

Fullerton Observer

FULLERTON'S ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWS

Happy Holidays Fullertonians! • Hanukkah (12/7-12/15) • Bodhi (12/8) • Yule (12/21-1/1) • Christmas (12/25) • Kwanzaa (12/26) • New Years Eve (12/31)

The Fate of \$1.78M Urban Greening Grant is Postponed

In what seemed to many as a delay tactic, Council Member Bruce Whitaker asked to postpone the discussion about what to do with the \$1.78M Urban Greening Grant.

Council Member Nick Dunlap seconded Whitaker's proposal despite the booing coming from the audience. Over 25 people spoke in favor of using grant for the Union Pacific trail phase II, which would plant 176 carbon-sequestering trees and provide shade for the path that would link Union Pacific Park with Independence Park.

One person said that the California High-Speed Rail will conflict with the path. However, the rail project could take up to 20 years before it reaches Fullerton (if it does). This means Fullerton residents could enjoy 10 or 20 years on the path that will eventually lead to the newly refurbished Hunt Library and on to neighboring towns.

The fate of the Urban Greening Grant will now be discussed at the January 16, 2024, city council meeting.



The District 5 advocates are Blanca Hernandez, Juana Suastegui, Tanya Esquivel, Pilar Maldonado, Carla Aguayo, Isabel Flores, Carime Calixto, Blanca Hernández, Rosalia Ortiz, Verónica Moran, Rosa Altamirano, Alma Chávez, Dallany Muratalla, Mary Ramirez, Ana Madera, Socorro Mendoza, Dr Halkia Dr Cervantes, Andrea Rios, Alma Vilchis, Gabriela Coronado, Felipe Perez, Amparo Paz, Gabriela Reyes, Verónica Segura, Sonia Garcia, Paola Lundstrom, Lorena Camarillo, Martha Díaz, Patricia Torres, Laura Urrutia, Humberta Morales, Monica Hernández, Otilia Reyes, Noemi Perez, Martha Padilla, Maria Luisa Sandoval, Edith Romero, and Maria Cordova. See more on page 16.

Latino Majority District 5 Disenfranchised Again

by Jody Agius Vallejo

Fullertonians across the political spectrum have lost faith in the City Council's three-person majority. The proceedings of the December 5 City Council meeting reinforced residents' belief that 'The Three' (Jung, Dunlap, Whitaker) are engaging in discriminatory practices that do not represent their constituents nor the collaborative spirit of Fullerton. By the end of the meeting, Fullerton's Latino majority districts were disenfranchised yet again.

District 5 is one of two majority Latino districts in Fullerton—the other being District 4—that are adjacent to each other in South Fullerton. The areas covered by these districts have historically lacked representation on the City Council. These Southern areas became racially concentrated via discriminatory policies and practices—including racial

covenants in housing deeds – that resulted in the inequitable distribution of public goods and racially segregated neighborhoods. Fullerton adopted district elections in 2016 after lawsuits were filed alleging that Latino and Asian American voters were being disenfranchised by the at-large voting process for electing City Council representatives.

At the December 5 council meeting, there was a public outcry concerning the appointment of Fullerton's next Mayor. Fullerton City Council policy and procedure (No. 226 in the Policy and Procedures Manual) provides a mayoral rotation in that the Mayor Pro Tem is automatically moved up to Mayor. Then, the most senior member who has not yet served is selected as Mayor Pro Tem.

See District 5 Disenfranchised on page 5

Shade Equity in Fullerton

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.

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.

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 util-

ity costs and incidences of erosion for the area 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'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.

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.

On vacation:

VIDEO OBSERVER
by Emerson Little
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Re: "Will District 5 Get Mayoral Representation at the City Council Meeting on December 5?"

I believe the author is quite wrong in his assertion that former Fullerton City Council member Jesus Silva was "Gerrymandered out of District 3" in 2022.

Council district lines were updated in 2022 following the national census. The 2022 council district boundaries are far more regular in form than those in the map adopted in 2016—a map whose irregularly shaped districts all literally fit the definition of Gerrymandering.

The 2022 map eliminated the snaking tendrils from each of the five districts that reached from all city borders to subdivide the central downtown area, including the sliver of District 3 that reached all the way from Fullerton's eastern edge near CSUF to the Silva residence in the middle of the city.

In 2022 the Silva residence and its surrounding neighborhoods were very sensibly moved to District 2 in the north center of Fullerton, despite the efforts of Silva and his supporters to retain a less eccentrically shaped but nonetheless Gerrymandered District 3 that would have preserved the lateral orientation stretching from CSUF to Silva's home in the city's center.

I challenge anyone reading these comments to compare the 2016 and 2022

maps and decide for themselves which one has Gerrymandered districts. Just look at those salamander tails in the old map...

The *Observer* seems intent on deliberately misrepresenting the history of the 2022 district map revision to its readers. In a story from March 2023 Silva was said to have been "forced to step down" from the council following the adoption of the 2022 map, even though he had served his full four year term, because he would have to wait two years to run again in the newly defined District 2.

No one could claim that political considerations were entirely absent from the adoption of the old or new district maps, but we should try to be fair in our assessments about who benefited from each. Arguably, it was Silva himself who benefited from his inclusion in the old District 3, which included the more liberal leaning university area.

And let's not forget that in 2022 when it was clear that Silva didn't have the support of enough of the council to remain in District 3 he tried to change the order of when districts would elect council members, which would have disenfranchised thousands of households in District 3 for two years just so that one person, Jesus Silva, wouldn't have to wait two years to run for office again.

Matthew Leslie *Fullerton*

Re: City Council Meeting on December 5, 2023

At the recent city council meeting, the fair rotation that was supposed to give everyone on the dais and all the people that they represent a chance to have Mayoral representation was bypassed once again by the majority Council Members (Whitaker, Jung, and Dunlap).

I along with many in the room that night felt the frustration, anger, and disappointment that went along with selecting not only a novice, but an incompetent power starved person for the Mayor position.

I and many of my District 2 friends have discussed this matter and have concluded that we will be addressing Mr. Dunlap as Chair out of respect for the position. To call him our Mayor would give him undeserved power. This is the way we will protest.

L. Moody *Fullerton*

RE: MAYORAL VOTE

I wasn't disappointed with the majority council's votes Tuesday night. I was outraged! The actions & comments of the majority three (Jung, Whitaker, and Dunlap) are so blatantly opposed to the needs, yes needs, of the community.

After all I've heard about Dunlap not wishing to become Mayor & not seeking reelection, I was surprised, unpleasantly so. I feel sad that I have such contempt for the three. As I commented: where's their humanity, their integrity and their equity.

RE: UNION PACIFIC TRAIL

South City needs an unencumbered trail (without car traffic). The nearby residents, led in grace, determination, and intelligence by Egleth Nuncci, have worked so hard to

achieve this very simple goal. They have come out of their comfort zone by attending and speaking to the council time after time. They have captured my admiration.

Obtaining the \$1.78 million grant was by no mean an easy feat. Getting 176 trees would be such a boon. How can a sane person turn this down in our current climate and financial crisis? I have to agree with my fellow attendees; this is simply a delay tactic. These 3 council members are putting such stress on the people.

I must say, I wish more district residents would attend and speak up for their South City neighbors. The lack of their attendance disappoints me. It's a feat in trying to bring unity to the whole city.

Helen Higgins *Fullerton*

Good Cause for Outrage by Karen Lloreda

It was an emotional evening at the Fullerton City Council meeting on December 5. There was outrage and even mild threats from the podium. The audience stood and applauded an emotional Councilmember and stood again to boo the newly elected Mayor and those who elected him to the office.

For those who have not been watching the city council meetings from home, and who could blame them, these statements may sound like exaggerations from a few disgruntled citizens. There were residents from all over town, many of whom regularly monitor city activity and volunteer for good causes, as well as former Fullerton Council Members/Mayors. Most were concerned about the direction in which this council is taking our city.

We have a majority council comprised of Mayor Fred Jung, Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Whitaker, and Councilmember Nick Dunlap. They have repeatedly blocked or stalled

projects favored by the residents of Fullerton and rushed projects they prefer, often stifling discussion even by their fellow Council Members. They ignore the citizens that come before them, skirt protocols, and disregard regulations that get in their way.

Our Mayor seems to think he has the authority to grant titles unilaterally, promise land, and decide what can be discussed in Public Comments. He insults the public and fellow Council Members and discourages discussion when he knows his cronies are lined up behind him.

Let me address the specifics of Council behavior on Tuesday, which was made all the more outrageous as it followed a consistent pattern of self-interest at the expense of the residents and goals of our city. There were only two items under Regular Business: A reconsideration of Phase Two of The Union Pacific Trail (UPT) and a Reorganization of the Council.

The UPT is a project that began years ago. Currently, phase II that received a



Above is a rendering of a city plan to develop the Elephant Packing Co. aka Ice House area that was never ratified by council.

\$1.78M grant from the State of California was approved by the Park and Recreation Commission. It would provide 176 trees, 10,000 shrubs, pedestrian and bike trails, and benches. Rather than accept the Commission's recommendation, the Council majority directed staff to request reallocating the funds to another location with modified project criteria, one more to their liking. The Urban Greening Agency did NOT approve the changes. This item will return on a future agenda on January 16.

Editor's Note: Is it a coincidence that a local developer who has several properties in the trail area, such as the Elephant Packing Co., is a large contributor to the campaigns of these three Council Members?

Fullerton Observer



FULLERTON'S ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWS

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.

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Open Letter: Fullerton City Council needs to do more for CSUF by Amy Parker

I am writing to ask that, as a city, we do more to support the university that calls Fullerton home. CSUF is the largest California State University campus, and we, as students, depend on the city to provide for the surrounding area. Instead, we have seen complete neglect from city departments and the City Council. As a commuter campus, most CSUF students don't live in Fullerton, meaning they can't vote for representatives on the City Council; those who do live in Fullerton are generally split between three districts, breaking up their power, while other districts are held safe for representatives whose voting base does not care about the conditions around CSUF.

As a cyclist, I have to deal with the decrepit roads around eastern Fullerton; the road conditions get worse as I get closer to CSUF. Between potholes constantly causing near-crashes, uneven pavement causing losses of traction, and "fill-in" road work that provides only temporary solutions to the long-term road degradation, it's easy to tell how close I am to CSUF by how terrible the road conditions get.

Rarely ever do I see Fullerton Public Works anywhere near Chapman and Commonwealth, where the conditions are the worst; it doesn't help that vehicles for nearby construction constantly take up and block off lanes, making

conditions even more unsafe and choking off traffic. Living in western Fullerton, however, the conditions near my home are very different; the roads are generally cleanly paved, Fullerton Public Works is constantly making repairs on even the smallest issues, and my riding experience is smooth.

Of course, very few other CSUF students live in Western Fullerton - with the sky-high housing prices, most people who can afford to live there have no connection to CSUF, further driving the difference of interests in the City Council.

Despite one of the largest higher education labor actions in the nation's history occurring in Fullerton, the City Council has largely been silent. This town is driven by education - by the faculty and special trades workers who power CSUF, causing people to move here and driving up tax revenues for the city.

What has the city done as these people are forced to sleep in their cars due to abysmal pay? The only solidarity we've gotten has been from Council Member Ahmad Zahra, from District 5, who recently came out to support special trades workers at CSUF when they had a one-day strike. City Council

has done nothing to pressure the CSU system or CSUF itself and has not shown any solidarity whatsoever with faculty or special trades workers. They have also said absolutely nothing about the proposed 34% tuition increase despite the severe effects that it will have on CSUF students; many will be forced to find cheaper housing outside of Fullerton, which may lead to lower tax revenues for the city and a decline in its population.

Former Mayor Fred Jung has particularly stayed away from helping students. Until this month, he served as mayor, but during his tenure he has had questionable loyalties to the City of Fullerton and CSUF students. From his Instagram page, he has pandered to many different groups - business interests,

Boy Scout troops, and junior high-school parents - but never to CSUF students.

At the same time, we've gotten support from Ahmad Zahra, whose district doesn't even cover the CSUF campus. Jung, in his time as mayor, did nothing to support us. He hasn't even spent his time supporting the rest of Fullerton; instead, he's spent his time serving as the Chair of the OCPA Board, which has been racked with controversy,

and the firing of its CEO. The other cities with members of the OCPA board have realized that their mayors should probably not be the ones to serve, as they need to focus on their cities; Fred Jung has disregarded this, instead seeking out more positions of power instead of fulfilling his existing responsibilities. He isn't just on the OCPA board, either; per his City Council page, he holds Chair positions on three other boards and serves as a member of four others. He also became Mayor only a year after being elected, playing politics to pass up others with his conservative majority instead of focusing on how to make Fullerton better and help CSUF students.

Elections for the Fullerton City Council are coming up this year. Nick Dunlap and Fred Jung will all be forced to come to the ballot to keep their seats. So far, they've shown very little desire to do what is right for CSUF students and the city at large - and as youth begin voting in greater numbers, we will remember their years of inaction.

As a CSUF student, I say to you: if you wish to keep your seats and your majority on the City Council, it's time that you stop neglecting CSUF, pandering to the city's wealthy, and seeking out power, and fulfill your duties as Council Members to the whole city. Otherwise, we'll see you in November - and we will remember.

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OPEN LETTER: Why we need to do better to create safe bicycle and pedestrian detours around construction zones

by Anjali Tapadia

I am writing to strongly request that we do better to create safe bicycle and pedestrian detours around construction zones. We have alluded to this at Active Transportation Committee (ATC) meetings. At the last meeting, Vince Buck and I (Anjali Tapadia) mentioned the closure at Acacia near Valencia and how there was no safe way around the blockade.

This weekend, my good friend Joel Maus, who himself previously sat on the ATC, suffered injuries because of this exact closure on Acacia. He gave me permission to share his story and photos. Because there is no way around the Acacia closure, which is the only north-south route in the area that has a demarcated bike lane, Joel detoured to Raymond. A pickup truck driver sideswiped Joel's handlebars, then brake-checked Joel as Joel tried to turn left. Joel then braked hard and flew over his handlebars, suffering injuries, including a broken clavicle. The driver then yelled at Joel, telling him that he deserved it.

It is unacceptable that members of our community continue to die, get injured, and bring road safety concerns to the City's attention, and yet we don't take significant measures to prevent further incidents.

I have said at Council meetings before that traffic deaths are particularly horrible because of their sudden, violent, senseless nature. Joel's injury, while fortunately non-life-threatening, has really struck me. I could have lost a friend today, and a family could have lost their father. This is unacceptable. I do not understand why we do not do more to prevent these incidents. Joel's story underscores that traffic safety is a real and imminent problem, regardless

of how hard we try to ignore it.

Given that advocates have raised the issue of road safety numerous times with the City Council and other City officials, and we are still not providing proper detours around construction sites, including the very site that led to Joel's incident, how is the city not partly to blame for resulting injuries and deaths?

We need to unequivocally require construction contractors in Fullerton, during ALL projects, to provide a safe detour for bicycles and pedestrians without exception. "Share the road" signs are not sufficient. This needs to be a priority. We can add it to the inspection list for construction sites, and inspectors can enforce it. I would be more than glad to be part of this process to make sure detours are provided meaningfully and usable.

We also need a grander road safety vision for the city. I advocate for Vision Zero, but Safe Streets for All works, too. Please note that this was discussed briefly at the last City Council meeting on November 21, 2023. We have had an unacceptable number of road deaths in recent years with minimal efforts toward traffic calming and other safety measures. City Council shot down the Associated Rd road safety/traffic calming project without clear reason. The council also closed down Hart Place instead of making the safety improvements advocated for years. And recent-

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ly, Fullerton had two pedestrian deaths on Brookhurst on a single weekend last month and three pedestrian and bike deaths on Chapman/Malvern last year.

A woman standing in front of her house on Magnolia and Flower was killed in front of her spouse on Easter Sunday this year by a speeding car driver, and a bicyclist was injured as well. Community meetings are ongoing regarding Lemon and Valencia. However, slowing car traffic is still considered anathema because car driver convenience apparently takes precedence over the safety of human beings, even children. There have

been many more recent incidents. We can and MUST do better.

We are constantly told that we have to wait for people to die so we can rack up actionable numbers to implement safety measures. This kind of thinking is flawed in and of itself. But then, peo-

ple die, and we STILL do nothing.

Even if the City chooses to ignore the safety risks and the emotional toll our community's families suffer from road deaths and injuries, consider the financial ramifications of the liability the City assumes from ignoring concrete safety concerns raised by the community.

I beg you to please do better. Require safe detours for bikes and pedestrians at all construction sites as part of inspection checklists. Make sure those detours are accessible to the mobility-impaired. Make road safety a priority and seriously explore and implement traffic calming measures throughout our City.

Let's not let a single other person die or be injured on our streets. I implore you to ensure every one of our residents gets home safely to their families daily.

Thank you all for your kind consideration of this very important topic. As always, I invite anyone in the City of Fullerton to join me on a bike ride so you can see firsthand what it feels like to bike on our streets. Such an experience can be eye-opening.

City Council Notes by Saskia Kennedy

Meetings are 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

Tuesday, December 5 Meeting

CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

1. Name of Case: **Estate of Noah Weatherly v. City of Fullerton**: Case Number: OCSC 30-2018-01037224
2. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT Per Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) **Title: Chief of Police**
CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - Per Government Code Section 54956.8
3. **Property: 3535 West Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92833**
City Manager Eric J. Levitt & Deputy City Manager Daisy Perez negotiating Price and Terms with Dyer 18 LLC

CONSENT CALENDAR

Items are grouped and passed in one vote unless pulled.

•Item 2: Classification Plan Update for Human Resources, Risk Management, and Library Technology Assistant:

1. Approve revision to Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Human Resources Personnel summary to increase budgeted full-time equivalent positions from 11 to 12 to reflect addition of a Limited Term / At-Will Human Resources / Risk Management Analyst II.

2. Approve \$41,000 budget appropriation from General Fund (Fund 10) unassigned fund balance to Human Resources department budget for FY 2023-24.

3. Adopt Resolution 2023-052 and -064: A Resolution to Adopt, Update, and Delete Certain Personnel Classifications and Amend Resolution 2023-052 Appendix A and Resolution 2023-064 Appendix A - Relating to Compensation

•Item 3: Second Grant for Improvements of Fullerton Public

Library: Adopt Resolution State of California Budget Act of 2023 (SB 101). Authorize Grant Application, acceptance, and execution of Grant Funds From the State Budget Act of 2022.

Appropriate \$778,055 Building Forward State Grant Funds and \$389,027 budget transfer of matching donation funds from the Library Fund (Fund 13) to Project 55062 Main Library Building.

Forward Improvements in the Capital Projects Fund (Fund 74).

•**Item 4: Professional Services Agreement with HF&H Consultants For Senate Bill 1383 Contract Assistance:** Approve Professional Services Agreement with HF&H Consultants, LLC, effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, in a form approved by the City Attorney, and authorize the City Manager, or designee, to enter up to two additional one-year extension options.

Passed Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENTS

• Bernard, a Fullerton resident, said that Fred, Bruce, and Nick owed several apologies, starting with Egleth Nuncci and her daughter. "If your kid came up here and commented, would you ignore her? How dare you ignore her. You should pay attention to every speaker that comes up here, but especially to our youth. It would help if you encouraged civic engagement and participation."

• Yolanda Harrison said COVID was the cause of death of her husband Todd's previous wife. (Dr. Charles was virtual due to COVID). "Please do what you need to do to stay safe and return to us. Mr. Mayor and Council, I don't want to repeat this, but I must remind you about free speech, leave that timer placement alone and let us be able to see it. Give those who need the extra time, like the disabled, people who stutter, and children who come up here. Children are the future, and they're future voters. They have a right to be heard."

• Todd Harrison said his wife Yolanda and he are still Rancho La Paz residents in Fullerton. "I say that every time because sooner or later, with Mr. Saunders, that will no longer be true.

Can you direct IT staff to find a way to have the timer returned to this podium? As for the podium, we need the height adjustment working or a more flexible microphone. Not every speak-

er pre-writes their comments to fit the allotted time. Three minutes is too short of a time to waste trying to get close enough."

• Zee said that he is still looking for a trash collection refund for the two weeks in December two years ago. "I've been a resident of the city since 1978. I want to thank the Fullerton staff for getting the grants. I know that takes a lot of time and effort, so congratulations to them. I wish to thank Bruce Whitaker because he provided a response and explained his position on the trail which makes for good dialogue.

This past weekend I went to a sports tournament at the Fullerton Sports Complex. What an expansive, large, beautiful, and modern open space. It reminded me that the north part of the city has nearly 2,000 acres of open space, while districts four and five have less than 100 acres together. Which makes me befuddled that the residents in the southeast, good people who have family and children, can't get a Union Pacific trail. I mean it's just such a little portion and it's going to cost the city nothing. We have \$1.78 million grant to plant 176 trees and 10,000 shrubs."

• Chase McFarland said, "I am the HS Choral Vocal Music President. We want to invite everyone to an event. The Winter Sing will be held on

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

December 14 from 7 PM at the FUHS Auditorium on Chapman Ave. We just have a bunch of fun things like storytelling with the Grinch, a giving tree and it feels like holiday and it brings so much joy.

• Kitty Jaramillo said, "I want to thank you, Mayor, for doing the right thing and recusing yourself on the renewal contract for Faulk Ambulance Company.

And to you, Councilman Dunlap, unfortunately, after your few years on City Council, when are you going to know your audience? Your update to Fullerton residents about the football game last council meeting had nothing to do with anything.

• Curtis Gamble recommendations for 2023.

1) Movable tiny homes used as temporary cold weather shelters and a safe RV parking program in the Hunt Library and dog park, a gated, secluded community parking lot 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

2) Kelly Thomas statue at the Fullerton Transportation Center.

3) The Cash Up card is a free Visa debit card, which allows community funding to pay for rent, electric bills, gas, shelter bills, and other goods and services.

4) The City of Fullerton, Municipal Code 15.42.010, for emergency shel-

ters allows Grace Ministry and other churches to shelter up to 12 homeless individuals."

• A Fullerton Resident: I would like to read a quote: It's not about what you do, but how you are. It's not about what you've accomplished. It's about who you have lifted up and who you have made better. It's about what you have given back. So I'm here. To see if today you guys are going to give back to our community, something that we have been working, waiting, and wanting.

• Veronica Moran said, "I've been a resident of Fullerton for 12 years. I'm here today to talk about the people that create good community in Fullerton. I know that each of you do the best that you can. Thank you to Mr. Zahra and Mrs. Charles for supporting the community. Thank you to the Police and Fire Department and all of the city workers; you help our community and run our city. I also want to talk about the people that actually have the courage to come here and to give their voice. They are our residents. You who are speaking up about what is fair. And also for all of the ones that are sending emails and are interested in our city. I hope that we take into consideration our Earth. We are people that have to support not only the environment but also other people."

CITY COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Dr. Shana Charles: I want to remind the public to please up-to-date your vaccinations for COVID, flu, pneumonia, shingles, and anything else that you might need vaccinations for. They really do help make a difference. Even if you happen to get the disease, it makes it so much less worse, which is what I'm experiencing, less worse. I hope that everybody has a healthy December.

And I would like to also thank all the groups in our city along with our city staff who have been able to put on wonderful events for the holidays. I saw the pictures of the tree and menorah lighting ceremony. That was wonderful. I wish everyone who's celebrating a happy Hanukkah coming up on Thursday as well as the other holidays throughout December, and, of course, looking forward to the first night.

And finally, just a thank you to everyone making public comments. As always, I really appreciate hearing your thoughts. Because of my condition, my office hours are going to be virtual, so I'll still be available on Thursdays from 12 to 2 but only by phone or Zoom link.

Council Member Nick Dunlap: First, I'd like to wish everyone a happy. Saint Nicholas Day is kind of a special time for me because as a Greek American kid, it was always a big thing because my my birthday is actually next week, but Saint Nicholas Day is tomorrow, and it's kind of a big event that really kicks off the holiday season.

Next up, I want to thank everyone

that came out to the grand opener Ribbon Cutting at Acacia Park this past weekend. It was a great event to have it finally reopened. If you haven't had a chance to get out there to check it out if, you know, really staff did a great job and put together a great park.

Council Member Dr. Ahmad Zahra: I want to thank the Fullerton Museum Center for hosting the Winter Market and for our staff for doing the tree and menorah lighting. This was really very special to see community come out together and celebrate regardless of backgrounds and faiths. This is what community is all about, especially at this time when we're seeing so much conflict in the world.

The Leo Fender exhibit starts this Saturday, December 9 at six and so please do come and see this great exhibit and let's celebrate Fullerton's contribution to rock and roll.

I want to wish Joel Maus, who had a terrible accident, a speedy recovery. I also want to ask that we come back with some guidelines for safety in construction zones. And I'd like to ask that we do a study session for the public and then have a more comprehensive look at our street safety.

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Whitaker: I do have a request. Back when the Item was passed to start charging for parking on around weekends in the downtown area, I'd requested at that time that we receive a recap of some kind of a financial report on the net amount of revenue.

How to contact your District Representative

Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair
• **District 1: Fred Jung**
(714) 738-6311
fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com

Mayor/ Chair
• **District 2: Nick Dunlap**
(714) 738-6311
nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com

• **District 3: Dr. Shana Charles**
(714) 738-6311
shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com
• **District 4: Bruce Whitaker**
(714) 981-8474
bwhitaker@live.com
• **District 5: Dr. Ahmad Zahra**
(714) 738-6311
AhmadZ@cityoffullerton.com

RECONSIDERATION OF UP TRAIL PHASE II GRANT

City Council considered Union Pacific Park trail options on August 15, 2023 and voted 3 - 2 to direct staff to re-approach the California Natural Resources Agency to consider reallocating the Phase Two project grant funding to another project. Council Member Zahra requested, supported by Council Member Charles, to bring this item back for City Council consideration.

Recommendation:

1. Reaffirm City Council direction from August 15, 2023 and direct City Manager to re-approach the State of California Natural Resources Agency and continue to explore an alternate project for the grant. OR

2. Direct City Manager to move forward with the Union Pacific Trail Phase Two project, as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and appropriate \$330,000 from Park Dwelling (Fund 39) fund balance to Project 54260 Union Pacific Trail Phase Two Project in Capital Projects Fund (Fund 74).

Before the Item could be presented Mayor Pro Tem Whitaker asked that it be pushed back to January 16, 2024.

Over 25 people spoke in favor of the trail.

Motion to bring it back to City Council on January 16, 2024 passed 3 to 2 (Charles and Zahra voted No).

ANNUAL ROTATION OF MAYOR AND PRO TEM

City Council / Successor Agency / Housing Authority / Financing Authority appoints a new Mayor / Chair and Mayor Pro Tem / Vice Chair on an annual basis.

Recommendation:

1. City Attorney conduct nominations for Mayor / Chair appointment.

2. Mayor conduct nominations for Mayor Pro Tem / Vice Chair appointment.

Nick Dunlap rotated into the Mayor/Chair seat and Fred Jung rotated into the Mayor Pro Tem/ Vice Chair seat. District 5 representative Ahmad Zahra was bypassed for the third year in a row. District 5 consists of the downtown businesses and south Fullerton residents. Read front page article "Latino Majority District 5 Disenfranchised Again."

AGENDA FORECAST (Tentative)
Tuesday, December 19, 2023
• November 2023 Check Register
• Monthly Committee Report
• On Call Scada Integration Services
• Administrative Citation Fine Amounts Short Term Rentals
• Request for Proposal Agreement for Grant Writing Services
• Request for Proposal Agreement for Legislative Services
• NOISE ORDINANCE
• Flood Ordinance Update
• Consideration of Existing OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN ORDINANCE
Tuesday, January 2, 2024
• MEETING CANCELLED

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS AT 303 W. COMMONWEALTH
• December 11 at 6:30pm: Parks & Rec Commission
• December 13 at 5pm: Active Transportation
• December 18 at 5pm: Infrastructure and Resources
• December 19 at 5:30pm: City Council
• December 20 at 6:30pm: Planning Commission
• December 21 at 6pm: Library Board of Trustees
• January 01 at 4pm: Transportation & Circulation
• January 08 at 5:30pm: Cultural Arts Subcommittee

District 5 Disenfranchised Again continued from front page

But the Three have consistently violated this policy and have overlooked District 5's Council Member, Dr. Ahmad Zahra, the council's longest-serving member who has not served in those positions. Zahra, elected in 2018 and now in his second term, has served on the council two years longer than the next most eligible member but was skipped over as Mayor Pro Tem for the last three years (The Three voted Jung as Mayor and Whitaker as Mayor Pro Tem last year), unraveling years of efforts by previous city leaders to create a fair and non-political mayoral selection process.

Mayoral appointments are imbued with pride, symbolic power, and representation in a city with districts. The Mayor sets the meeting agendas with the City Manager and a vision for the community, prioritizing issues and projects during their term. The Mayor sits on boards and reports the information to the public to maintain transparency.

During public comments at the December 5 City Council meeting, people from every district of Fullerton, and residents of District 5 in particular, implored Council Members to follow their own rules and appoint District 5's representative to be Fullerton's next Mayor. In often passionate and personal terms, they explained why mayoral representation is important to District 5's residents and pleaded with the council not to disenfranchise the district yet again.

Jan Flory, a former Mayor of Fullerton, urged the council to appoint District 5's representative, Council Member Dr. Ahmad Zahra, as Mayor, saying that the council would be "Giving voice to a part of our city that has not been properly represented in the past."

Gretchen Cox, a prominent Republican leader in the city, broke 'party loyalty' in the name of fairness and linked the consistent denial of District 5's right to mayoral representation to a discriminatory pattern. "I'm here tonight on behalf of fairness... each person on this City Council was elected by their constituents, and each elected member is entitled to an opportunity to serve as Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor," said Cox. "For some reason,

several council members feel they are better qualified, superior, and more entitled to hold these positions than others. That's known as discrimination, and it has no place in Fullerton. Some of you have held these positions more than once already. Denying others their rightful opportunity and breaking from long-established policy and practice, every district and every member of the council has a right not to be discriminated against. Give us a reason to feel that you deserve our respect and our votes again in future elections by giving Ahmad Zahra the respect he deserves."

"District 5 needs respect, just like all other districts do. Sadly, I do not think that you are going to surprise us. But I hope that you guys respect the seats that you are holding. And that you can be reasonable to have humanity and, more than anything, to represent the whole city of Fullerton," said Veronica Moran.

Egleth Nuncci, a community leader, said: "Ahmad Zahra has helped District 5 by empowering all its residents. He has helped our district by informing and educating them about policies and services where they can get help or volunteer their time to help lift their community. He has brought projects into an area where people lack a voice. We ask that you respect the rotation and allow Council Member Zahra to represent District 5 as the Mayor...You can make a difference and allow District 5 to have a Mayor for the first time."

Despite Council Member Dr. Shana Charles nominating Zahra for Mayor and then for Mayor Pro Tem (the positions that policy dictated), The Three ignored her and the unanimous public comments, breaking the fair rotation for the third year in a row. In a much-decried move, they quickly nominated and selected Dunlap for Mayor (despite Whitaker being Mayor Pro Tem at the time of the vote) and outgoing Mayor Jung was selected as Mayor Pro Tem, again passing over District 5's Zhara, thereby exercising their dominance on the City Council.

The speed at which Jung nominated

Dunlap for Mayor, the lack of any discussion or reason for the breaking with tradition and policy, followed by the prepared remarks by the new Mayor and the presence of his family in the audience, gave the appearance that this was a deliberate decision to intentionally exclude Zahra and prevent District 5 from having mayoral power.

As a result, some in the community have raised questions about Brown Act violations, the California law mandating that Council Members speak to only one other Council Member on a topic that will be voted on. Concerns about violations were also raised by Council Member Charles during the vote. "By the Brown Act I'm only able to talk to one person and I have been in conversations with Council Member Dunlap." Private discussions, including via emails or intermediaries, between more than two Council Members on a topic such as voting for Mayor could constitute a misdemeanor offense.

After the vote, the crowd boomed and jeered in anger, disappointment, and disgust as the newly appointed Mayor, Nick Dunlap, shouted "ORDER, ORDER" in an authoritative tone. He then proceeded with his acceptance speech, "I would like to thank three very special people to me who came

and saw what we endured. A lot of these comments and a lot of these attacks. They got to see what we deal with, you know, every other Tuesday night in here."

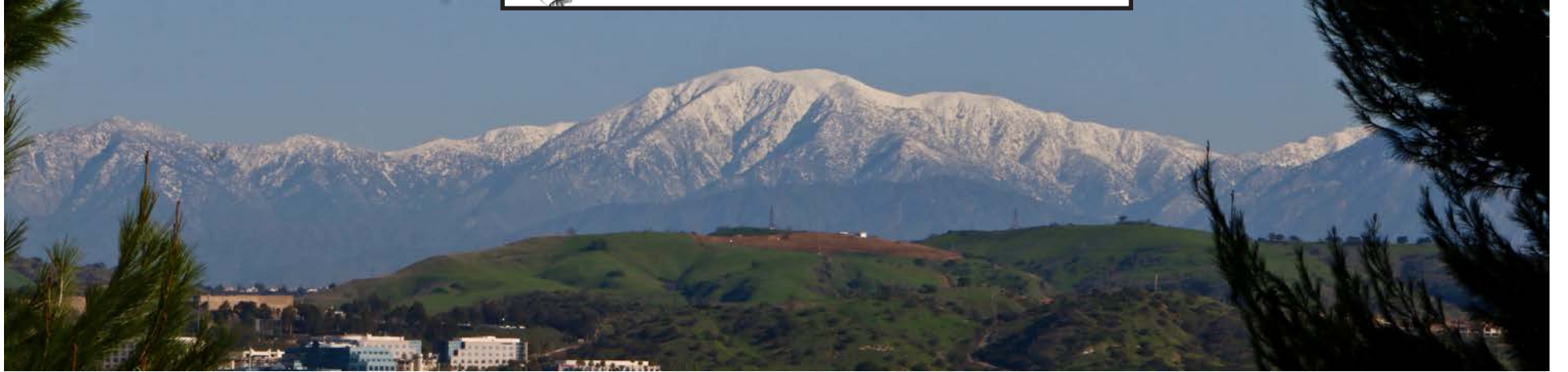
There is a pattern of The Three systematically ignoring the voices and representation of South Fullerton, which was reflected in the only other agenda item of the night: reconsider using a previously awarded \$1.78 million grant to create a trail in District 5 in South Fullerton Latino-majority community or return the grant money to the state agency. However, Whitaker, representing District 4, motioned to delay the discussion until January 16 because he felt there was no need to discuss the issue further.

The Three subsequently voted to shirk their responsibility to the public and postpone the discussion of the trail, thus delaying substantive conversation and community input yet again.

Over 25 attendees spoke unanimously against delaying the decision, imploring The Three to "do their job" and make the trail as planned. The Three followed their usual pattern of refusing discussion and not being transparent about their reasons, further alienating the public.

Despite measures to enhance fairness in government, such as district based elections and a fair rotation policy to choose a Mayor, The Three continue to disenfranchise and ignore the Latino-majority neighborhoods in Fullerton.

Two years after sanitation strike and negotiations continue
A labor disagreement between city trash hauler Republic Services and its sanitation employees led to a strike in December 2021 that affected service in Fullerton, Placentia, Anaheim, Huntington Beach, and other cities served by Republic Services. Residents were assured by the City of Fullerton that they could expect to receive credit for missed trash pickups eventually. It has been two years, and residents are still wondering about their rebates. According to the City Manager Eric Levitt, the city's contract with Republic Services contains many conditions on Republic's liability for damages. One of those conditions covers strikes. "Only one city has received money back for residents, and that was after a rate hike also went into effect. No one else has had a rebate. Republic Services is willing to support community events, such as disposal education days, to help the community in place of a rebate. The city is still working on an agreement. Nothing has been finalized, but we are close to being finished with negotiations," said the city manager.



2023 In Review

Once again, an artificially designated "New Year" is nearly upon us, so we look back at what took place, what we did, what we did not do, and what may be left over to get done in 2024; wow, 2024.

Last January, we noticed the empty lot on East Amerige near Pomona was overgrown, but suddenly, it was cleared, perhaps a sign that something would finally be built there. Nope, it's still an empty lot, so it's wandered into a second decade of emptiness. Chapman Brewing took over the VINO Nostra location, and . . . yea, nothing is happening there yet either; what the heck? The historic concrete bridge on Pomona and Union came crashing down, not a match for a speeding car, now restored, as you readers know all too well.

February saw Mo's Fullerton Music close and begin getting their new building on Commonwealth ready, reopened at 1109 E Commonwealth. Joes became Callahans at 124 West Commonwealth, and funding began to replace the iconic neon sign in front of our Police Department.

March, wow, the drought-busting deluge continued, and we even became familiar with 'graupel'- soft hail/snow pellets, snow on our nearby foothills, and floods due to massive amounts of rain. The Mugs opened at 444 N Harbor. The Hornets finished #1 in Men's Basketball with an 83-73 victory over City College of San Francisco on the 12th, and we celebrated the start of the Little League season as Tommy Lasorda Highway was dedicated.

In April, Quamaria Coffee opened at 229 West Commonwealth, and they purchased the lot across the street for parking. Good move. Lagos Mexican restaurant was getting closer to opening, and they gave us a peek inside (Mid-April edition). Monday Mornings at Hillcrest Park began as veterans gathered at the Korean War



Memorial to visit, share stories, and help each other when needed.

May brought sadness as we bid farewell to Tommy Thompson, the longtime Fullerton Fire Department Inspector/Investigator. Bootleggers celebrated their 15th Anniversary at the downtown tasting room, and The Olde Ship turned 30. The second annual Pride Parade took place Downtown with hundreds of bicycles, people on skates and skateboards, and a few tiny cars heading west on Wilshire to the Fullerton Museum Center. The vintage Police sign we mentioned was installed, better than the new one.

June marked the return of the first large event at our Municipal Airport since June 2019, when Helicopter Day took place. We caught up with "Commander" Chuck Street, who was instrumental in getting our Downtown on the map with his help getting us the aerial photos and publicity we needed.

Summer is here, and we had a successful Day of Music on June 21, with many musicians donating their talents to celebrate the worldwide event once again. We learned much more than most knew about the legendary Wilshire Theater when former owner Pete Beard filled us in on the many inconceivable events that led to its demise. There was so much to tell. The story continued in the August edition, detailing the final days of our most cherished Angelos and Vincis.

Do you remember September? Many gathered at the Downtown Plaza to celebrate Leo Fender's birthday and announce the upcoming Fender exhibit at the Museum, which opened on December 9. The heavy rains continued, and urgent flood warnings were given, as up to a year's worth of rain was predicted, creating a "significant threat to property." Things got rough but not as dire as expected, and we all made it without an Ark in sight.

October was a huge month for new businesses in our downtown area. It marked the opening of Allison's Goods at 815 N Harbor, Sew Fun at 622 N Harbor, Chako's Social at 101 S Harbor, Lagos at 139 W Santa Fe, The Charleston at 114 E Commonwealth, Ax Lair at 109 E Commonwealth, This Café and Creamery at 115 E Commonwealth and Sabori! At 133 W Chapman. Wow. Free movies were shown at the Fullerton Museum Center.

November just gave way to December, and we covered the walking tour of Hillcrest Park, plus the completion of the vintage bridge repairs on the hairpin turn at Pomona and Union that was originally built by the WPA in 1940. The loss of John Keller on November 8 was a shock, and many celebrated his life on Saturday, December 2. He will be greatly missed, and all who knew him were witness to that great life he had with his wife Pam



Keller and their three sons.

After putting this issue to bed, in silence and stillness, while reading a particularly haunting chapter of Maus, out of the darkness came a loud sound, a sharp jolt, and rapid-fire text messages. Social media came to life, and we all quickly discovered that the epicenter of an earthquake was about a mile away. The next day, we found amusement in trying to find the best shakes in town. Nick's Super Burgers strawberry shake kicked off the list. No damage was done.

Photo Quiz

Send answer to Mike at AllMedia@sbcglobal.net



This time: Where is this gigantic tree? Yes, in Fullerton, not Downtown.



This month, we all hope for a Happy Holiday Season, and helping bring in the season cheer is a follow-up to our photo last time- the sparkle balls are up and shining on North Yale and Princeton Circle. Check them out when you can. The Winter Market on December 2 was a success once again, and the upcoming First Night 2024 takes place Downtown beginning at 7pm on December 31. Admission is FREE.



Last time: Easy for many of you, yes, the sparkle balls on Princeton Circle, hang 'em again, Sam.

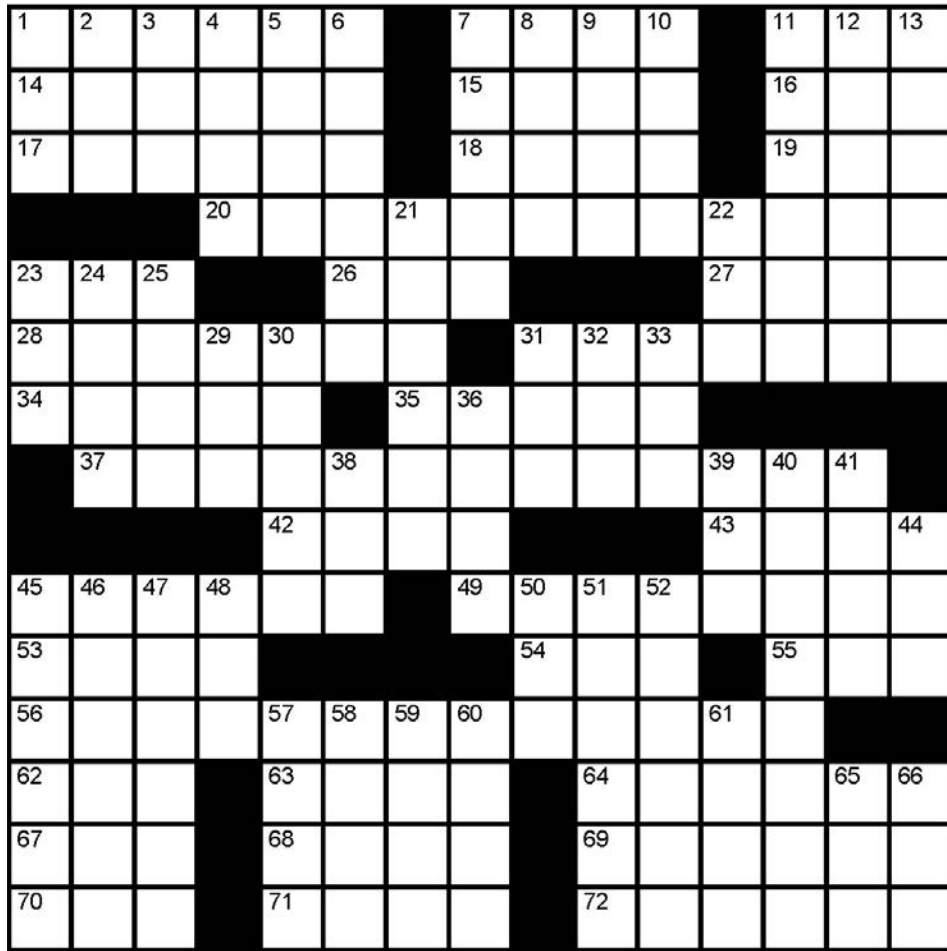


New In Town

Veronese Café is no more, but the good news is that the location is now open again and has transformed into The Classic Café. They had a soft opening beginning the final week of November and continuing into December. The address is 419 W Commonwealth- welcome to Fullerton.

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2023

"YES, IT'S A CHRISTMAS MOVIE" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 15)



ACROSS

- 1. 1994 Denis Leary movie
- 7. Billing abbr.
- 11. "Murder, ___ Wrote"
- 14. Come about
- 15. "___ she blows!"
- 16. "Cool" amount
- 17. Nissan sedan
- 18. U2 frontman
- 19. Portuguese pronoun
- 20. 2003 Colin Firth movie
- 23. Rachel Carson subj.
- 26. Can. province
- 27. "Rhinstone Cowboy" singer Campbell
- 28. 1988 Bruce Willis movie
- 31. Fashionable
- 34. Young haddock
- 35. "You found the right guy," formally
- 37. 1983 Eddie Murphy movie
- 42. Not for here
- 43. In the thick of
- 45. Director's cry
- 49. 1984 Zach Galligan movie
- 53. Luau souvenirs
- 54. Fla. neighbor
- 55. French salt
- 56. 1992 Michael Keaton movie
- 62. Approx.
- 63. Satellite signal
- 64. Senator's asst., say
- 67. Divinity school subj.
- 68. "Black Beauty" author Sewell
- 69. Pooh's morose friend
- 70. "Cats" monogram
- 71. 500 sheets
- 72. Inclines

DOWN

- 1. As yet unscheduled: Abbr.
- 2. Daughter of Loki, in Norse myth
- 3. Newt
- 4. Commuter line
- 5. Sailor's saint
- 6. One of Baskin-Robbins' 31
- 7. Up, in baseball
- 8. Hosp. in Orange
- 9. "Out of the question"
- 10. Pants, slangily
- 11. Rank
- 12. Jewish campus group
- 13. Comedian Boosler
- 21. Conclusion
- 22. 007, e.g.
- 23. Driller's deg.
- 24. Ref. book
- 25. Okla., before 1907
- 29. Condo board, briefly
- 30. Supplement
- 31. Little troublemaker
- 32. Org. with Sharks and Predators
- 33. Caribbean, e.g.
- 36. Awestruck
- 38. Charged particle
- 39. UC Berkeley, in slang
- 40. Car exhaust
- 41. Trig function
- 44. High-speed Internet inits.
- 45. Writer Camus
- 46. Ends
- 47. Hall of Fame quarterback Y.A.
- 48. Belief system
- 50. ___ race
- 51. Dodges
- 52. Mime Marceau
- 57. A long way off
- 58. Hawaiian goose
- 59. Sofer of soaps
- 60. Dutch cheese
- 61. Brand whose name derives from the Greek for "water nymph"
- 65. Gere title role
- 66. Wide shoe sizes



What's Trending? by Irene, 12th grade

**Pursuit of Justice
Inspiring Gen Z to Stop Vaping**

At least one point in their lives, everyone has stumbled upon the "The Real Cost" campaign advertisements — unsettling videos that aim to educate teens about the risks of tobacco products. But despite the Food and Drug Administration's campaign expenditures that exceeded \$247 million within two years of its 2014 launch, as reported by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, as well as extensive advocacy targeting e-cigarette prevention since 2017, over 2.5 million young Americans continue the practice of vaping. The widespread use of e-cigarettes among Generation Z and the youth's indifference to its health consequences have led researchers to regard this as an alarming epidemic. But recently, for reasons other than health concerns, TikTok users have initiated a movement on the app encouraging people to quit vaping.

For context, the Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC] is responsible for supplying nearly 75% of the world's cobalt — a metal found in batteries of electronic devices, including vapes. Amid the high demand for this valuable metal, the DRC's practice of cobalt mining raises serious human

rights concerns, often described as "modern-day slavery." According to Siddhartha Kara, the author of Cobalt Red, aside from the toxic properties of the metal, these mines have displaced hundreds and thousands of people, resulted in numerous cases of sexual assault, and facilitated the exploitation and trafficking of minors. "I have met children who had come from hundreds of miles away and have been brought through militia networks...and as they dig and earn their dollar or two, that's what funds these militia groups," Kara said in an interview with NPR.

In response to these dire circumstances, TikTok creator Kristina (@itskristinamf) posted a video on Nov. 15, educating her viewers about the conditions in the DRC and the role that daily appliances, such as phones and e-cigarettes, play in perpetuating this humanitarian crisis. Her video has since garnered over 1.5 million views and incited a wave of Gen Z users who have chosen to quit vaping in solidarity with the people of Congo. Although "The Real Cost" advertisements have rendered rather ineffective for many teenagers, the pursuit of justice proves to be a unifying force for this generation of advocates.



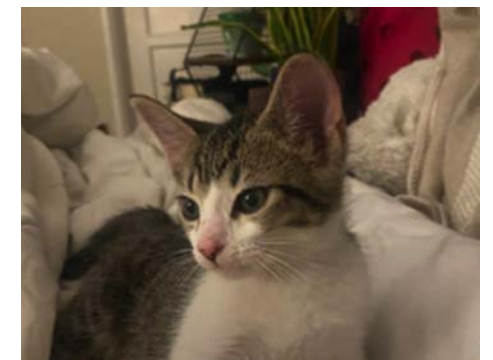
Life Hacks by Tegan, 5th grade

Cat Care

I recently had the pleasure of adding a new member to my family — Ricky, an adorable and mischievous cat. This new addition brought a bumpy adventure into cat ownership, making me realize just how important it is to grasp the essentials of caring for these captivating creatures. I want to share a couple of tips and tricks you might like to try with your beloved feline friend.

One of the most fundamental aspects of cat care is mealtime. Establishing a well-balanced diet is extremely pivotal in ensuring optimal health. Ricky currently weighs around 7-10 pounds, but it's important to note that portion sizes can vary from cat to cat. Through my exploration, I found the perfect schedule for Ricky's meal routine: half a can of wet food in the morning, dry food to graze on throughout the day, and a bedtime feast of another half can of wet food. This arrangement proved to be best for Ricky. However, it's crucial to remember that every cat is unique, and consulting a veterinarian for personalized feeding guidelines is paramount.

Next, the significance of creating a comfortable and stimulating environment for your feline friend cannot be overstated—a perfect solution: the cat tree—a true haven for your playful companion. Not only does it provide



an elevated vantage point for them to oversee their kingdom, but it also serves as an exceptional outlet for them to indulge in their instinct to scratch and sharpen their claws. By providing this designated space for scratching, you can protect your precious furniture from facing the wrath of their razor-sharp claws. While the aesthetic appeal of tall cat trees may not always be the most pleasing to the human eye, it's crucial to recognize that cats adore heights. Ricky's cat tree stands tall at 5 feet. Anything shorter, and Ricky would have swiftly dismissed it as just another ordinary item in the room.

The joy of welcoming Ricky into my family has made me realize the significance of understanding the essentials of cat care. By implementing these two invaluable tips—establishing a balanced meal routine and creating a stimulating environment—I can safely say Ricky is having a great time with me and my family at home.

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HIGH SCHOOL BOARD
HIGHLIGHTS & Commentary by Vivien Moreno
 The Fullerton Joint Union High School District Board
 More information: (714) 870-2800 or www.fjuhsd.net

Simon Scholars

The FJUHS District Trustees honored five Simon Scholars at the November 14 board meeting, which was not recorded due to technical difficulties.

The Simon Scholars program started in 2003 when Ronald M. Simon and his family formed the Simon Family Foundation, offering scholarships to graduating seniors. Over the next decade, the scholarship transformed into long-term support for first-generation college-attending students.

Beginning in 10th grade, recipients receive financial aid and mentoring to allow them to excel academically and socially while completing a 4-year college degree and starting a career path.

The scholarship offers up to \$16,000 per year, a Mac laptop, and mentoring, including tutoring, internships, college tours, and college application support. Mr. Juan Sigala, Assistant Director of Scholar Recruitment, was there to present 5 FJUHS District students with scholarships.

All recipients are first-generation college-bound students who face difficult life and economic situations. They all maintain high academic excellence while showing leadership potential in school and community settings. Mr. Sigala mentioned that the program has a larger capacity for more FJUHS District scholar recipients. Students can get information from their academic counselors.



*Mr. Juan Sigala,
 Assistant Director
 of Scholar Recruitment*

Buena Park High



Buena Park High student Joselyn Andrade wants to attend Cal Poly Pomona to study Veterinary Science. She reflects her love of caring for small domestic livestock by participating in the BPHS Agriculture program.



BPHS student Heaven Contreras is an AP capstone student, is a member of the water polo and swim teams, and wishes to attend UCLA to become a Registered Pediatric Nurse.

Fullerton Union High

Fullerton Union High student Samsarahi Lopez Gutierrez will be the first in her family to attend both high school and college. The Year Book editor, an AP/IB STEM student with a black belt in Taekwondo, wishes to study Mechanical Engineering and Physical Therapy at UCI, UCLA, or USC.



La Habra High



La Habra High student Leslie Reyes balances academics and sports participation (baseball and tennis) and runs a small business named Cakes by Leslie, which serves mini-cheesecakes and Tres Leches cakes. She plans to attend USC as a Business Major.



LHHS brothers Adam and Daniel Arroyo are both Simon Scholars and participate in the LH Heritage Program while enjoying their hobby of filming their Sunday church services. Adam plans to attend UCLA or Loyola Marymount to pursue a Business Major. Daniel wishes to study Engineering at UCI, UCLA, UC Berkeley, or MIT.



LHHS student Karah Marchetti is a member of both the track and tennis teams, is an ASSB member, volunteers at her local elementary school, and wishes to attend Oregon State to pursue Creative Writing.



LHHS student Carla Alvarado wishes to study nursing while attending the University of Pennsylvania.

The next FJUHS District Board meeting will be on December 12 at 6pm.

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A CHILD IN SCHOOL...

- PUBLIC SCHOOLS AFFECT:
- YOUR PROPERTY VALUES
- YOUR TAX DOLLARS
- YOUR COMMUNITY
- YOUR DEMOCRACY

VOTE FOR YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, & YOUR COMMUNITY!

DR. NANCY WATKINS
 CANDIDATE, OC BOARD OF EDUCATION, AREA 3

Prospects for Peace

*Associate Professor Studies
 How Peace can be Promoted
 in the Ongoing
 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*

Cal State Fullerton psychology faculty member Ella Ben Hagai studies conflict resolution and the role of psychology in promoting peace, specifically in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Israel-Hamas war.

Ben Hagai has researched the narratives of Israelis, Palestinians, American Jews and Arabs. She is an expert on how national narratives become part of people's identities and can be used to promote peace or war.

Understanding how individuals come together and form a shared political identity is an important step toward peacebuilding and conflict resolution, Ben Hagai said.

She said activists on each side of the conflict have become entrenched in an us vs. them mentality in a way that can lead to radicalization, extremism and violence.



"Politicians representing Palestinians in Gaza and Jewish Israelis living around the Gaza Strip have worked for decades to create polarization and schism so that residents would be united under a monolithic narrative," Ben Hagai said.

A sign of hope in the conflict might be that Israelis and Palestinians feel frustration toward their political leaders and that may lead to long-term solutions, Ben Hagai said.

"The disillusion from the leaders who brought us to this crisis may be a path out of it," Ben Hagai said.



Did You Know?
by Declan, 8th grade

**Having Hiccups?
Must be the Vocal Chords**

Hiccups, the annoying little sounds that interrupt our important dialogue, can inflict significant discomfort. Here is why this happens and how you can prevent it. The diaphragm is a muscle that controls the expansion of the chest, which the lungs fill when air is inhaled. While having hiccups, the diaphragm spasms due to irritation and suddenly causes air to be vacuumed into the throat. The change in environment forces the vocal cords to close quickly, producing the high-pitched noise we are familiar with when undergoing this process.

The main factors that encourage hiccups are drinking carbonated or alcoholic beverages, overeating, swallowing excessive amounts of air, emotional stress, or sudden temperature changes. Being mindful of these factors can decrease the amount of discomfort you experience.



Christmas Debate by Erin, 9th grade

**Real of Fake
Christmas Trees?**

The Christmas tree, with its twinkling lights and festive cheer, is a traditional symbol of Christmas. When selecting the perfect Christmas tree, families often debate getting a real Christmas tree versus a fake one.

While artificial trees may seem convenient, cost-effective, and better for the environment, there's more to this "tree" than meets the eye, as fake Christmas trees might be more of a Grinch than a gift to our planet.

Every Christmas holiday season, many trees are cut down to decorate our homes. Many of us also assume that cutting down trees harms the environment. However, Christmas trees are renewed: 1-3 seedlings replace the harvested ones, and out of 350-500 million Christmas trees, only about 30 million are harvested each year. Although Christmas trees never reach their full potential, within their average lifespan of 7 years, they served as a home

for the mammals and birds in that area. Most importantly, they took in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, a significant benefit because of climate change. So, they helped create clean air, water, and healthy soil during their short lives. They benefit the environment and the families celebrating Christmas with the trees in their homes.

Artificial trees, conversely, are made of plastic, which can be worse for the environment and health. It is also made up of a material called PVC, which is linked to health concerns due to the toxic compounds that compose it. They contribute to plastic waste because they cannot be recycled. According to the Washington Post, almost 90% of fake trees are made in China, and carbon dioxide waste from the fuel to ship them worldwide adds to the pollution. However, if counterfeit trees are kept for at least five years, they are more sustainable than getting a tree yearly. It is more tolerable and cheaper, at least over time.

So next time your family shops for a Christmas tree, the best choice for the environment is real! Either way, Merry Christmas!



What's Up? by Edyn, 10th grade

**Holiday Activities
Around Fullerton**

The holiday season is a time for everyone of all ages to come together and spend time with loved ones. As the holiday spirit dawns upon us, opportunities for yearly winter activities are approaching. Fullerton is the perfect city to live in as it and its surrounding cities have many seasonal opportunities to explore.

The city of Fullerton has many great opportunities for family-friendly celebrations. The Muckenthaler Cultural Center hosts many different holiday-themed events, such as their Holiday Festival on December 17 and several Christmas concerts that can all be accessed on their website, themuck.org. Additionally, many of our streets are known for being strewn with colorful Christmas decorations that are amazing to drive by with your loved ones. The neighborhoods around Raymond Street typically have lights throughout the trees along the street and many eccentric decorations on their homes.

If you are willing to make a trip within a one-hour drive, Fullerton is close to many other cities with plentiful Christmas events as well. While doing your last-minute Christmas shopping, the Irvine Spectrum is perfect for feeling the holiday spirit and shopping with or for your friends and family.

Every year, the Irvine Spectrum has ice skating around their beautiful 75-foot Christmas tree and light shows with the lights on it. These events and the ability to shop for the holidays create a perfect opportunity to share the spirit with everyone you love.

With Fullerton's proximity to so many locations within a two-hour radius, families can explore various opportunities to explore or cozy up for the season. Big Bear Lake is about 2 hours away from Fullerton and receives glistening snow with the opportunity to stay in warm log cabins and to don winter wear many would not be able to dress in on a typical day in Fullerton. Strap on your snow boots and waterproof snow suit and head over to Big Bear's many cafes and shops. If you are into more athletic activities, the Big Bear Mountain Resort offers ski, snowboard, and tube opportunities. The resort offer plenty of lessons for all ages if you are willing to learn.

The beauty of living in Fullerton is its culture and proximity to other great cities. The ability to be in a town for an hour and be in the snowy mountains in the next two is an opportunity residents should not take for granted. Visit the abundant events in and outside of Fullerton and share the holiday spirit with the ones you love.



National Observance by Mateo, 10th grade

UNICEF Day for Change Dec 11

For those who have the privilege of living healthy, comfortable lives, it can be difficult to know and understand the daily struggles that many children around the world face. Over one billion children worldwide currently live in poverty, lacking access to healthcare, proper nutrition, and suitable housing.

For context, nearly 1 in 6 children live in extreme poverty. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has only worsened this issue, decreasing the incomes of 75% of households and increasing household poverty worldwide by 15%. Fortunately, thanks to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), you can support these kids and help them reach their full potential even while living in poverty.

Established by the UN during World War II, UNICEF's only responsibility initially was to serve as an emergency care center during wartime. However, the UN realized how crucial it was to have a worldwide program to assist kids in need, even after the war. So, it officially became permanent in 1954 and continues its work. UNICEF has grown immensely since its original establishment. For example, the program now owns a large warehouse in Copenhagen, Dnmark, where disaster relief supplies are stored and ready for

immediate transport anywhere in the world, showing UNICEF's dedication to assisting the youth.

UNICEF Day for Change, an annual event on December 11th each year, is one of the many events coordinated and organized by the program to help needy children worldwide. On this day, people come together to donate any spare change they may have accumulated across the past few months to the program. It may not seem like a lot at first, but when added up with the spare change of others worldwide, hundreds of thousands of dollars can be donated. Just last year, UNICEF received over \$9 billion in funding from countries worldwide, and a small but significant portion of that total comes from donations the public makes to the program through events like Day for Change.

If you want to make a difference in a young child's life, feel free to honor UNICEF Day for Change by donating your spare change to the fund through their website. Even a tiny donation can largely impact the lives of the youth struggling to stay afloat amid the recent disastrous events. These children are ultimately the leaders of our future, and we must do our best as a community to give them the foundation they need to grow and achieve their full potential.



Digital Art by Jules, 7th grade





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HITS & MISSES

by Joyce Mason © 2023



NAPOLEON: Two Hits

From "Blade Runner" to "The Duellists" to "Thelma and Louise," director Ridley Scott is fearless in the range of material he uses for his films. Especially challenging was his choice to make a movie about Napoleon Bonaparte, whose military and political career has made him a historical icon and automatically a difficult role to fill. Casting Joaquin Phoenix, with his flawed face and mostly dour expressions, would not have been every director's first choice, but by the end of this film, Phoenix has convinced us that he was right for the role.

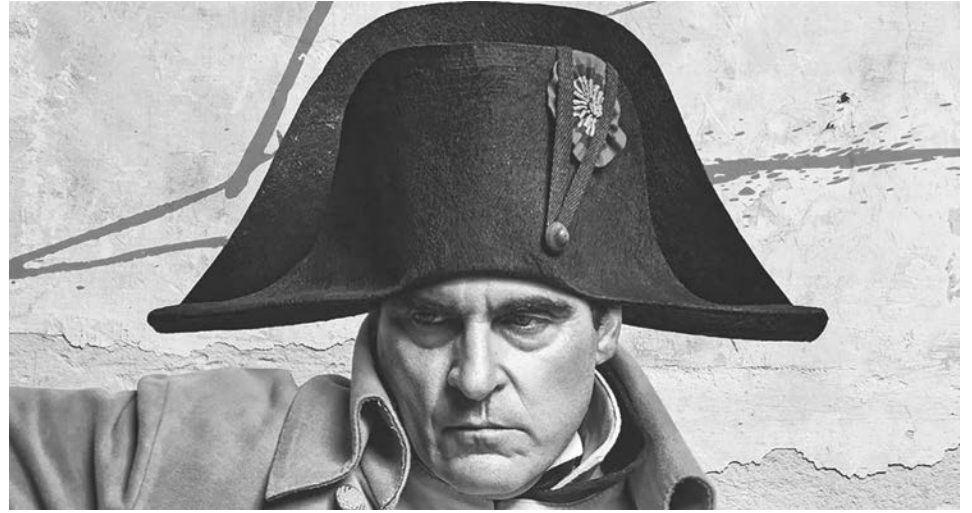
Another challenge in making this film is handling the historical accuracy of the events covered in "Napoleon." Helping Scott to do this is a well-written script by David Scarpa, who uses occasional "chapter headings" that keep us in the historical moment, and there are many memorable moments. Setting the tone for the kind of carnage that ensues during the French Revolution, the movie almost immediately depicts the horror of the guillotine beheading of Marie Antoinette and

the waving of her severed head before a bloodthirsty crowd.

France's revolt from its vastly privileged aristocracy was followed by the Reign of Terror with cruel leaders like Robespierre and Talleyrand. Not yet involved in politics, Napoleon is creating a reputation as a military genius able to win the naval battle of Toulon with cannons taken from the Anglo-Spanish Navy and then used against them. He still avoids conversing with Robespierre and other political leaders.

Napoleon continued to win battles on land and sea, overcoming the Austrian Army at the Battle of Austerlitz. Returning from that victory, he is feted at a celebration, where he spots a young widow, and his admiration for her beauty and confident demeanor causes him to stare at her. Not intimidated by his leering glances, she speaks to him, and one of the great romances in history blossoms as he falls in love with Josephine (Vanessa Kirby).

However, his military prowess takes Napoleon away from the lovely estate



where he and Josephine, now married, reside. Soon, he is off to conquer Egypt. One of the few moments of quiet contemplation in this otherwise action-packed movie takes place when Napoleon faces the bound body of a mummified pharaoh. The scene might remind audiences of Shelley's famous poem "Ozymandias," which was probably written about the same time. Josephine writes to Napoleon during his long absence in Egypt. But rumors soon erupt, alluding to an affair that Josephine is having. Worried that these rumors are true, Napoleon appoints another general in command and

returns to France.

The film "Napoleon" continues to follow the General, now Emperor, through his battles, the last, of course, being his final defeat at Waterloo. One problem that both the director and screenwriter are faced with throughout this movie is the conflicted feelings audiences will have toward its protagonist. Napoleon inspires some admiration for his ability to pull France out of its post-Revolutionary turmoil marred by the excesses of the Reign of Terror, yet Napoleon Bonaparte is a deeply flawed hero who was propelled as much by personal ego as the love of

TWO HITS: Don't Miss it!
A HIT & A MISS: You Might Like it.
TWO MISSES: Don't Bother.



Over the Moon Gallery is an online art gallery featuring works from a variety of artists. Some featured local artists E. E. Jacks, Teri Gammalo, Marie Lavallee, Leslie Lambert, Shaney Watters, Lauralyn Eschner, Kate Jarvik Birch, Bob Hogue

Art Talk with Over the Moon

by Jane Ouweleen and Carol Van Ahlers of OverTheMoonGallery.com

Meet Artist E.E. Jacks

At 17, artist E.E. Jacks knew she wanted to be a working artist. Finding leftover house paint and brushes from the garage one day, she started to paint. "I began doing these small abstract paintings, slivers really, and I couldn't stop. I had all these ideas of what I wanted to do and knew I wanted to do

more. This was it. I felt compelled to paint," said Jacks. "I simply had to do it to satisfy something, to satiate something. It was a realization; this is what I would do with my life."

"My heritage is a mix of French and Spanish. We spoke both languages in my home," said Jacks. These varied

cultures were a part of growing up, which formed and continues to influence her painting. Jacks learned that her ancestors were artists. "I discovered that I had a great uncle, Gonzalo Elosequi, who was a Latin American artist in the era of Diego Rivera. Additionally, I had several ancestor cousins who were French painters."

Having made this decision, Jacks forged her path and searched local communities to learn what art was being shown. "In the early days, I would find various places and events to show my work. The first gallery where I exhibited was Gallery 212 in Seal Beach in 2009. I remember it well because I sold the initial piece to a little girl. It was just a small painting, but it made me happy that it resonated with her," said Jacks.

She continued to exhibit her work in other southern California cities, including Los Angeles, Norwalk (where she had her first solo show), and Santa Ana, ultimately landing in Fullerton as an artist in the Magoski Arts Colony, which was a significant player in the local art scene and home to a group of working artists.

Jacks explained, "Fullerton was an amazing place for an artist. There was the Magoski Arts Colony, including Violet Hour, Hibbleton, and Pas Galleries, and we were all doing work that bridged and brought each other closer. I had a small space among the other artists. There, I opened my

gallery, Apero, where we held juried and open-call exhibits. While it was challenging to curate and for each exhibit to hang up to 50 pieces, I loved the time at the colony; it was magical."

Jacks admires and is influenced by other artists and art movements, past and present. Her list of artists includes Berthe Morisot, Gustavo Courbet, John Constable, and abstract artists Cy Twombly and Helen Frankenthaler. For Jacks, the exploration aspect of her work is vital. "When you stop exploring, you stop learning new things, and your work can stagnate. My ideology as an artist is that stagnation is death." Her art manifests the desire to express how she wishes to see the world or the true reality of life. She paints what she feels. Her advice to artists beginning this journey is not to hang their hat on inspiration, just paint.

Jacks is also an accomplished poet and has published several poetry volumes. "I think very poetically about my work, but I write and paint. Sometimes, I will see a piece and instantly think of a poem I've written, but they are created at different times."

E. E. Jacks is a working artist who continues to inspire. Visit her website www.eejacks.com to learn about upcoming shows and exhibits.

You will also find her paintings at Quorum Gallery in Laguna Beach, Tirage Fine Art Gallery in Carlsbad, and online at Over the Moon Gallery www.overthemoongallery.com.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

**Woman's Club of Fullerton
Holiday Party & Gift Exchange
@ 6PM**

Participation in the Gift Exchange Game is optional. To participate, bring a wrapped gift valued at \$20-\$25.

Matador Cantina, Agave Room
111 North Harbor Blvd, Fullerton
Members: \$30 / Non-Members: \$40
Purchase tickets at: wcof.club

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

**The Wonder of Christmas
@ 7:30pm**

Fullerton Community Band Christmas Concert

Wilshire Ave Community Church
212 E Wilshire Ave, Fullerton

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

**Certified Farmers Market
@ 8:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Seasonal fruits and vegetables, honey, nuts, coffee, tamales, and more.

Fullerton Community Center
340 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

**Darden Christmas Concert:
@7:30pm:**

Share your holidays with the Dardens enjoying an evening of fun and folly as they perform classic Christmas yuletide carols and contemporary holiday songs. Darden may frost the night with a few original Christmas tunes.

MUCKENTHALER CULTURAL CENTER
1201 W. Malvern Ave, Fullerton •
(714) 738-6595 • info@themuck.org

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

**The Hanley Page Band:
Dec 15 @6:30pm:**

Classic Rock/Soul Music
BOOTLEGGERS
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(714) 871-2337 • @bootleggersbrew

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

**Friends of Coyote Hills
Adopt-A-Park
Saturday, December 16, 2023**

Please join us and help clean up a special part of Fullerton - the Nora Kuttner Trail and Robert E. Ward Nature Preserve trails.

Meet at 9 am in the lower parking lot of Sunny Hills Church of Christ, 2255 N. Euclid St. Bring water and "trash grabbers" if you have them. Wearing sunscreen and comfortable shoes is recommended. In the event of rain, the clean up will be cancelled.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

**Holiday Festival @ 12-4pm
Free Entry / Free Parking**

Celebrate the holiday season with free family-friendly activities, live music, food and drinks, art workshops for kids, and an arts and crafts sale.

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1201 W. Malvern Ave, Fullerton •
(714) 738-6595 • info@themuck.org

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

**Holiday Succulent Wreath Workshop
@ 7:30pm**

Bootlegger's Brewery Tasting Rm,
130 South Highland Avenue, Fullerton

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

City Council Meeting @5:30 pm
Meetings are on the first and third Tuesday of each month @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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

**Planning Commission Meeting
@6:30 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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21



**Fox Theater Winter Solstice Party:
@7pm:**

Join us for a lovely, casual evening of music and refreshments as say THANK YOU to our Day of Music sponsors and volunteers.

Fox Theatre Fullerton
510 N Harbor Blvd, Fullerton

**The Nerdy Thursday Variety Show
@ 9 pm:**

This show will feature a quiz by Mondo Cosio, stand-up comedy by Mike Spies and Gage Johnson, a Powerpoint presentation by Jesse La Tour, a coloring contest, and more things!

Mickey's Irish Pub
100 N Harbor Blvd, Fullerton

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

**ROARING INTO 2024
AT THE CHARLESTON!**

114 E Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton
New Years Bash

@8:30pm to 1am • \$150:

The 1920's and 1980's will collide when guests don old Hollywood glitz and glamour and dance the night away to Flashpants and DJs spinning the hottest tunes all while sipping cocktails and indulging at gourmet food stations. General admission includes complimentary food and drink throughout the evening. Upgrades are also available to enhance the experience.

Purchase your ticket(s) at IG: @TheCharlestonOC, (714) 686-2254 email: Lary@Charlestonoc.com, or use the QR.

*The venue is handicapped accessible via elevator in the back foyer of TheBowery.



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December 15, 16, & 17

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DECEMBER 16TH
10 A.M - 6 P.M

We're going to go dark for Winter (no Artwalk) ... and not because, we don't want to do it; but rather, because, we want it to become something else, An assemblage itself. A story unfolding. Pieces of it everywhere: Permutations of Sound, Image, Sight, Smell, Touch & Feel memories, imaginings stories all wanting to be told We want to suspend time ... if just for a rhyme or two ... and that's gonna take a while We figure Spring; so, Until then, Aeroman's making the coffee unless there's notes on the door

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Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2023 • JonDobrer@mac.com

If I Were a Palestinian Longing for Peace

I'm a Jewish-American Zionist and support the right of Israel to continue to exist as a Jewish state. However, as an exercise in empathy, I'm moved to wonder what I'd think and do if I were an open-hearted Palestinian longing for peace with Israel and for my own state. My Palestinian incarnation wouldn't know what to do. Were I living in Israel proper, East Jerusalem, the West Bank, or God help me, Gaza, would I be a Hamas supporter? I'm confident that that wouldn't be a moral or realistic option.

Would I associate with the sclerotic and corrupt Palestinian Authority? Probably not in its present form, with Abbas in the 17th year of his four-year term. Would I support BDS (Boycott, Divest, and Sanction)? Probably. Remember, I am a Jew trying to channel this Palestinian, but I am not personally endorsing BDS. I'm trying to walk a mile in the sandals of this Palestinian for whom the status quo runs from unsatisfactory to unbearable.

Palestinians, who want change and peace, have faced several conundrums. When they are relatively peaceful, Israel feels no pressing need to change anything. When they rebel, protest, throw rocks, and become violent, then Israel "can't respond" constructively because that would be "rewarding violence." So, if I'm a Palestinian interested in peaceful change and co-existence, what is the right tone to take? I don't know. Please tell me!

After the barbarism of the atrocious Hamas slaughter of so many innocent

Israelis, what should I do that doesn't promote eternal fighting? The Hamas terrorists celebrated joyously while butchering Kibbutzniks, who were the best friends the Gazans had in Israel. Hamas doesn't advance my Palestinian goals.

If Israelis say that violent acts are totally unacceptable and Hamas must be destroyed, what's an acceptable path for a humane but unhappy Palestinian? Israel in general and Netanyahu in particular (not to mention Ben-Gvir, Smotrich, and Gallant) strive to undermine the PA (Palestinian Authority) and work to keep it weak by imprisoning each new generation of PA leadership. What's left for me? I could try economic leverage and support the BDS movement. But good-hearted, peace-loving Jewish Zionists like the real me have opposed BDS.

If violence is futile, if political organizing is blocked, and if the most peaceful response of economic leverage in the form of boycotts is unacceptable, what the hell am I supposed to do to change my situation, ameliorate my pain, and create a better future? Speaking now as both a Zionist Jew and trying to channel a well-meaning Palestinian, I don't know how to



proceed. I'm pretty sure that violence can't succeed. I'm very sure that the implied threat of actual genocide, "Palestine free from the river to the sea," leaves no place for Jewish me and is counterproductive.

I believe that Israelis should be making common cause with Palestinians. There is a deep social justice impulse in Judaism. Calling on Israelis, Diaspora Jews, and Palestinians, both of their Diaspora and in Palestinian territories, to become allies, not enemies, offers some hope—certainly more hope than hostility and violence offer.

Jews share so much history with Palestinians. We have both been abandoned and betrayed by people we thought were our friends. We both have been stateless for most of history. Israel did not invade a Palestinian State but was partitioned from a British mandate that had taken over from centuries-long Turkish rule.

In a larger sense, recent history doesn't matter much except as a trap, a prison of mutual pain. Israel, like virtually every modern state, was founded on the blood of indigenous people (e.g., Native Americans, First Peoples,

Aboriginals, etc.). Just like Britain, the USA, Canada, and Australia, Israel will not go out of business. Jews will not accept the choice of swimming back to Germany and Poland or drowning. Nor will Palestinians go out of business or lose their ambition for a state of their own. Israel cannot squeeze Palestinian souls dry without diminishing their own. We're both condemned (and maybe someday blessed) to share the land.

Violence and hatred are getting us blood, death, and generational anger. Working for a two-state solution and giving Palestinians legitimate ways to petition and protest are necessary to avoid otherwise inevitable violence. No legitimate way of protesting promotes and sustains Hamas.

Unfortunately, I'm afraid that neither Abbas nor Netanyahu can deliver peace or a two-state solution. We must seek out and build a new generation of leadership committed to solving a problem that is soluble and building a structure for lasting peace in the interests of both peoples and the region. Far-fetched? Maybe in the near term. However, not impossible. Remember that many Israeli and American Jews vacation in Germany, and some Israelis have applied for EU citizenship through Germany. Hate, fear, and revenge can be traded for hope, reconciliation, and peace. Inshallah w Halevai.

Jews share so much history with Palestinians. We have both been abandoned and betrayed by people we thought were our friends. We both have been stateless for most of history.



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Healthy Awareness

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2023

Let's Talk About Estrangement

Once Thanksgiving gets here, the days fly by, and the rest of the holidays are quickly upon us. This is the time to get together with neighbors, friends, and family. Trying to schedule all these events can be complicated, especially for those with full-time jobs and small children.

For this article, I want to talk about estrangement. People often do not freely discuss a situation, and the relationship dissolves. This lack of communication is the culprit. And when one cannot fathom the reason for the dissolution of the relationship, the guilt in discussing it results.

Several years ago, at a celebration of life, a relative, upon first seeing me, said something extremely hurtful about the deceased without even expressing how sorry she was for my loss. I did not want to create a situation then, so I did not confront her about what she said. My feelings were validated when a twelve-year-old nephew overheard her and told his mother he was mad.

To confront her then was inappropriate with family around, but time went by, and I never addressed her about how I was offended. I kept feeling the hurt, which eventually turned to anger because I never dealt with it. Has this ever happened to you?

So, after a couple of years, I wrote a letter to this relative who lives on the East Coast and stated my feelings about what she said. Yes, I was responsible for my reaction to her statement, but she was responsible for saying it. I did not mail the letter immediately because I wanted to be sure I would not regret doing this. A couple of months later, I received a letter stating that she did not remember saying that and sometimes said things she did not mean. It was her way of apologizing without explicitly saying she was wrong, which took away the anger and some of the hurt. It did help.

Along the same lines, Kim Novak, a founder of the brand-new non-profit

Red Bird Blue Bird Foundation, wants to comfort those families dealing with "a rapidly growing SILENT epidemic happening all around us called Adult Child Estrangement." Her goals are to "empower estranged parents through support, understanding and resources to foster healing, reconciliation and personal growth for individuals navigating the pain of parental estrangement." She never thought about this issue until it happened to her.

Her 24-year-old daughter, upon dating this man, decided to end her relationship with her mother.

Her 24-year-old daughter, upon dating this man, decided to end her relationship with her mother. For seven years, Kim was distraught but then found a book, "Done with Crying," and a private Facebook group of people with similar issues. What she learned from reading post after post on Facebook is that there are a tremendous number of parents who have gone through situations like hers. She no longer felt alone. Some of these families have healed and seen their relatives, but others just had to move on. According to Kim, the group had 200 members, and today there are 8,000.

The silence in situations like hers creates feelings of being the only one who has experienced it, and the guilt one feels plays a significant role in creating the silence of not discussing it. Today, people who struggle being estranged from their families have more venues for talking about it.

Kim wants to support the process of healing hearts and give them the message that they are not alone. Red Bird Blue Bird Foundation has a hotline for those suffering from this situation at 949-233-0736.

I wish you all a Happy Holiday, whatever your beliefs, and may your broken fences of communication be mended. We may not fully agree on issues, but we can listen to each other and talk about our differences. Let's resolve some of the problems we have between us and get together for the holidays.

If I knew you were coming over I would have: cleaned the house, dressed up, put on makeup, washed the dog, made a gourmet dinner, baked a cake, bought a new car, sofa, dishes, clothes, or phone, ...



BALANCE & CHANGE

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

Being real and finding meaning

The holidays are here. That sentence can be met with a smile or a groan. Or both. Yes, the holidays can be very stressful. Yes, they can be very joyful. The bottom line is, how do you view it?

There is a great deal of pressure put on people during the holidays, and social media only increases that pressure. As you go through your social media feed, you will see picture after picture of perfect holiday settings. The food is perfect. The decorations are perfect. The people are perfect. What you do not see are the broken decorations, burned food, and unhappy people happening right before and after that picture was snapped!

There is no "perfect" holiday. Do not try to make yours look like the make-believe and photoshopped images you see on social media. Stop now and think about what your top three priorities or traditions are for the holidays. Focus on those and only those.

Be sure to let the people you love know how important they are to you. If you are fortunate to have enough money to pay for your housing and put food on your table, please consider a donation to an organization that helps those who cannot.

But mostly, for whatever you celebrate, please make it meaningful and peaceful.

The Dental Corner: Better Oral Health

An Intro to Dental Implants

Historically, if you lost a tooth, you had a gap in your smile or used a removable tooth. Eventually, dental bridges became commonplace. We could permanently replace a gap by utilizing the adjacent teeth. As ceramic materials improved, we could even achieve a cosmetic result!

The downside is that the procedure requires us to work on other teeth. In many cases, a dental bridge is still



the best option and a good one at that. However, we now have another option.

Dental implants have rapidly improved; we can replace a tooth without touching others. They appear and function similarly to a natural tooth. However, implants are an advanced procedure that requires surgery, close follow-up, and maintenance.

We are blessed to live in modern times. Regardless of age or dental history, we have more options to keep our smiles healthy and intact!

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Diane Vargas Morales 1952 - 2023

Diane Vargas Morales (71) passed away peacefully on November 2nd, 2023, with her niece Vina (Crum) and Uncle Benny (Vargas) lovingly by her side.



Born August 10th, 1952, to Ruth and Peter Morales Sr., Diane lived her childhood in Fullerton, CA with her six siblings Vivian, Clara, Junior (Peter), Charles, George, and Tim, along with many aunts, uncles, and cousins nearby.

Diane will be remembered for her deeply held spiritual beliefs exercised through a warm, loving, and caring heart. She collected rosaries and always gave a blessing to family and friends whenever they left her

presence. When her time came, she carried herself with dignity and strength, and was full of love for her family and those who went before her. She will be missed dearly.

Diane was predeceased by her parents Ruth and Peter Sr., her life partner Dennis, her sister Vivian, her brother Junior, her sister-in-law Denise, and her niece Lena. She is survived by her siblings Clara, George, Charles (Madelia), and Tim (Luella), and sister-in-law Dorothy; her step-daughter Jennifer (Brian), and her nieces Vina, Sarah, Sonya, Rosanne, Theresa, Christina, Marisa, Cassandra, and Mia.

AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2023



Your past does not have to define you

For this installment, in the spirit of the season, I am going to indulge myself and make this one all about me. I'm going to tell you the way it is, and I won't spare the horses. After all, I got me where I am today, intentionally and accidentally.

For starters, I recently turned 60 years old. No cards, please! (Unless they're donations of gift cards—% the Observer). I was born at practically the same time that John F. Kennedy, C.S. Lewis and Aldous Huxley died. That same month, an American DJ on WWDC-AM in Washington, DC, played The Beatles' "I Want To Hold Your Hand" – the very first time the Fab Four had their music featured on a US radio station. Meanwhile, across the pond, the BBC transmitted the very first episode of *Doctor Who*. As you can see, it was a propitious—or star-crossed--time to arrive on Spaceship Earth.

I had as close to an ideal childhood as one could have had half a century ago in America living in a middle-class suburb in one of the richest per capita counties in the US (then and now), where our neighbors were CIA analysts, heads of the State Department and the EPA, and local news broadcasters. The flaw in the ointment was that I had a learning disorder—one now known as ADHD—which made it difficult to concentrate and learn. I did all right until I got to junior high school, when my native talents and workarounds became increasingly useless. From then on, I was in and out of therapy, and school became a year-round affair as I struggled to make up for classes I'd failed during the regular school year. Yes, we had access to the best schools and therapists, but this was 50 years ago.

Somehow I made it to community college, where I obtained an Associate Arts degree after a mere ten years. Then it was into the workforce. Here I lucked out: temp work was designed with people with short attention spans in mind. Before you could get bored with an assignment, it was over and on to the next one. My skills with typing and computers were also useful. So I got by for a decade on that.

Around this time, my parents died: Mom when I was 30, Dad five years later. My older brother and I were officially and legally orphans. That's when things got really interesting, in the Chinese sense.

Every mistake you could make, I made. I burned through a sizable inheritance, just like the Prodigal Son. Unlike him, I had no earthly father to go back to. Subsequently, I became an alcoholic. My relationship with my partner teetered precariously on the cliff's edge. I was a classic drunk: all I could think of was surviving until my next drink. I was unemployable, untrustworthy, unreliable.

Then came jail. See, I wasn't just a drunk—I was a mean drunk, and mean drunks tend to get mouthy with cops, and cops don't like that, which is when the silver bracelets come out. Would I have done better with treatment than jail? Probably. But this is America, where we're still getting used to the idea of treatment for drug addiction as opposed to punishment. And I'm a slow learner, so it took three separate times in the slam before I got wise and went to A.A.

Now look: I don't want sympathy, and I certainly don't deserve any. I had beaucoup chances, and I blew a lot of them. I'm incredibly grateful that I'm still alive and was able to stop drinking before doing irreparable damage to my mind and body. And I am thankful for this opportunity to use my writing talent to hopefully educate people that anyone can end up here, help is available, and that there are always options.

Bottom line: Human beings can survive almost anything. But it takes mutual cooperation and goodwill.

That's enough for an autobiography. Here's my Christmas music list.

- Space Ghost and his Villains from Space—*12 Days of Xmas*
- The Beatles—*Christmas Fan Club Records*
- John Lennon—*Happy Xmas/War Is Over*
- John Cale—*A Child's Christmas in Wales*
- The Waitresses—*Christmas Wrapping*
- Cyndi Lauper—*In The Bleak Midwinter*
- David Bowie/Bing Crosby—*Little Drummer Boy*
- Root Boy Slim—*Christmas at Kmart*
- Eric Idle—*F— Christmas*
- The Kinks—*Father Christmas*
- The Ramones—*Merry Christmas (I Don't Want To Fight Tonight)*
- The Pogues—*Fairytale of New York* (RIP Shane McGowan and Kirsty MacColl)

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord... Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2

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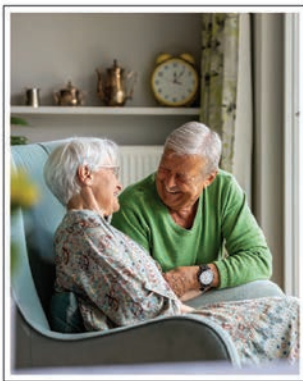
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Observers Around the World



Bobby and Carmen Melendez enjoy vacation in Italy with close Fullerton friends Victor and Rosselyn Munoz

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2023

ANSWER KEY TO PUZZLE "YES, IT'S A CHRISTMAS MOVIE" on pg 7:



PUZZLE MASTER Valerie Brickey was born in Fullerton and returned to raise her family here. She has contributed puzzles since 2014.

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Mail resume to MIKS&T, INC., 261 E. Imperial Highway Suite 520, Fullerton, CA 92835

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The District 5 advocates are Blanca Hernandez, Juana Suastegui, Tanya Esquivel, Pilar Maldonado, Carla Aguayo, Isabel Flores, Carime Calixto, Blanca Hernández, Rosalia Ortiz, Verónica Moran, Rosa Altamirano, Alma Chávez, Dallany Muratalla, Mary Ramirez, Ana Madera, Socorro Mendoza, Dr Halkia Dr Cervantes, Andrea Rios, Alma Vilchis, Gabriela Coronado, Felipe Perez., Amparo Paz, Gabriela Reyes, Verónica Segura. Sonia Garcia, Paola Lundstrom, Lorena Camarillo, Martha Díaz, Patricia Torres, Laura Urrutia, Humberta Morales, Monica Hernández, Otilia Reyes, Noemi Perez, Martha Padilla, Maria Luisa Sandoval, Edith Romero, and Maria Cordova.

Celebration of New CCTV Installed at Woodcrest and Richman Parks

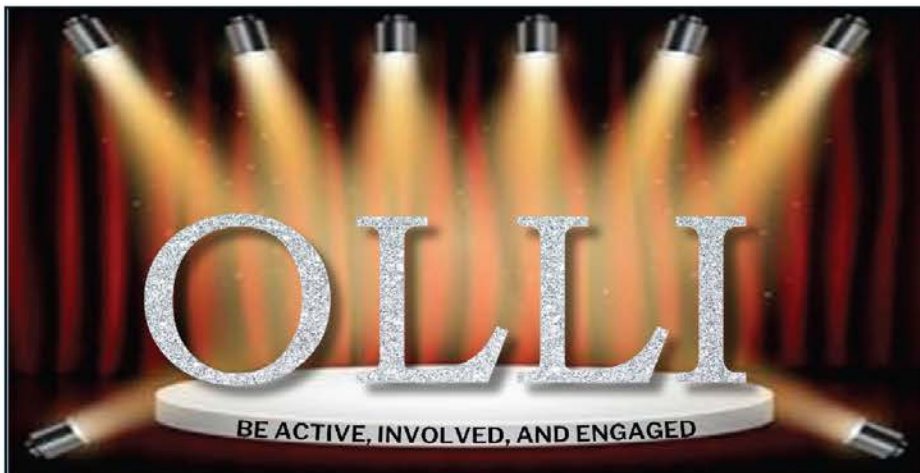
Community leaders and advocates celebrated the installation of CCTV cameras at Woodcrest and Richman Parks on December 9.

A special thank you to Dr Jessie Jones, Amy Santos, Dr Lilia Espinoza, Dr Guadalupe Díaz, Lara Dinorah Ortiz, Community Building Initiative: Jacqueline Tran, Christian Ponce, Kelly Elder, The Saint Joseph Fund, Fullerton Police Department: especially Chief Jon Ratus, and Jose Arana, City of Fullerton Staff, and the Lead for the Center for Healthy Neighborhoods Community Building Initiative Egleth Nuncci.

CELEBRACIÓN DE LA INSTALACIÓN DE CÁMARAS CCTV EN LOS PARQUES WOODCREST Y RICHMAN

Líderes y defensores de la comunidad celebraron la instalación de cámaras CCTV en los parques Woodcrest y Richman el 9 de diciembre.

Un agradecimiento especial a la Dra. Jessie Jones, Amy Santos, la Dra. Lilia Espinoza, la Dra. Guadalupe Díaz-Lara, Dinorah Ortiz, Iniciativa del Desarrollo Comunitario: Jacqueline Tran, Christian Ponce, Kelly Elder, The Saint Joseph Fund, Departamento de Policía de Fullerton: especialmente Jefe Jon Ratus y José Arana, personal de la ciudad de Fullerton y Líder de la Iniciativa de Desarrollo Comunitario del Centro para Vecindarios Saludables, Egleth Nuncci.



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