Parks & Recreation
- **August 15 at 5:30pm:** City Council
- **August 21 at 5pm:** Infrastructure and Resources
- **August 23 at 5pm:** Active Transportation
- **August 24 at 6pm:** Library Board



WILSHIRE THEATER

-Take A Seat, Part II

If you missed part one, go to page 9 in the July issue, continuously available online at www.fullertonobserver.com. Just click on E-EDITION.

Alex Beard, the youngest of the Beard brothers, worked for his older brother, Peter, owner of the Wilshire Theater and the Malden Arms Apartments as the night manager when he was just 15. In addition to being regulars at Mickey's on Harbor, "The Malden Arms dwellers also hung out at The Little F bar next to the theater. It later became the Paddock. There was also a beauty shop on the ground floor." Alex moved on because Grandma did not like him working there and headed over to work at Town and Country Liquor store, which is still there on Raymond and Commonwealth.

Alex also tells us, "The full-time manager was a retired Marine named Ken Briggs. He slept with a gun under

his pillow in his ground-floor apartment. Ken had a brother named John Briggs, a California State Senator, and he had four theater seats lining the north wall of his family room."

"Most people who lived at Malden Arms were full-time, harmless drunks. Ken frequently evicted people, and nobody 'messed' with him because they knew he was one tough guy with a gun. For as long as I was around, there was a bullet hole in the front door of Room 307 where Ken fired through it from the inside one night when some drunk was pounding on it. It was a reminder to anyone who ever thought about not paying their rent or messing with Briggs after he kicked them out."



Last Chance at A Downtown Legend

For months now, the talk of downtown has been- how much longer are Angelo's and Vinci's going to be open? By the time you read this, the venerable meeting place for so many of us will be serving its final meal after 52 years.

Thanks so much to Cynthia Peck for welcoming us and everyone who found

a way to make it over in time.

These photos tell a small part of the story, but they may stir up memories of your days and evenings there. Congratulations on a great run, and we all hope exciting adventures are in the future for Cynthia and everyone at good ol' A&V's.



Stay Cool

The hot Summer continues, as does the fun at the Downtown Plaza. The water is on, so don't forget to check it out; open from 10 am to Sunset. This photo was taken during the weekly Thursday Market, in full swing; heat or not, the customers are there. More fun water options are available at Adlena Park and Lemon Park, open from noon to 5 pm.



Billboard

In case you spotted the monolith at Raymond and the 91 Freeway and wondered what the heck, it's an electronic billboard project. Here are some photos; the tower is up, and the sign will go on top like a giant electronic cherry. Stay tuned.



Time Change

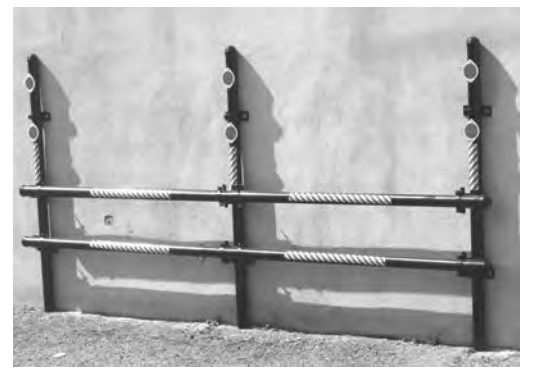
Update on the weekly Monday morning get-together for all Veterans (mentioned first here in the Early May issue) concerning the start time. Initially, everyone met at the Korean War Memorial at 9:30 am, but if you want to join fellow Vets, past and cur-

rent, be there at 9 am instead so you don't miss the free cup o' Joe. Someone new seems to arrive each week, and some have become regulars, like Mynard Duncan and Jim Weiks, pictured here. The Memorial is located at Hillcrest Park, and there is a convenient lot right next to it on Brea Boulevard.

Photo Quiz



This time: Something's happening here; it looks like it's catching on; where is it?



Last time: It's on Two Saucy Broads Pizza's wall facing the alley.

Send answer to Mike at AllMedia@sbcglobal.net

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Fullerton Police Chief Robert (Bob) Dunn presents Egleth Nuncci with a Community Service Award at an Award and Police Rank Promotion ceremony at the Fullerton Community Center in early July.

Community Service Award Goes to Egleth Nuncci by Krish Gupta

Egleth Nuncci's dedication to community engagement and positive policing in Fullerton has made her an exemplary advocate and bridge-builder. As a representative of the Cal State Fullerton Richman Center for Healthy Neighborhoods and an ambassador for the City of Fullerton, Egleth's efforts have fostered a strong bond between citizens and the Fullerton Police Department (FPD).

Egleth's community activism began with a mission to enhance her daughters' education and contribute to a better Fullerton. As President of the Fullerton District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC), she played a pivotal role in advising the district on involving parents in their children's education. Recognizing her passion for positive change, former Chief of Police, Dan Hughes, invited her to be part of his advisory board, where she provided invaluable insights as a resident actively working to improve the community.

Egleth's involvement with the Chief Advisory Board has spanned four years, during which she has supported Police Chief Dunn's efforts to connect with parents and the community.

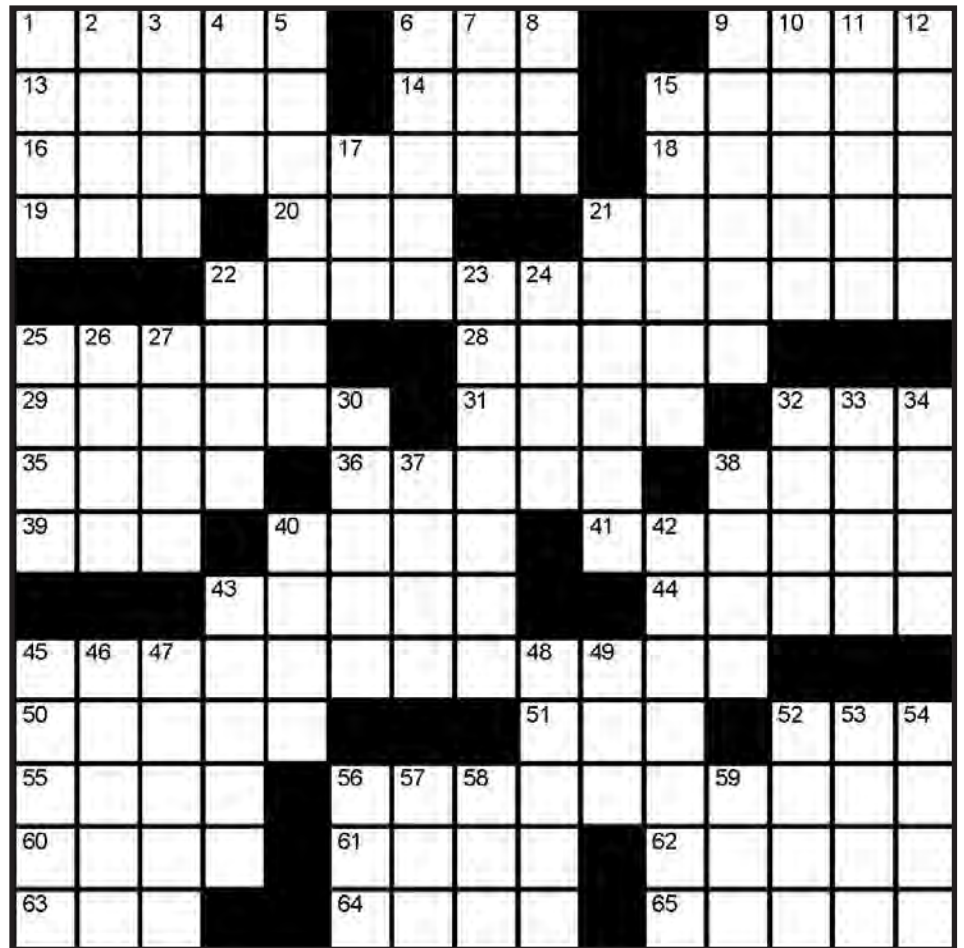
Through school visits and community events, she has helped bridge the gap between citizens and law enforcement. Her contributions have built trust and understanding, fostering a sense of cooperation between FPD and the community.

Egleth's proactive approach to community policing is evident through her active involvement in City of Fullerton council meetings, advocating for citizen rights. Her attendance at numerous Police Department events strengthens the bond between community members and law enforcement. Her efforts have garnered immense support from Fullerton citizens, leading to increased advocacy for FPD personnel.

Egleth Nuncci's unwavering commitment to community engagement and positive policing has inspired the residents of Fullerton. Her advocacy, understanding, and willingness to bridge the gap between citizens and the Fullerton Police Department have created a more united and harmonious community. Her actions serve as a testament to the power of collaborative partnerships in creating safer and stronger neighborhoods.

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2023

"HOMOPHONES" by Valerie Brickley (answer key on page 15)



ACROSS

1. Fast-food order that had "all the flavor, one less layer"
6. Put ___ fight
9. Spanish house
13. Dwight's opponent in '52 and '56
14. Bring home
15. "Groundhog Day" director
16. Fullerton eatery for Tom Yum soup and Massaman curry
18. Haim of "Licorice Pizza"
19. Dreyer's partner in ice cream
20. French vineyard
21. "The Cat Who " series writer's first name
22. Figure skating partner of Randy Gardner
25. Brosnan's successor
28. Collect slowly
29. Crude container
31. Rapids transit
32. ___ constrictor
35. Creator of Perry and Della
36. '90s exercise fad
38. Ages and ages
39. ___ Speedwagon
40. Leer at
41. Trix mascot
43. Corleone brother who broke Michael's heart
44. Disney's Polynesian princess
45. "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" host
50. Acid in proteins
51. Charged particle
52. One of the Gulf States: Abbr.
55. Decorated, as a cake
56. Single-pilot Imperial aircraft, in "Star Wars"
60. King Cole and Turner
61. "___ No Sunshine": Bill Withers hit
62. Venerated figure
63. LAX screening agency
64. Auction actions
65. Proofers' catches

DOWN

1. Spouse
2. Ritalin target: Abbr.
3. Stop-motion medium
4. ___ alai
5. Chest protector
6. Possible perp on "Criminal Minds"
7. Shar-___: wrinkly dog
8. The Braves, on scoreboards
9. Visit
10. At full speed, at sea
11. Egyptian peninsula
12. Yoga posture
15. Criticize harshly
17. The Diamondbacks, on scoreboards
21. Try to protect, in a way
22. Goodyear product
23. Mutually accept
24. Spill the beans
25. One with a handle
26. Hard to find
27. Folk's Guthrie
30. Three-star mil. officer
32. Tapioca tea
33. "It's open! Come ___"
34. Nick and Nora's pooch
37. No-frills grocery chain that collects a deposit for a shopping cart
38. Black, in poetry
40. "Yes ___?"
42. Surrounded by
43. Wards (off)
45. Sully
46. Workout spots, for some
47. Michelangelo work in St. Peter's
48. Things sometimes found under a tree
49. French pronoun
52. "Take ___ from me..."
53. Carson's successor
54. Garfunkel and Linkletter
56. Caps Lock neighbor
57. "Rocky ___" (Mr. T's in this one)
58. Conclude
59. Scarecrow material

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Community survey for the Hunt Library

The City of Fullerton is in the process of revitalizing the historic Hunt Library property. Please complete the survey at the website <https://arcg.is/iKPri> to help design the types of programs and activities that you would like to see at the Hunt.

Support for Children Experiencing Homelessness

by Vivien Moreno

FJUHSD's 2023/24 budget includes \$5 million of additional student funding from the state's Local Control Funding Formula due to an increased count of special student populations, including English learners, low-income, and foster youth. The federal and state government acknowledges that educating students under these circumstances requires additional resources for them to experience an equitable learning environment. Students are only counted once while assessing these special designations, but a more exhaustive count over the past four years uncovered a significant increase in these student populations attending FJUHSD. One of the most underrepresented and hidden student groups is a subset of low-income students who are shelter-challenged or experiencing homelessness.

Last year, 218 FJUHSD students were identified as experiencing homelessness. Although more than in previous years, it is still likely an undercount because of the difficulty in identifying and communicating student rights and services to families and students enduring shelter challenges. Students experiencing these issues are serviced under the federal McKinney Vento Act, which defines a homeless environment for a student as living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, cars, shelters, abandoned in hospitals, finding themselves couch surfing at a friend's house, or spending night time in any

public or abandoned place not defined as human habitation due to an economic loss or hardship. This includes students who are runaways, removed from a home, kicked out by guardians or parents, unaccompanied youth, and children of migratory families living in any situation as defined above.

The law outlines basic student services that any local education agency receiving federal or state funding (including public-funded charter schools) must provide for students experiencing inadequate housing. These students qualify for immediate enrollment in their school, even after enrollment deadlines. Students do not require paperwork, transcripts, immunization records, or proof of residency or guardianship to begin attending school. Students receive full access to school activities, services, and programs they qualify for.

Once a school identifies a student experiencing homelessness, they can provide nutrition, transportation, school supplies, and social services to increase stability by augmenting their shelter and basic care needs.

These services apply to all children

and youth ages three up to 22 years, including preschool and transitional life skill training for students aged 18-22 with special educational needs.

Students experiencing homelessness are vulnerable and, if not supported, spend most of their resources and time maintaining their basic needs of safety, food, and shelter with little or no time to allocate to education. They often experience chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 18 days or more a school year, are three times as likely to not graduate from high school, and often perform lower on state tests.

All publicly funded schools must employ a trained liaison for children experiencing this instability and post this information on easily accessed websites or classrooms. Unfortunately, students frequently find it challenging to share their unstable living circumstances with schools for a myriad of reasons. They may be concerned about

safety, documented status, embarrassed about their economic situation, or other reasons.

California Department of Education defines residency information of students experiencing these challenges as

Part of the community's responsibility and long-term prosperity is quickly connecting these children with support so they may focus on learning and becoming competent adults.

confidential educational records covered by FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) laws of privacy. Families or students experiencing homelessness are referred to as in transition, and none of the services, funding, or documentation concerning students experiencing homelessness is considered directory information. As classified private educational information, it requires a guardian's written permission before any outside state or federal agency or court-mandated entity may access the student's information.

Teachers and staff are trained to recognize the signs of a child experiencing homelessness with the goal of quickly getting the student supported. These children experience the trauma and instability of being shelter challenged without having much control over their circumstances. Part of the community's responsibility and long-term prosperity is quickly connecting these children with support so they may focus on learning and becoming competent adults.

At FJUHSD, students experiencing shelter challenges may contact District Community Liaison, Stephany Grigorov, by phone at 714-870-2838 or by email sgrigorov@fjuhsd.org or Director of Student Support Services, Allen Whitten, by phone at 714-870-2871 or by email awhitten@fjuhsd.org.

Orange County Judge Grants Preliminary Injunction in Case Against Fullerton Ordinance Outlawing Vehicular Housing

by Olivia Clark

The Orange County Superior Court has granted a preliminary injunction in a lawsuit challenging the legality of Chapter 8.46 of the Fullerton municipal code, which effectively outlaws people living in their vehicles within city limits. Kirkland & Ellis LLP and Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC) filed the lawsuit, which argues Chapter 8.46 violates the California Constitution's due process and equal protection clauses, excessive fines clause, the right to travel, and Gov. Code Section 11135, in December 2022.

"While Chapter 8.46 is allegedly proposed to 'mitigate the public health and safety concerns,' its overbroad and vague language has resulted in the arbitrary and discriminatory expulsion of Orange County's most vulnerable

residents—the vehicularly housed—a population who needs to rely on their vehicles for safety, storage, transportation, and more. This ordinance has upended lives and caused undue additional trauma to persons who already bear the great weight of homelessness," the lawsuit argues. The lawsuit seeks restitution and a court order that declares Chapter 8.46 unconstitutional and in violation of California law and prohibits enforcement of the ordinance in its current form.

On May 26, 2023, Kirkland & Ellis and DRLC filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction on behalf of Frederick Clayton Moon, Jacqueline Danis, and Jeanette Hodge requesting the Orange County Superior Court to enjoin the City of Fullerton and the Fullerton Police Department from

enforcing Chapter 8.46. After hearing oral argument on June 26, 2023, the Court granted the Motion for Preliminary Injunction, which prohibits the City of Fullerton and Fullerton Police Department from enforcing Chapter 8.46 prior to trial currently set for September 2024.

"This was an important step in protecting our clients' interests and rights while the case proceeds towards trial," said Matthew Summers, a litigation partner at Kirkland & Ellis. "Our team is proud to partner with the DRLC to achieve this victory for our clients."

"We are excited that the Court saw the Chapter for what it is—a vague and poorly drafted attempt to keep the vehicularly housed out of Fullerton," said Corrigan Lewis, DRLC senior staff attorney.



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 And Children Who Turn 5 on or After September 2, 2023

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Complete the Intent to Register Form by scanning the QR Code

Complete the registration packet - found on the Fullerton School District website or you may pick up a hard copy at the Preschool Office: 1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833

Schedule an appointment with the Preschool Office Staff to turn in your completed registration packet.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Part Day: Based on family size and income

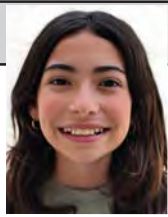
Full Day: Based on family size, income and need

To show need, each parent must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Employed • Seeking employment • Engaged in vocational training leading directly to a recognized trade, paraprofessional or profession; • Engaged in an educational program
- Seeking permanent housing for family stability; • Incapacitated.

For more information contact the Preschool Office at 714-447-7499

Summer Travels by Jules, 8th grade



The Garden island

Aloha! Greetings from Kauai, one of the eight Hawaiian Islands located in the Pacific Ocean. This summer, I visited Kauai, known as Garden Island, because of its vivid and lush landscapes. Here are some interesting and fun experiences in Kauai.

Kauai's majestic landscapes range from tropical rainforests to vivid blue waters. There are plentiful thrilling adventures to get your adrenaline pumping. The tropical rainforests feature a Zipline over cascading waterfalls and forest canopies. You can also hike numerous trails like the famous 11-mile Kalalau trail on the beautiful Nā Pali Coast.

Kauai's majestic waters are perfect for wading and relaxing in, but they also have plenty of potential for adventures. Hanalei Bay, the most popular spot for surfing in Kauai, is known to have large swells and excellent surfing conditions. Kauai is also known as one of the best places in the world to snorkel, with its clear water and reefs.

Though the Pacific Ocean's appeal will prepare you to jump in, there are also many different water activities to experience in Kauai's many rivers and manmade bodies of water. If you're up for a ride, Kayaking along the Wailua River will be perfect for you, with its path winding through the vast jungle and streaming waterfalls. Another exciting experience is mountain tubing through Kauai's old sugarcane canals where you will ride through remote parts of the island.

Though there are plenty of existing adventures in Kauai, the island's natural beauty entices many visitors. Here are some of nature's beautiful landmarks to see in Kauai. Shipwreck Beach, located in South Kauai, is made up of limestone sea cliffs that have been eroded for millions of years by sand, wind, and salt. Opaekaa Falls, a stunning 150 ft waterfall in the West Kauai Region, is a popular spot because of its easy access and flowing year around. In Kokee state park is the Puu o Kila Lookout, a magnificent view of the Kalalau Valley and the Alakai Swamp. The Puu o Kila lookout can be found in West Kauai. The most popular place to visit in Kauai is the Nā Pali Coast state park in the North and West Kauai Regions. You can see breathtaking views of the Nā Pali Coastline in the park. This view can be accessed by land, sea, and air.

In Kauai, you can take adventures and experience new things that are great to get outside your comfort zone and spend quality time with your family. Some of my favorite things to do in Kauai are hanging out at the beach, eating shaved ice, and, most importantly, having fun and relaxing, creating memories in paradise! Let's explore the world together.

Poetry by Lukas, 9th grade



Summer Wishes

Staring at the swelling waves crash along the shore,
Yearning for summer forevermore.
The blissful peace of the water,
Cannot be in your presence much longer.
The thought of school torments your mind;
Run to the sea for comfort; mist sprays your face,
Salty water provides a rough embrace.
School thoughts briefly dismissed.



Book Review by Katie, 12th grade



Better Than the Movies by Lynn Painter

4 STARS

If you're looking for a good young adult romance, this is for you! With fake dating, enemies-to-lovers, and childhood neighbors, it's the one I've been looking for.

My favorite aspect of the book was the main relationship. The banter and interactions between Liz and Wes kept me going, and I enjoyed every scene with both of them in it. Their chemistry was well-written, and they were brought to life through their personal interests and realistic characters. However, the dialogue sometimes came off cringey, and I had major secondhand embarrassment!

Although it may have been pre-

dictable and cliché, I was giddy and smiling the whole time. It was exactly what I needed after a long school year, and I loved how it blended loss, romance, and familial conflicts—all the topics were balanced well and didn't bog down the story's mood.

This book that I wish I could read for the first time again. Once I started it, I couldn't put it down and finished it in two days. The characters were relatable and funny, the plot was predictable but enjoyable, and the rom-com references were fun. Overall, the perfect romance book to pick up this summer and fly through!

Preserving Beauty by Irene, 12th grade



The Wild West

This past summer, my family and I trekked the deserts of Phoenix and Utah. Embarking on an extensive road trip that would span over 50 hours of pure driving, we followed a five-day itinerary that included a visit to the Grand Canyon, Antelope Canyon, Horseshoe Bend, Monument Valley, and Bryce Canyon.

The sweltering heat and the intense wind made it a physically exhausting trip, but nonetheless, an enlightening experience. With seldom access to functioning internet, it would be no exaggeration to say that I was literally "disconnected" for the next few days of my adventure. This, however, allowed me the privilege to truly embrace the scenic views and value the rather grueling hikes, without distractions from social media and bustling cities. And more than anything, I appreciated the opportunity to learn about the vast history of the land and the people occupying these regions.

On the third day of our travels, we took a private guided tour led by a middle-aged man, whose name I, unfortu-

nately, do not know, through the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park. Located within the Navajo Nation, this valley flaunts unique sandstone buttes and vivid colors. Our incredible guide, a member of the Navajo community himself, took us through areas within the park that are otherwise restricted to other guests. He informed us of the relevance and history of each of the buttes, sang us a memorable Navajo "travel song" in his native tongue, and encouraged us to immerse ourselves in nature.

This travel experience reinforced the importance of preserving these beautiful cultures and understanding the impacts that tourism places on these local indigenous communities. After visiting these beautiful parks, I have more reason than ever to advocate for the rights of indigenous people and the reservations they inhabit. I look forward to exploring the history of the Navajo Nation, and for all the readers, my best advice for any vacation goes: "Study and appreciate the culture."

Environment by Mateo, 10th grade



The Hottest Month of All Time

Here in Southern California, the weather during the summer season is notorious for getting extremely hot. In the past few years, we have seen temperatures climb to the mid-100s here in Fullerton and surrounding areas, and in other parts of the state, such as Death Valley, it got even hotter.

This summer does not seem particularly out of the ordinary regarding heat, as the temperature has stayed at a rather average level despite humidity making it feel even hotter. However, record-high temperatures are being recorded every single day in places all over the world. In fact, during four days from July 3rd to July 6th, the record for the hottest day ever (based on average global temperature) was tied or broken each day.

This extreme heat can be deadly to people living in certain regions of the world, as areas that are not used to temperatures as high as the ones this July are not adequately equipped to handle the heat. Tools such as air conditioning systems are not available in these regions because they have never been necessary in the past. So, what is causing this unbearable heat?

Most environmental organizations agree that the recent worldwide heat waves result from a combination of increased greenhouse gas emissions and the return of a weather phenomenon known as El Niño. Greenhouse

gases have been a problem for decades now, as they trap heat within the atmosphere. These gasses continue to build up more and more in the atmosphere, allowing more heat to be trapped and causing temperatures to rise.

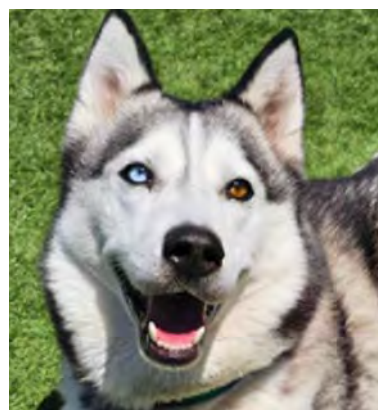
On the other hand, El Niño is not so much of a constant threat but rather one that recurs about every two to seven years. El Niño occurs when the trade winds blowing west along the equator weaken, thus causing warmer waters to be pushed toward the East.

This change in the climate can cause strange weather patterns to occur for months on end. These include dry, warm weather in the northern U.S. and flooding in the southeastern U.S. Although El Niño only dramatically impacts the Americas, it still contributes to the recent increase in global temperature. So, due to the lasting effect of greenhouse gasses and the unfortunate return of El Niño, extreme heat waves are burning up the world and threatening the lives of millions.

The sad truth is that it will likely only grow worse in the years to come unless more efforts are made to thwart the progress of climate change and global warming. In the meantime, apply sunscreen and stay safe while in the sun as you enjoy the rest of your summer.

Featured Pet & Animal Trivia

by Rosie, 7th grade



Meet Darcy!

Five years old, Darcy is a husky who has two different colored eyes. One is the soulful, sinking, charming shimmer of blue and the other is a steady, down-to-earth, earthy tone of honey-brown.

Energetic and bright, Darcy will thrive in an environment where her mind will be stimulated and exercised. Excruciatingly polite around adults, she is looking for a home where she will be the only pet. (No division of attention for her!)

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HITS & MISSES

by Joyce Mason © 2023



OPPENHEIMER: Two Hits

Basing his ambitious and compelling film about the man known as “father of the atomic bomb,” writer/director Christopher Nolan sources much of his material from the carefully researched 2005 biography “American Prometheus.” Known for his innovative filmic techniques, Nolan intersperses use of vivid color, needed for experimental testing results, and carefully constructed black-and-white scenes used as reminders of a later era in Robert Oppenheimer’s life when he was surrounded by political controversy.

Even within a myriad of events, both personal and global, Nolan is able to create a chronology in this film that

covers four decades. We first meet Oppie (Cillian Murphy) as a student in Cambridge, where he has floundered as a student until he is introduced to quantum physics, a field that ignites his prodigious intellect. He excels in the classroom but dislikes lab work because it is less theoretical. When he hears that the atom has been split in half, he ponders the possibilities that could be unleashed.

Perhaps unexpectedly, we discover that this theoretical physicist admires artists in several fields. He reads T.S. Eliot’s “The Waste Land,” listens to the music of Stravinsky and contemplates the art of Picasso. He sees in their works the melding of space and

time that is present in his own pursuits. Oppenheimer’s love for the classroom and for theory land him two positions in teaching at Berkeley and Cal Tech. At Berkeley he makes two memorable connections, one with Ernest Lawrence (Josh Hartnett), who invented the cyclotron; another with Colonel Leslie Groves (Matt Damon), who is military head of the fledgling Manhattan Project.

Also impacting Oppenheimer’s life is Hitler’s invasion of Poland and the spread of Fascism throughout Europe as well as the immigration of several Jewish scientists. It becomes known that the Germans are already working on an atom bomb, and Colonel Groves suggests that Oppenheimer should head up this kind of scientific research. He gains the dubious support of the Atomic Energy Commission’s chairman Lewis Strauss (a barely recognizable Robert Downey Jr.), who will later become a nemesis in Oppie’s life.

Oppenheimer has always loved New Mexico’s open spaces, where he has vacationed on his brother’s ranch. With his love for research and his love of the desert, Oppie suggests that the government build a self-contained community in Los Alamos. Scientists and staff employees will live and work in this remote region with their families for as long as it takes to build a weapon that could bring World War II to a halt.

By now Oppenheimer has had an affair with a political firebrand, who is emotionally unstable, Jean Tatlock (Florence Pugh). He marries another difficult but brilliant woman, Kitty

Harrison (Emily Blunt). She brings their infant son with them to Los Alamos, where another child, a daughter, is born. The intense work of the scientists and their assistants reaches its culmination in 1945, when the “Trinity bomb” is exploded in the desert with the force and intensity that the researchers had hoped for. It is the prototype for the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, bringing an almost immediate Japanese surrender.

But the story does not end smoothly for Oppenheimer. He is racked personally with guilt and sadness over the destruction he has made possible. In the years following the war he suffers not only from his own personal despair, but he is made the target of the newly forming anti-Communist movement. His brother had been a member of the Communist party and Oppenheimer had explored the tenets of the party during the 1930s but he never joined. Nevertheless, he suffers some dire consequences.

The movie “Oppenheimer” lasts a full three hours, yet the time is needed, for the arc of the story is intense and the issues covered are diverse. Christopher Nolan provides a well-written script, fine actors, and amazing camera work. A relative unknown in film, Cillian Murphy looks very much like the photos of Oppenheimer with a slim, tall stature and piercing blue eyes. He also ages carefully over the four decades that culminate in the telling of what many people feel was the most significant development in the twentieth century.

TWO HITS: Don’t Miss it!

A HIT & A MISS: You Might Like it.

TWO MISSES: Don’t Bother.

THEATER REVIEW by Angela Hatcher

King Kong at the Maverick Theater until August 6th

“Don’t be alarmed, ladies and gentlemen; those chains are made of chrome steel.” – Carl Denham, King Kong

When we hear the name, King Kong, we are confident that we know the whole story, but... not so fast theater fans.... Staged Cinema Productions brings The Eighth Wonder of the World, KING KONG, to Maverick Theater’s stage, and this dazzling production is written, produced, and directed by Brian Newell and adapted from the novel by Delos W. Lovelace with a story by Merian C. Cooper.

What makes this 1933 “Beauty and the Beast” legendary tale different? Let’s begin with Maverick’s Light and Magic Special Effects. The imaginative use of today’s modern advancements featuring green screen technology, visual and thunderous sound effects, doll-sized miniatures, and digital projection makes this show a must-see. Still, the clever fusion of classic old-time theater, Maverick’s high-tech expertise, and an incredibly talented

cast make Maverick’s King Kong an ingenious original.

The intermingling of the actors and camera stills, giant screen footage, and movies is an insight into what makes this live theater production so engaging. It also proves to remain faithful to the narrative while developing more immersive storytelling through its artistic and high-tech capabilities while keeping the cheeky campiness that King Kong is so



Kalinda Gray convincingly portrays Kong’s love interest, Ann Darrow.

famous for.

To the audience, what matters most is that the show is as exciting as expected, but the hilarity of the effects and occasional flubs are simply a bonus. Carl Denham (brilliantly portrayed by Mark Coyan) is the persuasive movie producer with stargazing ideas who convinces an actress he meets to set sail on a long ocean voyage, without a script, to an undisclosed destination for a movie shoot.

It is the 1930s – the age of the circus, freak shows, and Vaudeville. Denham is the barker, the rodeo clown, and the burlesque show warm-up guy all rolled up into one. His hunger and passion for bringing the greatest show ever known is written all over his face, which drives him into dangerous territory. He doesn’t care who comes along as long as they cooperate and remind him to bring his camera. As Jack (Jeff Lowe) says, “When it comes to getting a picture, there’s nothin’ he (Denham) won’t do.”

Coyan brings a whole lot of pizzazz, energy, and vitality to Carl, and he is so much fun to watch. Jeff Lowe’s First Mate, Jack Driscoll, is a good-looking man’s man who instantly falls for Kong’s “girl,” although Kong doesn’t know it yet.

Kalinda Gray convincingly portrays

Kong’s love interest, Ann Darrow. She makes it evident that she has landed on tough times and is ready for adventure. Gray is stunning, and as the blonde “Barbie doll-like” Ann, she is the epitome of innocent femininity with a touch of “Marilyn Monroe” sex appeal tossed in. How could Kong resist?

Gray’s delivery is so impressive that she alone could have coined the familiar phrase, “You big ape! Get your hands off me!”

This amazingly talented cast also includes superstars Glenn Freeze as Capt. Englehorn/Sergeant, Scott Keister as Weston the Talent Agent/Native King (I absolutely love him as the scary native with the unfamiliar foreign tongue), Donny Van Horn as Jimmy/Mabel, John Castro as the wild Witchdoctor, and Rob Downs as the Merchant/Eighth Wonder. Brian Newell, Maverick’s Light and Magic Special Effects, and the entire cast of The Eighth Wonder of the World King Kong are not monkeying around (well, maybe they are...).

However, this is the summer blockbuster that will take viewers from New York to Skull Island and back, so grab your tickets before “the ship sails.” The 2,000 lb. King gorilla-like sight-to-see turns 90 this year, but he’s “still got it.”

This is Maverick’s fourth time to bring this show to its stage, and with its cult following, let it be known that it is not an earthquake rocking the theater, and as the audience excitedly claps and cheers, and roars with laughter, it is once again, for your pleasure, the mighty Kong.

Maverick Theater

110 E. Walnut Ave, Unit B,
Fullerton | 714 526.7070
plays until August 6th

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Wednesday Concerts in the Park
 Concerts begin at 7 pm but activities such as Food Trucks and Twilight Swim will begin at 6 pm
PERFORMERS:
 6 pm Food Trucks and Twilight Swim
 7 - 9 pm, August 2
 Flash Pants, Vegas-Style
 80s Cover Band
 LOCATION: Boiserranc Park
 7520 Dale Street, Buena Park
 CALL FOR INFORMATION:
 (714) 562-3860

Wednesday Concerts in the Park
 Seating is on the lawn of City Hall Park. Blankets and beach chairs are encouraged! This is a family-friendly and dog-friendly event.
PERFORMERS:
 6:30 to 8 pm, August 2
 Pickleback Shine, County Rock
 6:30 to 8 pm, August 9
 The Fenians, Celtic Rock
 LOCATION: City Hall Park
 401 S Brea Blvd, Brea
 CALL FOR INFORMATION:
 (714) 990-7722

Sunday Concerts in the Park
 End your weekend on a high note! Pack a picnic dinner and enjoy live music with friends and family. Seating is available on the grass, so be sure to bring lawn chairs and blankets.
PERFORMERS:
 Sunday, 5:30 - 7pm, August 6
 4 Alarm Band
 (Popular Hits 90's - Present)
 Sunday, 5:30 - 7pm, August 13
 The OC3 (Classic Rock)
 Sunday, 5:30 - 7pm, August 20
 The Reflexx (80's Alternative)
 LOCATION: Hurlless Barton Park
 4601 Casa Loma Ave, Yorba Linda
 CALL FOR INFORMATION:
 (714) 961-7167

Sawdust Festival - Laguna Beach
 Friday to Sunday thru September 3
 Outdoor arts and crafts festival. Watch artists create their work and buy directly from the artists while enjoying the wonderful atmosphere.
 LOCATION:
 935 Laguna Canyon Rd,
 Laguna Beach
 CALL FOR INFORMATION:
 949-494-3030

Santa Ana Artists Village Art Walk
 First Saturday of the Month
 7pm - 11pm
 Downtown Santa Ana comes alive with arts the first Saturday of each month when galleries, theatres, artists and performers in the Artists Village host a monthly Open House for the public. This free event attracts as many as 1500 individuals who come from throughout Los Angeles and Orange County to walk more than 150 participating studios and galleries located in historic buildings in the heart of downtown Santa Ana.
 CALL FOR INFORMATION:
 714-571-4229

Festival of Arts Laguna Beach
 Now to September 1
 Visitors can take tours of the exhibit, catch an art demonstration, dine at one of the on-site restaurants, create their own masterpiece, or simply sit back and enjoy the creative atmosphere. Weekends are jam-packed with live music and special events providing entertainment for all.
 LOCATION:
 650 Laguna Canyon Rd
 Laguna Beach
 CALL FOR INFORMATION:
 800-487-3378

Laguna Beach Pageant of the Masters "Art Colony: In the Company of Artists"
 Now to September 1
 Shows Nightly at 8:30pm
 Each evening during the summer season, classic and contemporary works of art are faithfully re-created with theatrical illusion and real people posing as living pictures. The 2023 production, "Art Colony: In the Company of Artists," will acknowledge the deep connections and memorable stories of artists assisting one another throughout the world and throughout history.
 LOCATION: 650 Laguna Canyon Rd
 Laguna Beach
 Tickets start at \$35 per person
 (Includes season pass to the Festival of Arts Fine Art Show)
 www.foapom.com
 (949) 497-6582, (800) 487-3378



Chance Theater presents: Rent
 Now to August 20
 Based loosely on Puccini's La Boheme, the musical follows a year in the life of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. This is theater at its best - exuberant, passionate, and joyous.
NOTE: This show contains mature content and strong language
 LOCATION: Chance Theater
 Bette Aitken Theater Arts Center
 5522 E. La Palma Ave, Anaheim
 TICKETS / INFORMATION:
 www.ChanceTheater.com

Free Family Movies in the Park YORBA LINDA
 Enjoy a Saturday evening in the park while watching a family-friendly movie on our 20ft inflatable movie screen. No pre-registration is required, and bring a blanket or lawn chair for seating.
August 19: Lightyear
September 16: Puss in Boots the Last Wish, Eastside
October 21: Hotel Transylvania: Transformania
 LOCATIONS:
 September 16 will be held at Eastside Community Park, 5400 Eastside Cir
 All other dates will be held at Hurlless Barton Park, 4601 Casa Loma Avenue
 CALL FOR INFORMATION:
 (714) 961-7192

La Habra Movies in the Park
 Movies begin at Dusk
 This summer's Movies in the Park series is here. Grab your blanket and lawn chairs and come watch a movie on our GIANT movie screen. Activities begin at 6:00 p.m., and movies begin at sunset. New this year, we are offering FREE hot dog dinners (includes hot dog, chips & drink) to moviegoers. Candy and popcorn can be purchased for \$1
Tuesday, 6 pm, August 1st
 Lightyear, Portola Park
 (National Night Out)
Friday, 6pm, August 18th
 The Super Mario Brothers Movie, El Centro Park
Friday, 6pm, September 8th
 Minions: The Rise of Gru, Oeste Park
 CALL FOR INFORMATION:
 562-383-4200

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 Saturday August 5, 2023
 9 AM to Noon
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 California State University, Fullerton

Olli.fullerton.edu. (657) 278-2446



Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2023 • JonDobrer@mac.com

Is Israel a Racist State?

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal characterized Israel as a racist state. Her charge was itself racist, offensive, and anti-Semitic. It was also both true and meaningless. The Squad also calls Israel an Apartheid state.

Yes, Israel is a racist state where Palestinians are second-class citizens. Israel is not an Apartheid state. Within Israel, Palestinian Arabs are citizens and can vote, hold office and be part of the government. Palestinians constitute over 24% of Israel's medical doctors and 28% of nurses.

So, her charge of being racist is true yet deceptive. What state is not racist? America is a racist state which, from the beginning, benefited white males. To be Black, Brown, Asian, or Native American is to be a second-class citizen. Canada is a racist nation. Ask their First Peoples.

India is a racist country with racism built into its caste system, and it manifests currently with its anti-Islamic Hindu nationalism. Yet, Jayapal, who is of Indian origin, was able to overlook its fundamental racism and attend the joint session of Congress appearance of Prime Minister Modi—an authoritarian racist.

China is a racist country favoring by law and custom the Han people while marginalizing and oppressing

Muslims, Christians, as well as ethnic Koreans, Tibetans, and 51 other non-Han ethnicities.

France is a racist nation, although they pretend that race doesn't exist and they're all just French. Ask a French citizen descended from Sub-Saharan or Northern Africa.

Ask French Jews. When Goldberg's Deli was shot up in 1982 by Palestinian terrorists, six Jews were killed and more than 20 people injured. President Mitterrand expressed his profound regret that Jews were injured and died along with many "innocent French." The dead and injured Jews were not real innocents nor, apparently, even really French. He didn't mean to offend, but this is the Platonic form of unconscious bias.

I don't have to remind anyone of Czarist Russia's persecution of Jews, the Soviet Union's persecution of all religions, and the current Russian ethnic-religious nationalism that is both anti-Semitic and homophobic.

Saudi Arabia is another racist society. No, they don't persecute Jews because there are no Jews. Nor are there Jews left in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, or

Afghanistan. Yet, beyond the absence of Jews, these nations, too, are racist—persecuting people of other faiths, tribes, and ethnicities. Look at the rest of Asia. Look at Latin America and Africa. Now find me a non-racist state.

This week, Texas border agents pushed Latin Americans seeking refugee status back into the Rio Grande—a river that they booby-trapped with razor wire. Does anyone think that White people would receive such wonton cruelty? Look at Italy and Greece that interfere with the rescue of Africans and let them drown. Does race play a part? You know the answer. Look at Tunisia, which just arrested sub-Saharan Africans and moved them from the port city of Sfax to an inhumane and deadly desert prison camp on their border with Libya. Race an issue? No question.

Am I committing the rhetorical sin of the classic subject-changing technique of "What-aboutism?" Absolutely not! If the transgression is universal, then it's not bad faith or evasion to contextualize the charge.

Judging Israel as a uniquely flawed and racist state is anti-Semitic. It is a willful ignoring of the sad truth of the world. Having the SQUAD boycott the speech of Israel's president while singing the praises of societies that kill LGBTQA+ people and perform female genital mutilation is either hypocritical, morally bankrupt, or both.

It is true that in the first 30 years of

the 20th Century, Jews debated if Zionism was racism and if a Jewish state had to be inherently flawed by its unique identity as being Jewish. The debates were fierce and passionate. The very idea of a lifeboat especially consecrated for Jews, was honestly engaged. The philosophical split was deep.

After the Holocaust, much of that split was healed by tragic necessity. The need for a lifeboat was clear. The Law of Return did, in fact, favor Jews over non-Jews. This seemed to most, but not all, a self-evident necessity given the circumstances. So, yes, Israel's founding and the violent aftermath when the Arab nations and some indigenous Arabs sought the utter destruction of the new state made philosophy a third-tier issue. Survival of both the Jewish state and the Jewish people was the first order of business.

I believe that it's completely fair to criticize Israeli policies. It's appropriate to find terrible moral and political flaws in Israeli practices, particularly in the West Bank. Marching against the government is a cherished right in Israel, as it is here.

I am not arguing that just because a practice is long-standing and universal that it must be defended or that we shouldn't work to change it. We should be involved in improving the world, in being instruments of peace. However, our actions must be based on intellectual honesty and not on custom, habit, historical hatred, and either conscious or unconscious bias.

Let's work to fix all of our racist states.

We should be involved in improving the world, in being instruments of peace.

AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2023



Am I out of the loop?

The revelations in the July issue of the Observer about physical abuse and overdose deaths in Orange County shelters still have me reeling. I feel a bit like the man who was lost on a desert island. And the folks who read this column would have every right to ask if I'm turning a blind eye to violence and abuse in shelters—am I naive, or too unobservant, or afraid of losing my bed and all that goes with it?

I'm not naive, but I do miss things. And there are subtle issues I've not mentioned, such as dealing with staff members who are clearly out of their depth and lack empathy when dealing with mentally disordered/physically handicapped residents, as well as EMT personnel who have been very high-handed in dealing with residents experiencing mental and/or physical distress. But naming names of individuals needs to be done via private channels,

if for no other reason than to avoid charges of slander and libel. There is a process for this in place in the shelters, and I have made use of it and will continue to do so.

I am aghast that Illumination Foundation and Mercy House are so adamant in their refusal to allow press scrutiny. Of course, there's no such thing as a perfect operation. And any organization that provides food, shelter, and medical services to hundreds of homeless men and women is always going to be a work in progress. But refusing to allow the press to come in and look around? You're just asking for trouble, as well as greater scrutiny. And it's clear that there is trouble in River City. I'm sure the people who died of fentanyl overdoses were addicted long before they got to a shelter. But they should have been medically monitored to ensure they didn't

have an opportunity to score.

It's easy to take advantage of people who are physically and mentally handicapped. It's why abuse of all kinds must be closely monitored in homeless shelters and assisted care facilities. All I can do is report what I have seen, which is an observer's (pun intended) main job. As Irwin Shaw so succinctly put it, "A writer is reporting in—he is saying, 'This is where I think I am, and this is what the place looks like today.'"

So how does the shelter I call 'home' look today?

Well, today we had under the beds cleaning from 11-1, but not so you'd notice. Then the building was sanitized for our protection from 1-1:30, followed by snacks and dinner. We did have a bit of excitement with an unexpected fire drill, but people moved out quickly and we were able to reenter the building within a few minutes. Riveting stuff. But how wonderful to have such an uneventful day, free from dramas and psychoses. Freedom from distractions is essential to being productive, to having a clear mind.

Which is what makes these reports of abuse and death even more distressing. Difficult enough to maintain any sense

of routine when you have no home-base, and the only resources are those you can carry on your back. So I feel I must reiterate: I am not ignoring any incidents I have witnessed. The problem is, after so much storm and stress, night after night, you start to get numb. Instead of feeling sympathy for the man coughing his lungs out in the next row, you find yourself wishing he would get off his ass and go to the hospital. The complaints and devices of your neighbors become annoyances; you want them to shut up and go to sleep, or go away. Whichever.

Am I defending my indifference? No. I am explaining it. And for the record, I have witnessed no sexual assaults, no drug overdoses, no deaths. I have seen two people have strokes—they were well attended to—and numerous people having breakdowns due to stress, heat and other factors, which is to be expected when you put hundreds of strangers together for an extended length of time.

And summer's only half over. If anything of importance happens, you will hear it from me. Until then, another reminder: Better days are coming, if we work for them.

Letter to Editor: CSUF makes parking more difficult

Dear *Observer*,

As if the parking situation at Cal State Fullerton wasn't bad enough, the university has now made the situation worse. Parking permits for a semester cost well over \$300, a price out of reach for many students. This literally nets the university between \$7 million and \$8 million per semester, although CSUF has never made clear where this money goes or why it is necessary to charge this much.

Because I have classes only a couple of days a week, it has been cheaper for me to buy the \$10 daily parking pass. But I have just learned that the university is taking

out the machines that issue these passes. So instead of driving up to the parking structure, buying a pass and parking, I will now be required to go to a website in order to purchase a daily parking pass. This is not only incredibly inconvenient, but it places at a disadvantage many low income students who have regular cell phones instead of smart phones.

The goal of Cal State Fullerton seems to be to weed out poorer students and make higher education available only to the well off.

CSUF used to be better than that. Shame.

John Fullerton

HOW TO VOICE YOUR OPINION:

Community Opinion pages are a forum for the community. The Observer welcomes letters on any subject of interest. Letters are the opinion of the writers, may be shortened for space, and typos will be corrected. Anonymous letters may be printed if you can make the case for anonymity. You can request to be identified by your initials and town only (we will need your whole name for verification). We print all that we can fit. Thanks!

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CA 92834

Healthy Awareness

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2023



What I learned from the Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative Report from UCSF

I want to share the University of California San Francisco report published in June 2023 on the latest findings on homelessness's. This report is impressive for the following reasons: **1)** it is the most extensive representative study since the mid-1990s; **2)** it is the first large-scale representative study to use both 3,200 surveys and 365 in-depth interviews and **3)** it is guided by advisory boards composed of people who have had the experience of being homeless and those who worked on homelessness programs and policies. Eight counties were tested, representing the state's diversity; participants were over eighteen, and 90% were single. Most participants (87%) were born in California.

California is home to approximately 12 percent of the population of the United States; however, California also represents 30% of the nation's homeless population and 50% of the nation's unsheltered population (those living in vehicles). In California, more than 171,000 people experience homelessness daily. Only 25% of people without homes migrated to California, with the majority (75%) reporting having lived in the same county in California based on their last housing. Two-thirds (63%) had at least a high school education or equivalent.

The age of the homeless population is increasing to those over 50. Forty-one percent became homeless for the first time after age 50. The median age was 47 years, with 37% being in the 50-64 age group and part of the single adult population. Minority groups (Blacks, Native American or Indigenous identity, and Latinos) are over-represented in the homeless population.

Homelessness takes its toll on both mental and physical health. People at a higher risk for homelessness have specific vulnerabilities in their lifetimes, such as a history of trauma (72% physical violence and 24% sexual violence), experiences of discrimination, exposure to violence, incarceration (79%), mental health problems (82%) and substance abuse (63%). Sixty percent reported having a chronic disease. Two-thirds reported severe depression, mania, psychosis, and panic attacks.

Being homeless is extremely stressful as they are trying to survive with much of their time spent seeking the basic needs of food and shelter. They do not sleep well and can experience violence on the street. Life is one of constant worry and hopelessness. Age, disability, lack of transportation, and housing interferes with their ability to work.

Approximately 50% report severe depression and anxiety, 37% have memory issues, and 12% have hallucinations. Only 9% receive mental health counseling, with less than 15% getting medications for these conditions. One

in five participants with substance abuse said they could not receive treatment. Only 19% of those eligible for VA benefits receive them.

Many homeless people are forced to move out of their locations, resulting in 1 in 3 reporting losing all their belongings in the prior six months, including the loss of essential documents and medication. 1 in 4 females aged 18 to 44 experience pregnancy at some point while being homeless.

About one-third became homeless due to economic problems after losing their housing. Housing loss due to financial problems appear to be the most significant obstacle in avoiding homelessness, and suggestions have

been made to do the following: **1)** provide a monthly rental subsidy worth \$300-\$500; **2)** a one-time payment of \$5,000 to \$10,000; or **3)** a voucher that limits rent contribution to 30% of their income (such as a Housing Choice Voucher). Many participants (90%), even those with substantial substance use or mental health conditions, said that #3 would have prevented them from becoming homeless.

Improving re-entry support with meaningful connections to permanent housing, health care, and employment for those exiting the armed services (6%), incarceration, and hospital patients is a priority to end homelessness.

My evaluation: Homelessness, for some, represents a sense of com-

munity or family, often for protection or having similar drug or alcohol addictions, making it difficult to leave. Many homeless individuals would prefer to live on the streets with their "family or community" rather than be housed in a shelter with rules and unable to bring their personal property, including their pets. Giving money to homeless individuals who suffer from addiction does not buy food; instead, drugs or alcohol. It is better to give them food instead. The Recovery Road facility does this and provides a center with AA meetings and a computer lab for finding work. The center also provides food to seniors saving them from becoming homeless as they cannot afford food.

Homeless people need access to mental and physical healthcare services, including advisory services that alert them to available resources. Also, we need to include re-entry services for veterans (6% of the homeless population) and others transitioning to a different life.

Finding some of the factors related to homelessness as the UCSF project is a start to finding the solution to homelessness. Folks, we have a major problem that is only getting worse. It is not just going to go away. We need to all be part of the solution! Homelessness is a humanity crisis that requires our full attention!

*Folks,
we have
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*It is
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*Homelessness
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that requires
our full
attention!*

BE ACTIVE, INVOLVED, AND ENGAGED

Retired? What Do I Do Now? by Jeanette Reese

You are retired or semi-retired. Suddenly, the bustling life you had while working is gone. That may be a good thing, but often it is an adjustment and not always an easy one. If that is true for you, you may have found a home.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at California State University Fullerton is designed for seniors transitioning to or already retired. It is a community of interesting seniors who choose to continue learning and keep their minds and bodies active. If this is what interests you, stop by the OLLI Open House on August 5th.

OLLI has over one hundred classes from which to choose. The topics are many: politics, history, technology, writing, dance, acting, music, and genealogy to name a few. The best part? There are no papers to write or exams to take.

Why, you might ask, are there no

papers or exams? Because the fundamental goals of OLLI are to keep seniors intellectually stimulated, physically active and socially connected. No need to prove anything to professors. These seniors are retired and loving it.

OLLI is more than just classes. There are day trips available such as to the Hollywood Bowl, the Motion Picture Academy Museum, and the Huntington Library to name a few. These active seniors don't stop there. Some have even traveled to New England, Alaska, and the Galapagos Islands. Interesting people find ways to stay interested.

So, if you are retired or semi-retired and would like to expand your mind, keep physically active, or stay creative, join the OLLI Open House on Saturday, August 5th from 9:00AM to Noon at the Ruby Gerontology Center on the Cal State Fullerton campus. You will likely meet some of the most inspiring seniors in Orange County.

BALANCE & CHANGE

by Michelle Gottlieb, Psy.D., MFT, LPCC © 2023

Fighting to keep your relationship intact

People fight. Spouses fight. Siblings fight. Friends fight. That is a reality. It is not necessarily bad, depending on how it is done.

We can fight mean and be very hurtful to those we love, live with, spend the most time with, and know best. What that means is that we know the best way to hurt them. We know where they are most vulnerable. Going after those spots is not fair, but we tend to do that when we think we need to win the fight. In this situation, there is no winning. Everyone loses. The relationship loses.

So, it is vital to learn how to fight fair. First, make sure that you are in a good place emotionally. I know that sounds counter-intuitive. If I feel a fight with my spouse is coming on, I am probably not in a good emotional state! But stop! Breathe. Take some time to think about what you are upset about. What you most want your spouse to understand. Take a minute. What would be a good resolution for the relationship? Not you, the relation-

ship. You want the relationship to win, not the individual.

Once you are grounded, ask if the other person is ready to talk. If both of you are ready, consider your tone and word choice. Do not be deliberately provocative. Do not push buttons. If there is something that you do not understand, clarify. Do not assume that you know. Ask questions. Again, watch your tone. Be aware of your body language. Keep in mind what your goal for the relationship is. Breathe. If you need to take a timeout, please do.

It may take a while to get through this. You can take it in small chunks. Keep grounding yourself. Remind yourself and the person that you are fighting with all the positive feelings you still have for each other.

Doing these steps can resolve most issues with the least damage. However, do not hesitate to contact a professional if you need help. That is why we are here. Please take care of yourself and your relationship!

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• **Linda Holman** - Energy Healing What It Is & How It Works
• **Jane Shellhouse** - Improve Your Health with Nutrition
• **Susan Svoloda** author of *I Hate the Color Pink* - One Woman's Emotional Journey with Breast Cancer

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THE PLAN FOR FULLERTON STREET TREES

by Vivien Moreno

For the last 41 years, Fullerton has been recognized as a “Tree City USA,” but the previous extensive inventory was completed in 1998. Tree inventories tally both city-owned and private trees, identify areas needing additional trees, policies concerning maintenance, replacement areas, and plant selection. Fullerton currently hosts over 35,000 trees, which accounts for over 27% of the city experiencing an existing tree canopy, which is significantly higher than many Orange County cities.

Fullerton’s 2023 Community Forest Management Plan is complete and online on the city website under Community Forest Management. www.cityoffullerton.com/government/departments/public-works/landscape-tree/community-forest-management.

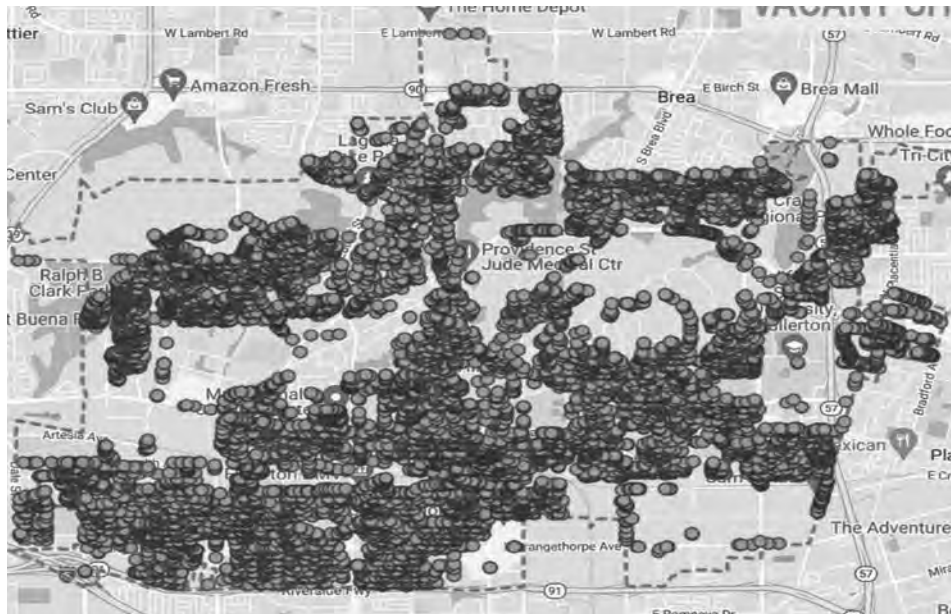
Street trees form part of a long-term investment for a healthy community. Trees offer benefits beyond the aesthetic value, though a healthy, mature street tree can lift property values up to 20%. Street trees act as sound barriers, absorb carbon and polluting gasses, reduce erosion, release oxygen, and moderate heat island zones by increasing shaded areas and reducing radiant reflective heat.

In Fullerton, the purple-blooming Jacaranda is the most easily identified tree. Still, the city is filled with Southern Magnolia, Chinese Elm, and Crape Myrtle trees along with Oaks, Canary Island Pines, and Pink Trumpet trees, creating large swaths of shady and blooming city sections. In addition

to the historic trees in many parts of the city, newer varieties that can withstand drought, like Coast Live Oaks and Western Redbuds, are being incorporated along with trees that will not grow to interfere with power lines or shade the solar power collectors set up throughout the city. The trees are also selected to create deeper root structures, thereby causing less damage to roads, walls, and sidewalks in the future.

The updated tree management plan covers maintenance routines, an updated street tree inventory listing, and new street-by-street tree palettes in various appendices. While planting new street trees, the city recommends greater tree diversity, which turns away from historical monoculture street tree plantings. Arborists agree that variety promotes better overall tree health and flexibility in long-term tree maintenance. Many replacement trees are newer varieties bred for greater disease and insect damage resistance, drought tolerance, and carbon absorption, like the Chinese Elm ‘True Green.’ The street tree options have tried to keep similar tree sizes and growth habits along the same street.

The inventory revealed a greater need for additional street trees in the city’s southern area, where the lack of street trees causes heat islands contributing to lower air quality. Air quality is associated with greater incidences of asthma and other health issues, as well as higher utility costs and incidences of erosion for the area



Fullerton vacant tree site

residents. On June 6, the city council approved the Community Forest Management Plan and is currently utilizing a Cal Fire Native Tree Planting Grant to plant 500 trees by March 2024 in these vacant areas. Fullerton residents who do not have street trees may request a new tree by calling Fullerton Maintenance Services at 714)738-6897.

Fullerton City code 9.06.070 requires property owners to protect their street trees, including watering newly planted trees for the first three years, removing weeds surrounding the tree, making sure nothing compacts the surrounding soil, and unless placed by the city, nothing nailed to the trunk of the tree. Property owners are prohibited from pruning or removing street trees without city approval. However, if a street tree requires trimming out of

scheduled maintenance, is in distress, diseased, lifting the sidewalk, or causing sewer line issues, residents can fill out an inspection request form now available on the city website, or call 714)738-6897 to leave a voice message.

A tree inspection should occur within ten business days, and the owner should be notified. Each tree request is subject to individual evaluation, and owners will be fiscally responsible and possibly fined if they trim or remove any street tree without city approval. Property owners may request not to have a diseased or dead street tree replaced upon removal. Property owners should call Southern California Edison Customer Support 800-655-4555 to address tree growth that intercepts electrical lines.

Revitalization of Union Pacific Park Gets Approved

In a remarkable display of community engagement, the City of Fullerton organized a public meeting on June 29th to gather input from residents about the revitalization of Union Pacific Park and the construction of the Union Pacific Trail. The conference aimed to hear the public's desires and ideas for these projects, with the park set to be refurbished and the trail transformed into a fully realized pathway connecting Union Pacific Park and Independence Park.

During the meeting, various discussions ensued, with attendees grappling with visualizing certain areas based on maps and images. To gain a better understanding, the proactive community decided to schedule an on-site visit to the park and walk the trail together. Egleth Nunci took the initia-

tive to collect participants' contact information, and on July 8th, an enthusiastic crowd, including new faces, gathered for the expedition.

With the valuable assistance of the Parks and Police departments, the walkers could explore the proposed trail route safely. Among the participants were notable figures such as Parks and Recreation Commissioner Adrian Meza, active transportation commissioner Anjali Tapadia, and Fullerton School District Board Members Ruthi Hanchett and Aaruni Thakur. As they traversed the trail, they encountered rough terrain filled with rocks, weeds, and litter. However, despite these challenges, everyone recognized the trail's immense potential as a seamless pathway connecting the parks.

After the enlightening walk, the project options were brought before the commission. Option 1 was to create a simple trail with a bike lane, fully funded by grant money from the city. Option 2 involved building an additional road alongside the path, but this would require city funding as the grant wasn't sufficient to cover road construction.

Passionate voices emerged during the commission meeting, with many walkers advocating for the trail-only option, urging against sacrificing greenery for a road. Commissioner Meza thanked

everyone who participated in the community walk, including city staff members, for their invaluable insights.

Ultimately, the commission voted in favor of the trail-only option, a testament to the power of community involvement and the collective vision for a connected, green, and vibrant future. The decision now heads to the council for final approval, further exemplifying the democratic process at work in shaping the future of Union Pacific Park and Trail based on the voices of the people it will serve.

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Beenie of Fullerton Wins First Place in Race

Such an exciting event when Beenie Von Weenie took First Place honor at the Los Alamitos Race track. His owner, Nicolee Leonard, a Fullerton resident, was so honored and proud of her Beenie Von Weenie! At 19 months old, he loves to run and is the pride of everyone who sees him daily at the Wildcatters Brea Dog Park. He won a brand new Wienerschnitzel Dog House and a cash prize.



Did you get a text from your own number? That's a scam

by Andrew Rayo, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

Scammers are always thinking up ways to put a new spin on their criminal tricks. This time, they're sending spam texts to you — from your own phone number. They've changed (spoofed) the caller ID to look like they're messaging you from your number, but the shock of getting a text from yourself is bound to get your attention — which is what they're after. If you get a text from your own number, it's a scam.

How does the scam work? In one version, you'll get a text thanking you for paying your bill with an offer to get a gift — just click on a link. **Don't click.** Clicking could expose you to scams,

download malware, or get your phone number added to lists that are then sold to other scammers.

Want to filter unwanted text messages or stop them before they reach you? Here are some options:

Your phone or wireless provider may have an option to filter and block spam or messages from unknown senders.

Some call-blocking apps also let you block unwanted text messages. You can also search for apps online. Check out the features, user ratings, and expert reviews.

Did you get an unwanted text message? Report it to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identitytheft/identity-theft-report).

Happy 95th Birthday Ernie Arzola!



Ernie Arzola and Julia Arzola along with their 7 children have resided in Fullerton since 1958. They have 15 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren. On Saturday, July 22 family celebrated Ernie's 95th birthday at El Farolito Restaurant in downtown Fullerton. Pictured above with Ernie Arzola Sr. are Irma Ramirez, Margie Mendoza, Grace Jimenez, Andrew Arzola, Bobby Arzola, and Ernie Arzola Jr.

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2023

ANSWER KEY TO PUZZLE "HOMOPHONES" on page 7:



PUZZLE MASTER Valerie Brickey

was born in Fullerton and returned to raise her family here. She has been contributing puzzles since 2014.

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- Thursday, August 24th, 11:30 – 1:30 p.m.

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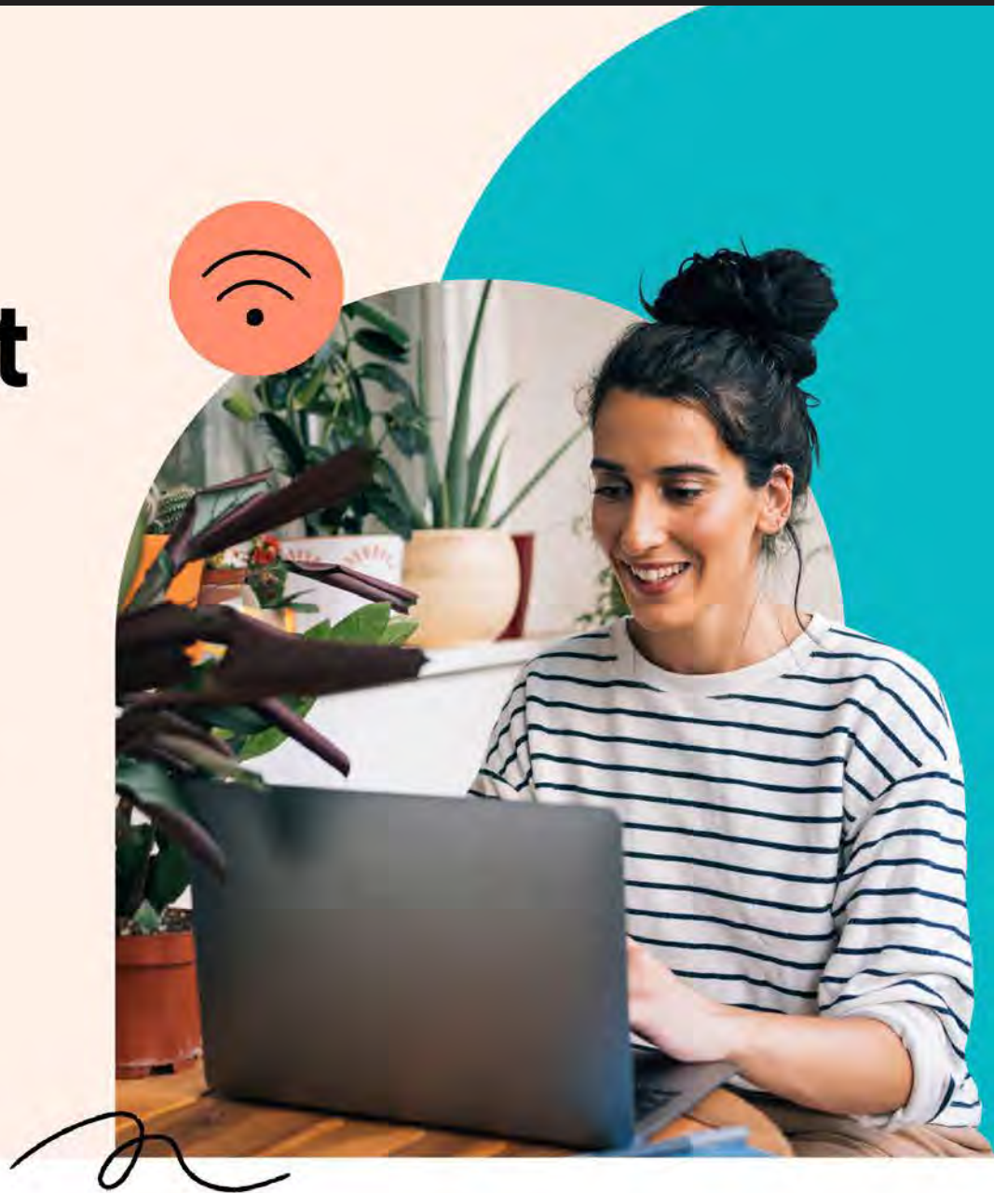


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Left to right: Daniel Yoon Jae Park, Mayor's Cultural Arts Counsel, Mr. Kim, Cathy Borowiec the previous owner of the Kims mobile home, and Mayor Fred Jung discuss the situation and what can be done at the Kims home.

Below Left: Before with archway trellis with birds nest and planter boxes on either side of staircase. Below Right: After they were removed.



The Kim Story Update: Rancho Fullerton vs. Elderly Mobilehome Park Homeowners

by Saskia Kennedy

Will Rancho Fullerton Mobilehome Park manager Andrea West and park owner Susan James Denton rescind their 60-Day Termination Notice now that the Kims have completed a new list of "violations?"

As seen in the before and after photos on this page, the Kims have removed the arbor over the front door because the endangered birds nesting there have flown off. That item was the only remaining item not remedied before the park took the couple to court on June 15 for alleged violations.

Removal of the arbor was delayed at the court hearing by Judge Cramin due to a California Fish & Wildlife order to wait until the nesting birds had vacated the nest. No one knows if the Kims' time-stamped photos showing no other violations were ever seen by the judge, who relied instead on non-time-stamped photos taken during construction months before and submitted as "recent" by park attorney Gregory Beam.

Also seen in the after photo is the absence of the flower garden boxes Mr. Kim had constructed on each side of the porch steps. This item was added to a new list of alleged violations included in the park's 60-Day Termination Notice sent to the Kims on July 14, along with a demand to pay

the attorney \$12,800 (thousand) in fees. Also in that letter was the threat that if the Kims chose to fight to stay, more money would be added to the bill.

Judge Cramin will have the chance to realize the park officials have misled him about the condition of the property, question the enormous attorney fees, and reverse his original order for the couple to fix violations that had already been remedied - at the next hearing coming up at the end of August.

Rancho Fullerton management's harassment of elderly homeowners is not new. For example, Cathy Borowiec, who sold the Kims their home in May 2022, took the park to court for wrongful eviction and harassment and won her case in October 2021. She said the park had tried unsuccessfully to pressure her to sell the mobile home to them.

The Kims said they were very grateful to Fullerton Mayor Jung for sending his friend Tony Bushala to help deconstruct the arbor and flower beds.

Stay tuned for what many hope will be a happy outcome to this ongoing saga. Mobilehome owners who are having similar problems are invited to contact the *Fullerton Observer* at 714-525-6402.

Who is the Fullerton Police Department's Recruitment Video attracting?

by Sharon Kennedy

There has been growing public concern nationwide about the militarization of local police departments. The current Fullerton Police Department recruitment video portrays our city as a war zone full of crime that requires heavy-handed violent policing with military gear. But is that an accurate picture of our city or its officers? See who you think will be attracted by the FPD's video by visiting <https://www.joinfullertonpd.com>

Can we do better to attract responsible officers to join our police department? Fullerton has seen its share of officers who endangered their fellow officers, the public and had to be fired. Recruitment errors also pose a financial liability to the city in the form of settlements paid out for bad behavior.

Many neighboring city police departments have videos similar to Fullerton's para-military style video. Instead of joining that group, let's consider a more respectful approach to our current police officers, our city, and the public.

A few examples of local recruitment videos that will attract responsible personnel to our police department include those of Irvine, Santa Ana, and Cypress.

- Watch them at these sites:
- Irvine: www.cityofirvine.org/news-media/news-article/2019-irvine-police-department-video
 - Santa Ana: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlYiG25qCW0
 - Cypress: www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYDhPO6YuMo

Examples of three police recruitment

videos from Georgia that inspire public respect and attract high-quality employees can be viewed by visiting the links below:

- The Decatur Police video is a good example of one that will attract quality officers. www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIgt8p mh7CU
- Johns Creek video also creates the right tone. www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWBF 4Z-P84E
- Cobb County's Police Ride Along Day in the Life videos are examples of videos that inspire public respect for the police. www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssz3Zl gatAs

Fullerton Police Department recruitment video portrays our city as a war zone full of crime that requires heavy-handed violent policing with military gear.

For an interesting 2021 analysis of 200 recruitment videos of police departments nationwide, read:

"Recruiting Warriors or Guardians? A Content Analysis of Police Recruitment Videos" by Indigo W. M. Koslicki of Ball State University, Indiana.

"Though some law enforcement agencies may be tempted to display

themes and artifacts that they think will be exciting to potential applicants, law enforcement agencies should consider how their recruitment advertising may be attracting values and ideologies that may or may not be congruent with goals to grow a representative force that embraces a democratic, 'guardian' ethos."

Dr Koslicki, (2021) Assistant Professor Criminal Justice & Criminology BSU



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The Opportunity:

Volunteer tutors, age 50 and over, bring a willingness to share their experience, time, and love of reading. The desire to help young struggling readers achieve reading level proficiencies, and beyond, is all that is required. We will provide all the training and on-going support to help tutors thrive. Share the gift of reading and help change a child's future!



Visit our website to Register for Upcoming Information Sessions:

www.parentisfoundation.org/volunteer

August 7 10:00 - 11:00 am (virtual)

August 14 10:00 - 11:00 am (in-person @ Fullerton Comm. Center)

August 28 1:00 - 2:00 pm (virtual)

To learn more please contact: Elizabeth Siegel | Program Director 949-257-2637 elizabeth.siegel@parentisfoundation.org



Evie Shepard Gibbs (Rich) Amlin 1944 - 2023

Evie Shepard Gibbs (Rich) Amlin passed away on June 22, 2023, in Fullerton, California, after an 18-month journey with pancreatic cancer. She was 78 years old.

Evie was born in San Bernardino on October 30, 1944, to the late Evaline Nelson Gibbs and William S. Gibbs. Her earliest childhood years were spent in Perris, California, with her parents and younger sister, Mary, before moving into her grandparent's home in Alhambra with her mother and sister.

Evie attended Alhambra High School, where she was on the Drill Team and was an exceptional student. Her high school sweetheart was Howard Lynn Rich, and they married one month after graduation in 1962.

Howard joined the Army, and they moved to Ohio, where their first daughter Pamela (Pammie) was born in 1963, followed 16 months later by Cynthia (Cindy) in 1964. Though very young and naive, she jumped into the mama role with gusto. In 1965 they moved back to California, first to Buena Park before purchasing their first home in Anaheim and then settling in Fullerton in 1972, where they built a home at the top of a hill with a perfect view of the Disneyland fireworks.

When her daughters were younger, Evie was a stay-at-home mom involved with her community. She belonged to her neighborhood tennis group and played often. She was in several women's guilds, including Fullerton Civic Light Opera and the Monterey Park Firefighter Wives' Association. She served as the Room Mom and the Girl Scout Leader, and during the girl's FUHS years, she ran the snack bar for the Booster Club at the Football games. She recalled that she loved counting all that money at the night's end! These acts of service were passed down to her children and grandchildren, who continue to serve others.

Evie was gifted with a natural creative talent. Everything she touched was better, nicer, prettier. She sewed her daughter's clothes by hand and knew how to knit and crochet. She later enjoyed donating pieces she made to those in need, like chemo caps for children with cancer. She painted rocks and loved to give them to friends, hiding them around Fullerton for others to find as part of "Rockin Round Fullerton." She was an avid gardener and especially loved succulents. She loved kitty cats, rescuing and adopting several over the years that came through her yard. (RIP MeowMay).

She was also an entrepreneur! After working at JC Penneys in her early 20s, Evie and her friend Carol started a home party business called "The Plant Peddlers," where they had house parties and sold beautiful indoor plants in painted pots. Over the years, she also sold Aloe Vera, Melaleuca, and Acai as home businesses. In 1978 they opened a travel agency called "Great Escapes Travel," which she expertly ran, managed a staff, planned, and enjoyed her travels for many years.

In 1983 she met her second husband, Jeff Amlin, whom she met on a cruise in the Caribbean. They married in 1984 and moved to Pasadena. With their combined entrepreneurial



spirit, they launched a successful eyeglass business named "Ultra Shade." Over the years, they enjoyed time with friends and family, loved traveling together, and created a beautiful home and outdoor gardens.

When Evie became a Grammie, she wanted to be closer to her girls, so they moved back to Orange County, settling in Fullerton in 1995. She had five Grandchildren and countless others who considered her their Grammie, enjoying her unconditional love over the years! She loved, loved, loved her grandchildren. She recently became a Great-Grammie to Baby Nova, who visited from NC at only three months of age! She was the newest light of her life.

Upon her passing, Evie's friends and family shared a common theme in their memories; her unconditional love. Sparkly eyes. Sweet smile. Innocent but not naive. You would never know what she would say or do next, and sometimes it would shock you! She loved every one of her daughters and grandchildren's friends as if they were her best friend. That is a lot of best friends, and she treasured them all.

Evie is survived by her husband of 39 years, Jeff Amlin, her former husband of 16 years, Howard Rich (Gail); daughters Pamela Keller (John) and Cynthia (Moore) Rich; grandchildren, Katelyn Moore (Josh), Christopher Keller (Holly), Madison (Moore) Wood (Derrick), Dakota Keller, Alexander Keller; great-granddaughter Nova Lewis; her sisters, Carol Hanna and Mary Hicks; her father-in-law Lee Amlin; her special outdoor cat Primo and extended family and friends as numerous as the stars!

The family will host a party to celebrate Evie's life, and later her ashes will be scattered off the coast near her favorite spot, Crystal Cove, in a private gathering with close friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, we encourage you to donate to "All the Arts For All the Kids Foundation," which supports arts education in the Fullerton School District @ Allthearts.org, or paint a rock and hide it for someone to find in your hometown.

James L. Thacker 1942-2023

James L. Thacker was born on April 14, 1942, in Columbus, Ohio, to parents Lawrence and Norma Thacker. He was the second of three children. He is survived by an older sister, Janet Allen (Thacker).

Jim graduated in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in business and marketing from Bradley University, Illinois. After graduation, Jim was employed at Lazarus Department Store in downtown Columbus, specializing in merchandising.

In 1967, Jim met Ann M Strickler. In 1968, Jim was drafted into the Army and served in the Vietnam War where he spent 1 year in Support Operations. Upon Jim's return home, Jim and Ann were married on September 28, 1969.

June 1, 1978, Jim and Ann purchased the Village Art Center, an art supplies and custom picture framing business located in the French Village Shopping Center on S. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton.



They owned and operated this custom picture framing business for 33 years.

After a few years in the business they stopped selling art supplies and opened space for an art gallery exhibiting many local artists. They participated in A Night in Fullerton and in the Fullerton Art Walk. Jim was a determined and disciplined entrepreneur.

Jim mastered the artistic skill of custom picture framing and developed a reputation throughout Orange County for his high quality and artistic craftsmanship. Jim and Ann moved the business two times, each time to a better location in downtown Fullerton.

In 1993, it was the final location where Jim and Ann purchased the property at 529 N. Harbor Boulevard, which runs through the heart of Orange County. Jim and Ann retired and sold the Village Art Center business in October of 2011.

"...God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him;" "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." Genesis 1: 27, 31

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Michael Scott Frobenius 1968-2023

Michael Scott Frobenius, age 54, of Placentia, passed away on Saturday July 15th.

Michael was born on December 6, 1968 to Mike and Barbara Frobenius; brother to Jeff and Matt

He is survived by wife Kathie and 3 children: Christopher, Danielle, and David

Viewing will be held at McAulay & Wallace Mortuary in Fullerton on August 3 from 4pm to 8pm.

Funeral Services will be held at St Juliana Church in Fullerton on August 4 at 10am.



Happy 57th Anniversary to Richard and Simone Pollard & Happy Birthday to Simone!



Darryl Anthony Gordon 1969-2023

Darryl Gordon passed unexpectedly on May 31, 2023.

Darryl was born on October 31, 1969, and raised in Whittier, California.

He had many interests. Among them was his lifelong passion for trains, chess, nature, football (especially the Raiders), and Judaism. He graduated from Sunny Hills High School and subsequently attended Cal State Fullerton University, receiving a BA in English in 1994 with the dream of becoming a writer.

He worked in various businesses, including Verity, Wine Country, and Knotts Berry Farm, until he joined Amazon Fresh last year.

He enjoyed the television show, Columbo, Terry Brook's novels, and a good meal.

For the past twenty years, he has been a steadfast member of the Fullerton Chess Club, assisting in community-led youth chess tournaments hosted by the Fullerton Lion's Club. His passing was a real loss to the Fullerton chess community and everyone who knew him. He was a true original.

He is survived by his mother, Lillian Gordon, and his sister Lila Gordon.

He would want all who knew him to "Remember the laughter."



Left to right: Fullerton Observer Summer Intern Mentor Adrian Meza with interns Colin O'Malley, Jason Hwang, Krish Gupta, Jamie Gaborro, Zara Shaw, and Britany Cortez.

Brian D. Kersting 1956-2023

Brian D. Kersting, age 67 passed away on July 6th, surrounded by loved ones. He was born on Oct 6, 1956, in Fullerton, California, to Eugene and Amelia Kersting. Brian was a beloved husband and is survived by his wife of 16 years Deborah, who was his best friend and partner in life for 43 years. He was a devoted brother and is survived by his younger brother Steve. He was a proud "Papa" to his (step) children (Richard, Trina & Raymond) and grandchildren (Brian Jr., Sammy, Payton, Hayley, Scott, & Dominic). He was a committed "Nono" to his granddaughter (Nicole) and cherished by many more extended family members and close friends.

Brian was a very intelligent man, a history buff, and an outgoing jokester. Everyone who met him loved his great sense of humor, outgoing personality, and bear hugs. Brian was a car enthusiast, enjoyed fishing, loved movies, and had a passion for building model cars. One of Brian's greatest joys was gathering everyone he loved around a good meal (that he prepared) and sharing in an unlimited number of inside jokes, laughter, and love.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him, but we will carry his memory in our hearts always. A remembrance service will take place at St. Philips Benizi Church in Fullerton on Wednesday August 2, 2023 at 10am.

Thank you Summer Interns for a wonderful 2023 internship!

"As the summer ends, I want to express my deepest thanks to each of the summer Troy Tech Interns incredible dedication and hard work during their internship with the Fullerton Observer.

As your mentor, I was privileged to guide you. I hope my guidance provided valuable lessons about local politics, journalism, and media production that you can carry forward in your personal and professional lives.

I hope you all can look back and say it was a knowledgeable and memo-

rable experience.

Because of your work, the Observer continues to thrive and make a difference. Remember that you are not just interns but valuable team members, and I am confident that each of you has a bright future ahead of you.

I'm also happy to announce that our summer project, "The Road to Ruin," a documentary exploring the reason behind Fullerton's crumbling roads, will be released on Amazon Prime and YouTube on August 12th."

- Adrian Meza



Jackson Henry, Proffessor Jodi Balma, and Urooj Naveed at farewell party.

Thank you to the *Observing Fullerton Inc* founders Jackson Henry and Urooj Naveed.

The Fullerton Observer volunteers and *Observing Fullerton* team already miss you and wish you the best at University.

FOR SALE

The Trustees of First Christian Church, Fullerton are selling **4 cemetery plots at Brea Memorial Gardens** They can be purchased individually or as a group.



Contact the Church Office at 714-525-5525 if interested.

How to place a Tribute

To place a birth announcement, graduation, birthday, engagement or wedding notice, obituary, or other tribute contact:

ads@fullertonobserver.com or Send to Fullerton Observer PO Box 7051, Fullerton, CA 92832



VIDEO OBSERVER

by Emerson Little © 2023

See videos on YouTube @emersonlittle1901

Touring the Meals on Wheels OC Community Kitchen

Have you ever wondered how Meals on Wheels Orange County develops and distributes millions of meals per year? Several months ago, I received a flyer in the mail asking this exact same question.

I reached out to Meals on Wheels OC to schedule a tour of their 22,000-square-foot community kitchen at 1200 North Knollwood Circle in Anaheim, which produces two million meals and up to 300,000 gallons of bulk food per year.

Meals on Wheels Orange County is the largest nonprofit provider of nutrition and supportive services for at-risk older adults, serving 19 Orange County cities. "For 55 years, we have been committed to erasing hunger and loneliness for at-risk older adults through nutritious meals, friendly visits, and safety checks, and keeping families together through day services," said Darla Olson, Vice President, Advancement for Meals on Wheels OC. "The demand for our services has increased dramatically in the past few years."

I had the pleasure of meeting with Olson early on a Tuesday morning in the middle of July. She showed me to a media briefing room, where she explained that the Meals on Wheels Orange County delivery program distributes three nutritious meals a day, five days a week, to homebound adults aged 60 or older. The individuals they serve usually have difficulty shopping for or preparing meals and do not have family or friends who they can depend on for regular meal support.

Olson explained that over 660,000 meals are delivered yearly to homebound older adults and that those home-delivered meals include breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I learned from her that 1 in 4 low-income seniors in Orange County struggle with hunger, and discovered that over 29% of low-income adults living within the County are food insecure.

"Meals, friendly visitors, resource referrals, and day services help older adults cope with the three biggest threats to their health: nutrition, isolation, and loss of independence," she explained.

"Being lonely can have as much effect on the health of an older adult as smoking 15 cigarettes a day and may be more harmful than lack of exercise."

According to Christa Sherman, Director of Volunteer Services for Meals on Wheels Orange County, the non-profit does not hire volunteers in their Anaheim commercial kitchen "for safety and quality reasons." However, they do have over 550 volunteers throughout the county who deliver meals, serve at their Lunch Café, visit homebound older adults as Friendly Visitors, and assist in the agency's adult day centers.

The non-profit agency currently serves 1,500 seniors daily. "Most peo-

ple know us for our home-delivered meal program, Meals on Wheels, but we also have the senior Lunch Café in every senior center throughout central and north Orange County. We have 23 senior centers. Older adults come for lunch," said Olson.

"There's a \$3 suggested donation, but no one is ever turned away for not being able to make a donation. It not only gives them a healthy meal but also socialization, which helps reduce isolation. We have 96 employees agency-wide in all our programs, including Home-Delivered Meals, Congregate Lunch Cafés in senior centers, Adult Day Health Care, Adult Day Care, and Care Coordination programs. Eighty percent are full-time, and twenty percent are part-time employees, forty-four of which work in our community kitchen."

In order to even enter their community kitchen, I had to put on a hair net, a long white jacket, and a face mask. Flat closed-toed, rubber-soled shoes were a requirement for taking the tour. Following Darla Olson through a doorway with a sign that said I was entering a restricted area, I was introduced to a section where the soups, salsas, and sauces were being made. The products are put into 200-gallon vats. Everything is cooked to the desired temperature and then pumped into a machine filled with chilled water. I learned that this process helps to extend the shelf-life of the sauces and food.

"This is our social enterprise, and this is used for profit," she said. "We make the soups, salsas, and sauces we use for the senior programs, but we also make soups, salsas, and sauces for food brokers. We ship all over the country for these food brokers; we make a profit that's invested in the non-profit side."

I was then shown to the area where the congregate meals are made for the senior Lunch Café program. I watched as a cauliflower-carrot salad was prepared and mixed together and saw a bag of pasta being poured into a pot of boiling water. Olson explained that oftentimes the pasta is put into blast chillers. "When you have pasta cooking, you don't want it to continue cooking because it will get mushy, so once it's done to the desired consistency, they'll put it in the blast chiller."

In the next part of the kitchen, I observed a line of masked, gloved, hair-netted, hard-working employees placing items on black trays for homebound seniors, providing them with all the components they would need. I saw how the organized trays are then automatically fed down a conveyor belt



Above:
Employees on
trayline
assemble
meals for
homebound
seniors



At Left:
Darla Olson,
Vice
President,
at Meals on
Wheels OC
Community
Kitchen

Meals
on Wheels OC
is the largest
nonprofit
provider of
nutrition and
supportive
services
for at-risk
older adults,
serving
19
Orange
County cities.

through a machine, where they are sealed and wrapped in plastic and then placed on a movable rack to be loaded onto a truck and delivered to a senior center.

Through sliding industrial-steel doors, I was able to see inside some of the kitchen's refrigerators, where all the components that make up the meals on the trays are kept until they are put into the packs. The weekly meals are refrigerated here until they go out on trucks for delivery. Inside the freezers, the frozen dinner entrees are stored.

"Oftentimes we get asked why don't we serve on the weekends," she said. "This is a lot of food for an elderly, older, homebound senior, and they oftentimes will save some of it for the weekend. Oftentimes, the cold pack is enough for them, so they save the entrees for the weekend, and it's definitely enough food to sustain them."

Olson led me through a set of double doors into the warehouse area behind the kitchen. In the warehouse, all the supplies are kept for the senior center lunch programs. They provide all the plates, cups, knives, forks, spoons, and other utensils needed. Drivers then complete an inventory and order sheet and pull those materials before they go out for the lunches. Volunteers also enter through this section to pick up food deliveries. She explained that each volunteer delivers to about eight seniors on their route.

Christa Sherman said, "We have 18 volunteers who do meal delivery in Anaheim with pick-up at our corporate office." Olson said that they are often asked if they take donations of food. They can't, but they do belong to a co-op. So they buy within the co-op, which reduces costs. The reason they can't accept donations of food is that

they have to get their menus approved to meet dietary restrictions, and it wouldn't be feasible for them to serve 1500 seniors each day with a little bit of this and a little bit of that. They buy in bulk.

"We do have menus that offer some variety, where we put in some Mexican-American meals, Italian meals, some Asian meals. We actually have an Asian-inspired menu option that those who are in the AAPI community can sign up to have," she said. "Many of them who have signed up to receive these meals love them because the taste is really authentic. We had a group of people taste it to make sure that we were getting that authentic taste as opposed to just something you would get in American style. They are reporting that the meals are reminding them of their childhood and the meals that they grew up on. Those are things that are really important when someone is aging and not feeling well to have those flavors from the past. We are hoping to do other options and have more choices."

The Meals on Wheels OC menus are designed by a registered dietician to meet the guidelines for healthy dietary restrictions for older adults. Olson said, "Those are approved. We do have a contract with the county to provide this service. Meals on Wheels and Lunch Café are funded in part through a grant from the California Department of Aging, as allocated by the Orange County Board of Supervisors and administered by the Office on Aging."

We also need donations from the communities because there's not enough to cover everything and every need. It takes a village: community support, county support, and city support to really make the seniors healthy and well in the homes and communities that they love."

To inquire about eligibility and food locations, or to find out how you can help out and volunteer, visit www.MealsOnWheelsOC.org

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