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MID-APRIL 2024

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PHOTO BY JERE GREENE

Hunt Library Has a Grand Re-Opening

The grand re-opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on April 13 included entertainment by the Kelsey Fullerton Jazz Trio and Monte Alban Folkloric Dancers. There were food trucks and booths from local partners. Representatives from ‘City on the Go’ explained the different resources offered by the city. Inside the newly renovated Hunt Branch Library attendees gathered to see the *The Museum of Teaching and Learning* exhibit displaying the grassroots struggle for school desegregation in California. The exhibit *Mid-Century Design*, displayed vintage furniture that was custom-made for the Hunt’s grand opening in 1962. The Hunt Library is located at 201 S. Basque Ave, Fullerton and open Saturdays 9am-3pm and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursdays 10am-4pm. Full story online at www.fullertonobserver.com

The State of the Community 2024 by Saskia Kennedy

The State of the Community was held at the Fullerton Public Library Auditorium on April 8 during the Collaborative meeting. Mayor Nicholas Dunlap gave an abbreviated presentation of his speech on the State of the City that will also be presented at the Hunt Library soon.

Around the City:

District 1:

“Mayor Pro Tem Fred Jung has established a new economic relationship with Seomyeon City, Korea. You might have seen the Seomyeon business center on North Harbor Blvd. Seomyeon City is like the Silicon Valley of Korea, so there’s a big emphasis on biotech, health, and other technology.

“The Korean government has invested millions of dollars in the building and in facilitating a trade program with the city. These groups are coming here to debut and offer products for sale. Still, the idea is that once they become established, they’ll set up permanent offices and headquarters here in Fullerton, leading to additional tax revenue and jobs. From an economic

development perspective, we are trying to be proactive as a city.

“Some improvements are planned in that district. On the public side, we’re working on Emory Park, where we just held our Arbor Day program last weekend. Also, the Sunrise Village project approved the year before will soon be under construction.”

District 3:

“Councilmember Dr. Shana Charles actively supports recent initiatives like parks, trails, and bicycle connectivity, particularly around Cal State Fullerton.

“Some of the improvements that are underway include the repaving of Associated Road and the approval of assorted cyclist protections in that area. There have also been some bathroom and Community Center repairs in Chapman Park, which I know Eastside Little League greatly appreciates. Then, there’s also the HUB development project, [a 420-unit student-oriented housing development with 12,438 square feet of neighborhood-supporting commercial] at Chapman and Commonwealth.”

District 5:

“Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra has advocated for the arts and raised money to restore historic murals on Lemon. He has given a voice to members of our community who have not spoken up about the issues they are facing and we now hear them loud and clear at city council.

“Some of the key improvements are the Walk-on-Wilshire promenade, new facilities and programming at Union Pacific Park, and the approval and acceptance of the State Grant to create the Union Pacific Trail. There are also some plans underway to improve Independence Park.”

District 4:

“Councilmember Bruce Whitaker has 14 years of experience serving the city of Fullerton. Over the years, he has advocated for taxpayers on the council on city matters and served on several boards.”

Continued on page 3

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Thank you for responding to the Observer Survey

The *Fullerton Observer* received many emails and letters advocating for the hard copy of the newspaper.

The *Observer* will continue to distribute to its 80 locations. If you know a business that has high traffic and would like to carry the *Observer* call (714) 525-6402 or email ADS@fullertonobserver.com.

See some responses on page 3

FOX BLOCK PARKING LOT CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN

The historic “Fox Block” in downtown Fullerton, which includes the Fox Theatre and Angelo’s and Vinci’s has started construction on the parking structure on the east side of North Harbor Blvd between Chapman Ave and Ellis Place, including the Pomona and Triangle parking lots.

Certified Farmers Market

Every WEDNESDAY

•8:30am-12:30pm:

It is small, BUT they have the best avocados, apples, oranges, lemons, strawberries, vegetables, honey, nuts, tamales and more!

Fullerton Community Center
340 W Commonwealth Ave
No farmers . . . No food!
Support local farmers!



Speaker Ann Carlson

**SPEAKER SERIES:
ACROSS THE COUNTRY
ON SAFER ROADS:**
*My Three Years as a Political Appointee
at the Department of Transportation*
by Joyce Mason

Ann Carlson will speak at a Patrons of the Library event on Saturday, May 4, at 2pm in the Pollak Library’s North Room 130, Cal State Fullerton, 800 N. State College Blvd.

Ann Carlson grew up in Fullerton, where she attended Raymond Elementary School, Wilshire Junior High, and Fullerton High School. Moving on to college, Ann was a political science major at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she graduated magna cum laude. After working for the State Legislature for four years, she attended Harvard Law School, also graduating magna cum laude. She joined the U.C.L.A School of Law faculty in 1994 and is currently the Shirley Shapiro Professor of Environmental Law.

Three years ago, Carlson's fame in environmental law brought her to the attention of President-elect Joe Biden, who appointed her to the Department of Transportation, where she would report directly to Pete Buttigieg. She served first as the Chief Counsel of the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. She then served as the Acting Administrator, working on safety decisions such as the Tesla recall and the regulation of automated vehicles.

Carlson is back after her three years in Washington, D.C., returning to her teaching position and writing her book on how Los Angeles has cleaned up its air.

The public is invited to Carlson’s talk, and parking is free on campus on Saturdays.
If you plan to attend, RSVP
at jemason603@gmail.com.

12 WAYS TO PREPARE

- ☐
- Sign up for Alerts and Warnings
- ☐
- Make a Plan
- ☐
- Save for a Rainy Day
- ☐
- Practice Emergency Drills
- ☐
- Test Family Communication Plan
- ☐
- Safeguard Documents
- ☐
- Plan with Neighbors
- ☐
- Make Your Home Safer
- ☐
- Know Evacuation Routes
- ☐
- Assemble or Update Supplies
- ☐
- Get Involved in Your Community
- ☐
- Document and Insure Property

Are you prepared to face a disaster?

by Allen Hsieh

If an earthquake strikes, do you have a plan to follow to safety?

The uncertainty of crisis looms large, as it always has, but being prepared can help you stand confident against that uncertainty. Understanding the importance of readiness in mitigating the impact of natural disasters and putting it into practice is crucial to building a resilient community.

What is preparedness?

Preparedness is more than a reaction to potential threats; it’s a proactive approach involving the foresight to identify risks and then take steps to mitigate their impact. This can encompass various aspects, including:

Emergency Planning: Creating plans for different scenarios, such as natural disasters, medical emergencies, or power outages. This ensures a structured response when faced with adversity.

Skill Development: Acquiring practical skills and knowledge like first aid, fire control, and basic survival techniques equips individuals to handle different situations effectively.

Resource Management: Stocking essential supplies, such as food, water, and personalized medical supplies, ensure readiness during emergencies when access to necessities may be limited.

Why is preparedness so important?

One of natural disasters’ defining characteristics is their unpredictability. Despite advancements in tech-

nology and science, accurately forecasting natural disasters’ exact timing, intensity, and trajectory remains challenging. This uncertainty underscores the importance of preparedness, as it allows individuals and communities to be ready to respond swiftly and effectively, no matter when and how disaster strikes.

When disaster does strike, local resources will be depleted, leaving preparedness as the only line of defense. By being able to take care of yourself during a crisis, you do your community a favor by allowing emergency personnel to tend to less. Most importantly, you do yourself a favor by being reliable and responsible for yourself; who else can you trust in your life other than yourself?

A resilient community

Preparedness is not a passive endeavor but an active commitment to resilience. Natural disasters are not stopping, so it is our responsibility as a community to be resilient against their inevitable coming. Natural disasters may be inevitable, but their impact is not. As a community, let’s embrace the imperative of preparedness and become more resilient.

To find more information on how you can practice preparedness and become involved in Fullerton’s preparedness community, please visit [ready.gov](https://www.cityoffullerton.com/government/departments/fire/emergency-management) or the official city website at <https://www.cityoffullerton.com/government/departments/fire/emergency-management>

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FullertonObserver

Fullerton's Only Independent Newspaper

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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- OCPA REPORTER
- PROOFREADER
- OC SUPERVISORS REPORTER
- ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION REPORTER

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Contact@fullertonobserver.com

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THE EARLY MAY ISSUE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON APRIL 29.

DEADLINE FOR WRITERS & ADVERTISERS IS APRIL 22.

Fullerton Observer Readers Respond to Survey Questions

Here are just some of the many responses received. Thank you.

The *Fullerton Observer* is so important (both print and online) in keeping people informed and involved. I subscribe. I completely realize the cost involved, both financially and environmentally. However, I think the benefits of the free distribution far outweigh these.

There are so many who would never subscribe who benefit from being able to easily pick up a free paper. They are more informed about issues that are important in Fullerton. I feel this is such a very important public service, truly almost indispensable, that it would be a great loss were it to stop.

It is hard for me to accurately express how strongly I feel about this. What you provide this city by increasing its informed residents and, for many, increasing their involvement is beneficial beyond words. I truly hope that everyone at the *Observer* knows the extreme importance of what they do/provide. Fullerton is so fortunate to have what you provide us. I am so very grateful. If there is any way that the *Observer* can financially continue this, I strongly urge you to do so.

Regarding what coverage I consider important. I read it cover to cover. Everything is important.

Thank you with all my heart for all that you provide for all of us and our city.

Diane Vena *Fullerton*

No one will go out of their way to read it except a few.

Marc Shawula *Texas*

I pick it up when I see it. But every-time I see it, I pick it up and read it. I'm grateful for your publication.

Jessica Warren *Fullerton*

I believe it is very important to have a local paper newspaper. I think the topics you cover are just fine. I like that many young students and other young people have an opportunity to write and learn.

As regards the increasing expenses I believe the paper newspaper should be sent only to subscribers who have paid. Requests for voluntary donations could be made from subscribers and others. Are there any grants available ?

Such contributions could be used to provide free newspapers at the YMCA and libraries. Supermarkets should be the lowest priority.

Phillip Unger MD *Fullerton*

This subscriber says keep the stands and print editions because why restrict the readership to paying subscribers?

Just Sunday someone asked me at church where they can pick it up.

Also I think St. Judes should be a paying advertiser.

David Spargur *Fullerton*

State of the Community continued from the front page

“We have overlooked Fullerton Greats, such as sports figures and other celebrities, for too long. Please contact me if there is someone you think should be recognized,” said Mayor Dunlap.

Park Improvements

“Lions Field, one of our most utilized parks, will install new artificial turf for the first time in 20 years.* Anyone who has been in that field recently knows this upgrade is needed. It is appreciated by Fullerton Hills Softball, which has over 450 girls that use the field.

“We recently renovated Acacia Park, which was interesting because we got good feedback from neighbors and the community. It was a collaborative process with the city; everyone worked together to get park equipment that everyone was excited about.

“The other one coincides with the hottest growing sport in the United States: pickleball. We have courts planned for Union Pacific Park and the driving range on Harbor Blvd. We are currently working through the core of Army engineers because they will be installing a number of different courts there. They are now under construction and working on the parking lot. It will be done by mid-2026.”

Innovative Government

“The City of Fullerton now offers 92% of all permits that you will need to open a business, build or develop property, add an ADU, and more available online. I have challenged the city to get 100% of those permits online by the end of the year. This is more than Anaheim and Irvine offer. That helps us cut through the red tape and speed things up when opening a business or developing its properties.

“This council has worked to allocate more money to roads and streets over the last three years than any previous

council in the past two decades, in part due to savings in the budget cycles, federal funding, and grant funding. There is still much work to do, but it is a priority. The metric is that the prior measures were about 2.2 miles of repairs per year, and we are at 5.5 to 6 miles at this point.

“The city recently completed a study with a company called Noresco that prepares an energy analysis across a number of buildings, systems, and structures and then presents ways the city can save money by recommending energy-efficient savings. By making these improvements, the city will generate about \$12 million in savings. That is currently under way. That was the first phase. In the second phase, we are going out to look at some of the lighting issues across the city. We can use an LED solar-type of lighting that will be less costly to repair, but the retrofit will be easier and will not require a full replacement or renovation, which will be budget-friendly.

“We are exploring grant funding to modernize the terminal at our airport so that Fullerton can become a hub. There are some opportunities to include last-mile transport.

“We need to think of Fullerton as one Fullerton and not as five districts and to figure out how we can come together as a community to better advocate for our needs so we can advocate for the Fullerton we want to see for years to come.”

* [The Lions Club of Fullerton donated Lions Field to the city in 1965. The city installed artificial turf in 2010, costing the city \$1.7 million as part of a \$12-million refurbishing of the park. The artificial turf industry has had many lawsuits, from allegedly causing cancer to defective materials.]



Mayor Nicolas Dunlap presents Proclamation and Key to the City to Mike Ness

Mike Ness Day by Nicholas Dunlap

Crowds of people gathered in our Downtown Plaza on April 3rd to celebrate the music and legacy of Social Distortion frontman and founder Mike Ness. The free event, hosted by the City and Fullerton Museum Center, recognized the important contributions made by Mike to the world of music through his pioneering role in the punk scene dating back to the late 1970s right here in Fullerton. Mike grew up in Fullerton and attended Commonwealth Elementary School, Ladera Vista Junior High, and Troy High School. At Troy High School, he and fellow classmate and friend Dennis Danell formed Social Distortion. At the time, Troy High School was also home to other bands, such as The Adolescents and DI.

Mike talked about the fond memories he has of growing up in Fullerton and credited our city with helping to shape him and the band. We reminisced about old venues, old stories, music, and life. In speaking with Mike, he solved a decades-old debate over the location of the “pool hall he loved as a kid” that he referenced in Social Distortion’s hit song “Story of My Life.” The location? The Farrell’s Ice Cream Parlour located at State College and Chapman, and which today is Panera Bread. We put great emphasis on tracking down the locations so that we can properly commemorate them in local history books. You can view a copy of the proclamation in the local history room and on exhibit at the Hunt Branch Library.

There were many punk rock bands in Fullerton during the 70’s and 80’s, including one that Mike indicated had helped to influence him early in his

career: The Mechanics. Though I missed the punk rock era (I was just a baby at that time) and my time at Troy High School was 20 years later, I have had the opportunity to grow up listening to Social Distortion because of family and friends. Being from Fullerton seemed to make the band’s image and music that much more impactful. And thanks to the Fullerton Museum Center, we will be able to properly honor the city’s punk rock history in an exhibit coming in April 2025 entitled “Fullerton Punk.”

The event was capped by live music from Greg Antista and His Lonely Streets and Kid Ramos. Thank you to sponsors Bootlegger’s Brewery, Learn to Forget Clothing, Almquist Development, Fullerton POA, and the OC Power Authority, who covered the costs of the event. Because of their contributions, we were able to use the event as a fundraiser to raise over \$15k for the Fullerton Museum Center, that they will be able to put towards their costs for the upcoming “Fullerton Punk” exhibit.

As Mayor and council member, I am passionate about our city and its rich history. Recognizing a fellow Fullertonian’s contributions to the world while also delving into research, meeting new people in and from Fullerton with great stories, and properly commemorating the history and places behind these great stories is a true honor and one I take great pride in.

Thank you for coming out to celebrate with us. We look forward to seeing you next April at the Fullerton Museum Center!

See page 6 for more

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

It is a national campaign that promotes the ending of sexual violence and provides an opportunity to listen to and honor survivors. The teal ribbon symbolizes sexual violence prevention. Wear teal in honor of those who have been impacted by sexual violence and show that they are not alone. If you need resources or assistance in breaking the cycle of violence, don’t hesitate to get in touch with one of the following programs:

- WTLC (Radiant Futures) 24-hr Bilingual Hotline: 877-531-5522
- Waymakers 714-935-7956
- Orange County Family Justice Center Foundation: 714-765-1645
- 24/7 Sexual Assault Hotline: 714-957-2737

City Council Notes by Staff

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, April 02 Meeting

COYOTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Staff presented the adoption of a coyote management plan.

While coyotes are a natural part of our ecosystem, sightings and encounters within the community have created safety concerns and questions. Some of those safety concerns, which the city manager touched on, are trapping regulations. The city has received calls on whether or not to report sightings, how to report a sighting and concerns about how to treat sightings of potential dens. This plan is similar to what neighboring cities have adopted for a coyote management plan.

Some of the key components of the coyote management plan include:

- Education about coyote behavior, safety tips, and responsible pet ownership;
- A proactive monitoring and reporting system allows residents to report sightings and encounters and collaborate with experts;
- Implement habitat modifications that discourage coyotes from frequenting urban areas, such as securing garbage bins and removing attractants. Nonlethal response methods such as hazing techniques and deterrence are

also prioritized to discourage coyotes from becoming habituated to human environments;

- Working in conjunction with OC Animal Care and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to share resources and best management practices and coordinate coyote management efforts.

The benefit of a coyote management plan is that it's a proactive approach to not only addressing the immediate safety concerns of residents and creates the foundation for a sustainable coexistence with wildlife in an urban landscape. It also demonstrates the commitment to responsible stewardship of the natural resources and commitment to public safety while fostering community awareness.

Staff recommends to adopt the draft coyote management plan.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife representative offered free training for city volunteers.

The council directed staff to hold an annual coyote town hall to hear directly from Fish and Wildlife and opted to receive and file the coyote management plan.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Nicholas Dunlap appointed Doug McKendry to the Parks and Rec Commission.

Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra appointed Todd Harrison to the Senior Advisory Committee.

Councilmembers Bruce Whitaker and Dr. Shana Charles requested that anyone interested in being appointed to the Senior Advisory Committee please submit applications. Five Direct Appointments and 1 At-large Appointment terms on the Senior Advisory Committee are expiring between December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2026. Senior Advisory Committee applicants must be 60 years or older and Fullerton residents. For more information and the application go to:

<https://www.cityoffullerton.com/government/departments/city-clerk/commissions-committees-boards>

(Tentative) CITY COUNCIL AGENDA FOR APRIL 16

- FIREWORKS LOTTERY DRAWING
- FULLERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY 708
 - MILITARY EQUIPMENT USE this item is on the consent calendar
- Items 7 and 10 propose ways to spend about \$8 million in funds from various sources (e.g. SB1, M2 etc.) on repairing streets throughout the city. Much of that would be in the Maplewood neighborhood south of Valencia and east of Euclid.
If you want to see if your street is on the lists for future repairs, details can be found here: <https://fullerton.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
- 2024-25 ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION (SB 1) ACCOUNT FUNDS ALLOCATION
- STREET SWEEPING OPERATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT UPDATE
- SERIES STREET LIGHT UPDATE
- 2024-25 CIP BUDGET - STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT
- PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT TO FIRE CHIEF SALARY RANGE
- FY 2024-25 SB 1 FUNDS ALLOCATION

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| • April 16 at 5:30pm:
City Council | • April 23 at 5:30pm:
City Council |
| • April 17 at 5:30pm:
Active Transportation | • April 24 at 6:30pm:
Planning Commission |
| • April 18 at 5:30pm:
Investment Advisory | • April 25 at 6:00pm:
Library Board of Trustees |

NICOLAS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER AWARDED CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF EDUCATORS MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM THE CITY

Mucio Vidales teaches five Wood I classes and one Wood II class. The Wood II students are learning carpentry skills in order to build a tiny house. As part of this Tiny House Project, the students are learning construction trades and becoming agents of change as the tiny home will be a shelter for a family in need.

These tiny houses will provide a safe place for Fullerton School District elementary school students and their families to sleep and do homework.

Vidales spoke passionately about his immense pride in his students, the amazing growth in their confidence, and the student's ability to thrive in new experiences such as news agency interviews.

"Fullerton is a great hub for education. Just looking at our schools, what we can accomplish in our schools is amazing. So being awarded this award, I am deeply moved and honored. Thank you," said Vidales.



YOUTH COMMITTEE STRUCTURE REVISIONS

Amanda Arbiza the Parks and Rec Manager, gave a brief background: The Youth Commission was presented to the City Council in January or February of 2020, and the council then voted to start the Youth Commission. Time passed, COVID happened, and now the city is fully back and staffed again.

Staff is bringing it back tonight with changes to the original resolution, requesting fewer at-large members from 5 to 2 and changing from a com-

mission to a committee because the committee has more freedom and is outside the Brown Act (which concerns informal undisclosed meetings). The switch from a Commission to a committee is similar to what we did for our senior Committee. Staff is looking to start in September of this year.

The council voted unanimously for staff to work with The Collaborative and bring it back in June with better guidelines and options for the council to approve.

OC POWER AUTHORITY UPDATE

Andrew Di Giovanna, OCPA External Affairs Manager, joined by Natalie Morales Sandoval, Energy Programs Analyst. OCPA rolled out a new rate design earlier this year and enhanced its renewable energy offerings in two of its three plants. The 2% discount has now increased to a 3% discount for energy and the percentage of renewable energy in the Basic and Smart Choice products has increased.

Customer participation is steadily increasing across OCPA member agencies. OCPA also saw the introduction of several new team members, including the energy programs analysts, com-

munity engagement manager, and an additional external affairs manager. The interim CEO, Joe Mosca, was confirmed as the permanent CEO.

The current energy programs, including the Bright Futures grant program, provide \$70,000 to local nonprofits, educate communities about renewable energy's benefits, and offer discounted rates for those who qualify for CARE, FARA, and Medical Baseline support. OCPA is developing a Community Power Plan, studying what energy programs are needed and the best fit to implement them, such as an electric bike safety incentive program.

HUNT BRANCH LIBRARY GRAND OPENING & UPDATE

The city has partnered with Solidarity, OC United, North Orange Continuing Education, and the Fullerton School District (FSD) to provide various programs for the Hunt Branch Library (which opened April 13 after this meeting took place. See story on front page).

The city will make a presentation at the Fullerton School District board meeting on Tuesday, April 16 to show what programs will be available at the newly reopened library.

The Museum of Teaching and Learning will exhibit the grassroots struggle for school desegregation in

California in the dedicated smaller gallery spaces. Also on display is the Cool Mid-Century Design exhibit, comprising of vintage furniture that was custom-made for Hunt's grand opening in 1962.

Upcoming events at the Hunt:

- Arts OC Annual Dia Del Nino event on Saturday, April 27, 10am to 5pm.
- Cinco de Mayo on Sunday, May 5, from 2 to 6pm.
- Taylor Swift-themed event on Friday, August 9.
- Weenie dog racing event in the fall.

How to contact your District Representative

- | |
|---|
| Mayor/ Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• District 2: Nick Dunlap
(714) 738-6311
nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com• Mayor Protem/Vice Chair<ul style="list-style-type: none">• District 1: Fred Jung
(714) 738-6311
fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com• District 3: Dr. Shana Charles
(714) 738-6311
shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com• District 4: Bruce Whitaker
(714) 981-8474
bwwhitaker@live.com• District 5: Dr. Ahmad Zahra
(714) 738-6311
ahmadz@cityoffullerton.com |
|---|

Does Our Police Department Need Military Weapons?

Item 4 on the April 16 Consent Calendar, “Fullerton Police Department Policy 708 – Military Equipment Use,” will pass along with other items on the Consent Calendar in one approval vote unless pulled by a council member or public member for more discussion or dissent.

Public Comments

Todd Harrison: My wife, Yolanda, and I are housing endangered residents of Rancho La Paz here in Fullerton. I'm looking forward to the appointments you will be making tonight. Fullerton badly needs to do more for the city's seniors. As the average age and median age of America's seniors increases, they face harder challenges. Since John Saunders brought Rancho La Paz and started his attack on all the senior residents, we have had a flood of increasingly helpless and desperate seniors from our community, not just in the first few months but continuing to this day. Rancho La Paz has homes left vacant and, in many cases brought by Saunders when the residents left for a number of reasons:

Evicted: Homes sold for fractions of their value, because of the depressed value created by the predatory rent spike. For example, my home dropped 50% in value on the open market the day Saunders announced the rent increases. Disappearances and abandoned homes: Some felt so hopeless that we had outright suicides and at least one near miss when a resident spotted another resident walking along the nearby tracks waiting to be hit by a train. That was one at least we were able to save.

I know nearly nothing about the unfortunate gentleman shot by Fullerton police during his attempted bank robbery last month. But seeing

his age at 70, I have to wonder what drove him not to put down his fake bomb at gunpoint. I feel for him and the officer who was left with no choice but to end another life.

My wife Yolanda and I are fighting back in every way we can. But eventually, we will be forced out of Fullerton and end up...Well, where? What the hell happened to my promised golden years of retirement? The time between half the work and half to die? Too many seniors cannot handle the work of surviving all of these new assaults and end up dying of "natural causes" that are, in truth, not just about health, but about what? The city needs to step up and help.

Wodarek: I'm still on the note of death in custody. The Fullerton police killed, and then they say that the Orange County District Attorney will investigate as part of the tradition. That is a total cover-up. On November 8th, 2011, at the height of demonstrations of the Kelly Thomas killing, Councilman Bruce Whitaker addressed CBS, and you said these words:

"Fullerton police is involved in the total cover-up."

Because of that statement, you were saved from your three council members, who were all recalled. It's over ten years now. We are tired of Fullerton police killing people here. Latino lives are being killed every year.

The other day you were celebrating Martin Luther King Junior. Martin Luther King Jr once said, "That we will not only remember the words of our enemies, but we will remember the silence of our friends." You are always silent.

Zee: To every member of the City of Fullerton, there are 600 employees, I'm told. Your raises and your employment depend on a broader tax base, so you all 600 should get behind the idea of bringing to life an auto mall. Because that tax base, as it does in Cerritos, as it does in Tustin, as it does in Irvine, is going to be the basis for your livelihood in this city and to continue to compete with surrounding cities.

Susan: In the *Fullerton Observer* I saw the proclamation for Arbor Day on April 6th. According to SB 535, the Fullerton 92831 zip code is environmentally challenged. Only 11% of the city South of the Acacia rail crossing and 22% northeast of the Acacia rail crossing have tree canopy. However, I see West Coast Arborists (WCA) trimming the trees in 92831.

They were just on Wilshire between Lemon and Raymond. They were on that stretch of Wilshire last year.

With the acquiescence of the city of Fullerton, WCA just chopped, topped, and sheared away whole branches from the trees lining Commonwealth from Raymond to Euclid. This also includes 92835.

Besides the above mentioned activity, these trees will now provide none of the stated benefits of on page 156 of The Forestry Management Plan, the *Benefits of Trees* which states: reduce energy consumption, increase the value of residential property, provide

aesthetic appeal, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, protect us from exposure to the sun's UV rays, reduce urban runoff, etc. There is no tree canopy, especially for Commonwealth Ave, this spring or summer, and who knows about the fall and next year?

How do I know what WCA are doing to our trees and 92831? I've walked my neighborhood from Acacia to the Fullerton Museum Center over 1400 times in the last five years. I don't listen to music. I don't walk with anyone else. I don't spend time on my phone. I walk, look around, and see what WCA has done.

By the way, WCA are paid based on the number of trees they trim. They make millions every year from the city of Fullerton. They've been kicked out of Placentia.

So tell me, how does the City of Fullerton have the gall and dare to declare Arbor Day? Stop trimming the tree canopy in 92831. What it's called is environmental racism. That is what you're doing.

Yolanda Harrison: Valencia, between Harbor and Lemon is a dangerous street, and it's not just the street; it's the sidewalks. You need to fix Valencia. It's safer for me to go down one of the alleys than it is for me to go down the sidewalk at Valencia. It is a school zone and mothers with strollers go up and down that sidewalk all day.

Maureen Milton: Regarding the presentation on the Hunt Library, there was not one mention of transportation to and from the Hunt Library. It is in a very precarious place, and public transportation is almost nonexistent.

City Council Comments

Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra:

I want to thank our staff in Parks and Rec for putting together a great eggstravaganza for the Easter holiday.

I went on a ride-along, which I encourage people to do with our police department. It was very revealing. I want to thank Officer Warner for allowing me to ride with him; he did a great job. He's new to FPD. I also want to shout out to Officer Cohen. Both of the officers explained things to me, and I was able to see them in action. Two of our responses were calls from property owners about trespassing. So, two individuals were homeless, and they were not leaving.

One was from a coffee shop, and the other was from a property. In both cases, the officers had no tools other than just to move people along. And what I found is that in our system of response to homelessness, we don't have anything at night. There are no shelters to take homeless people to. Our homeless liaison officers can't go out at night, and there are other factors as well. I think that's a gap in our response.

One of the individuals requested some help, but all the officers could do was tell him to go to our Police Department and seek help there in the morning. At that point, they could get into other issues throughout the night, so we are putting those individuals and others who may interact with them at further risk. Arrests, unnecessary arrests, or unnecessary loss of life as well. I think that's something I'd love to see our city start looking into. I've been making some calls to try to explore this. I think the county needs to step up on nighttime response as well.

I know the fire also has a ride-a-long to learn, experience, and find the gaps in the system so we can fix them.

One of the things that I've learned as a councilmember is that I can no longer state just my opinions. When we show bias, we end up recusing ourself from the decision-making process.

On another note, I encourage everybody to see the new exhibit, *Aliento Tequila*, at the Fullerton Museum.

Councilmember Bruce Whitaker:

Recently, we've been calling attention to noteworthy Fullerton citizens, and baseball season has just begun for the year for Major League Baseball. I wanted to call attention to a local author, David Jerome. *See the feature on the back page.*

Mayor Pro Tem Fred Jung:

Had nothing to report.

Councilmember Dr. Shana Charles:

I recently had a death in my family, and the mayor has graciously said this session will be closed in honor of that. So, I'm in a period of mourning now, and I appreciate that some folks have reached out to me. I will be catching up on emails; this last month has been very hard. In terms of the community office hours, I have to suspend them for a couple of weeks. I will ensure that it is updated with staff. They will resume in the middle of April.

On a positive note, the State of the City will be hosted at Cal State Fullerton in my district, which is always an honor. It will also be live streaming, so anyone can watch the live stream and find out what we're doing and what we're thinking about for the city's future.

I am very excited that we're bringing

back city celebrations, the Hunt Library reopening this month, Mike Ness Day tomorrow, and Arbor Day on Saturday. We have a health fair on April 20. So I encourage everyone to attend all these events. I know our Thursday [Plaza] markets are restarting in April. Our city staff has updated me to inform the rest that the county is finally moving forward on the Healing Garden.

I am concerned about a few things. We did have a police shooting, and of course, I know that there will be an Attorney General report, and I look forward to reading that. The California State Attorney General, by state law, will be looking into these things. I'm also very confident in our Fullerton Police Departments work and training. They told me they're already training to deal with people with neurodivergence, doing de-escalation training, and many other things. But when there is a tragedy such as a police-involved shooting, the California Attorney General takes over. We will have that report, and then we can discuss it after we see it.

I was also very concerned to see this morning in the *Voice of OC* that they highlighted Fullerton as a place where affordable housing is not being built. I'm thankful they mentioned that we have approved and permitted hundreds of affordable housing units. I'm excited that we have voted as a council for every development that has come up since I've been on the council, at least. I look forward to these projects moving forward expeditiously.

I'm also concerned about the tree-topping issues. I care quite a bit about trees, personally. I know we work very closely with West Coast Arborists. I know they do a good job on many

trees. I live in 92831. On the east side, I see lots of beautiful big trees. It looks like there are some places where that's not happening, so I think we need to follow up on that.

In the last few weeks I was able to visit Wound Walk. An organization that sets up a street medicine clinic to help homeless people overnight. And that was a very eye-opening experience about what happens when the shelters close at 6pm. We're not allowed to direct people to shelters.

What do people do when they're on the streets and need help? It was a difficult experience to see, just as an observer. I was very grateful for the volunteers that are volunteering their time with that organization. We really need to have a very multi-pronged approach.

Mayor Nicholas Dunlap:

If you cannot attend the State of the City, you can watch it and see a wonderful speech on Thursday. There was a question about the cost. The Chamber of Commerce puts it on, so I believe they have some means of streaming it on YouTube.

But anyway, you know, in a city with such meaningful contributions to the world of music, notably the birthplace of the electric guitar, obviously the punk rock explosion of the 70s and 80s, I think it's great that we're able to celebrate some of these legends while they're still here with us, still living and still creating music. We have a special presentation planned. I would encourage you all to join if you can attend.

See Agreement with CAL TRANS for State-funded projects on page 15.



ALL PHOTOS MIKE RITTO EXCEPT
CROWD SHOT, NESS FAMILY, AND MIKE
NESS CALLING 1979
BY BRYAN CROWE

MIKE NESS DAY

For years, local music aficionados wondered if Mike Ness would stop by during our annual Day of Music and maybe even play a couple of tunes with his band, Social Distortion. Mike had been seen from time to time cruising in a classic car, windows down, with the sound of the engine his driving music. There were no recent sightings, so it did not seem like he visited his old haunts much anymore.

That all changed on Wednesday, April 3, when the City of Fullerton presented Mike with the Key to the City, an unlikely event that literally nobody could have imagined when Punk Rock was king in Fullerton. After introductions from Mayor Nick Dunlap and others who added a few more back stories, Mike took the mic.

"Let us not ask what the City can do for us, but what we can do for the City. That was not my mentality back then, but unintentionally, things happened, and I survived a lot of things, a lot of things. Forty years ago, they might have wanted


to lock me up and throw AWAY the Key." Applause erupted from those who were there at the time, a time when Fullerton developed a vibrant music scene, with many bands and live music venues alive with the heartbeat of young musicians and rabid fans who did not realize that what they were doing was creating a legendary scene. Mike bowed his head and spoke the truth from the heart, as he has done in so many songs that resonate with young, old, and in-between to this day.

It was obvious that Mike was overwhelmed by the outpouring of hometown adulation, and he accepted the many accolades and well wishes with genuine humility. His wife, Christine, was overcome with emotion and held back tears as she accepted a bouquet of flowers from Councilmember Ahmad Zahra and thanked everyone responsible for making the event happen on Mike's birthday, no less. She also made sure everyone knew how much fan support over the years has meant to the Ness family.


Judging from the size of the crowd that filled the plaza and beyond, the Punk OC exhibit at the Museum Center will debut with great success in April of next year. One can only imagine who will stop by to take in that one.

Photo Quiz

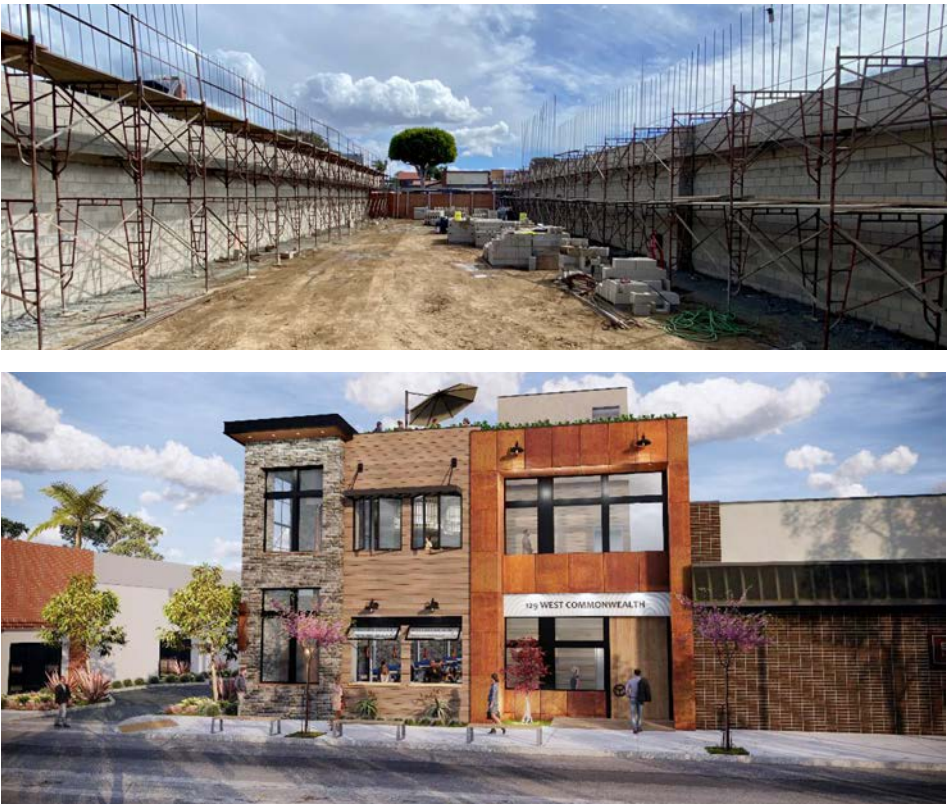
Send answer to Mike at AllMedia@sbcglobal.net



This time: Where is this and what is the significance of the photo?



Last time: The 1976 sculpture "Forty Years of Flight" by Aldo Casanova was commissioned as a Bicentennial project, and on November 15, 1978, it was installed between City Hall and our Main Library.



Update

Often imitated, never duplicated, this update is about the new building rising to the sky on West Commonwealth, and no, it's not made of eggs. We obtained a rendering, and here it is, looking like three buildings in one, with two floors and a rooftop where patrons can take in the sights and sounds of downtown. Once the rain gave them a break, the crew was able to grade the lot and pour the footings, so now the walls are going up quickly and we can get a glimpse of the early stages of the structure that will house Downtown Fullerton's first and only distillery. Well, who knows what may have taken place during Prohibition? We know there were a few speakeasies downtown, and there must have been some bathtub gin here and there. If you have a story, let us know. Of course, the name will be withheld upon request.

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<https://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2023-102.1/index.html>



HITS & MISSES

by Joyce Mason © 2024





THE ZONE OF INTEREST: Two Hits

Submitted by the United Kingdom, "The Zone of Interest" won this years Oscar for Best International Feature Film. It also won the Oscar for Best Sound, and its director, Jonathan Glazer, was nominated for his screenplay, based on the novel by Martin Amis. Audiences will be startled by this submission from Great Britain because the spoken language throughout the movie is German, with subtitles in English.

This disturbing but well-made and well-acted film will challenge audiences. "The Zone" refers to the many acres that comprised the most infamous of concentration camps, Auschwitz, with its prison cells and crematorium. The beautiful home of the Commandant, Rudolph Hoss, his wife Hedwig, and their several children are located next to it, on the other side of a tall stone wall. Director Glazer does not take us inside the horrors of Auschwitz but focuses instead on the idyllic setting of the Hoss home and gardens,

Hedwig glories in the abundance of her herb garden and the beauty of her flower gardens, even as we see a worker, presumed to be a prisoner, spreading ashes with a trowel as if he were

cultivating the soil with fertilizer. Few sounds come over the stone wall, and the prison is barely visible above it. Hedwig also uses prisoners as servants within her home. One particularly chilling scene shows Hedwig closing her bedroom door before she tries on a fur coat that we surmise has been taken from a prisoner. When it appears to fit her, and she decides to keep it, she summons a servant to mend some tears in the lining.

We only leave this setting to motor to a neighboring brook, where the Hoss family and their friends swim in the clear water until Rudolph suddenly notices a dark ash floating toward them. He rushes to evacuate the swimmers so that he can take them home and wash off the detritus of incinerated bodies.

What viewers will miss in this film is any glimmer of hope or modicum of kindness. But what Glazer succeeds in doing with resounding effectiveness is to create a cautionary tale about what writer Hanna Arendt famously described as the "banality of evil."

No longer playing in theaters, "The Zone of Interest" can be seen on Amazon Prime.

Two Hits: Don't Miss it!
A Hit & A Miss: You Might Like it.
Two Misses: Don't Bother.

Assistance League of Fullerton

Saturday, April 27 - 9am - 3pm
Tuesday, April 30 - 10am - 3pm
Thursday, May 2 - 10am - 3pm





April
27 & 30
May 2

Sale

Amazing Deals

Gold, Silver, Signed, and Custome Pieces

233 W. Amerige Avenue

Veggiepalooza at Fullerton Arboretum

1900 Associated Rd. Fullerton

Our annual Veggiepalooza is almost here! Get ready to shop over 200 varieties of fresh vegetables and herbs grown at the Arboretum. Visit our website to view the plants and start making your wishlist.

Thursday-Friday, April 18-19, 12-4pm
Saturday, April 20, 9am-3pm

Members receive a 10% discount and can preorder their plants starting April 12 at 8am to April 16 at 5pm. Make sure to purchase or renew your Arboretum membership so you don't miss these benefits.

Fullerton Museum Center

301 N. Pomona Ave, Fullerton
(714) 519-4461 • info@fullertonmuseum.com

Fullerton Flea: Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 20 • 12 - 4 pm
This is our 4th Fullerton Flea, and it is even bigger than last year!

Beer Garden + Farmers' Market

Thursday April 4th • 4 - 8:30 pm
Join us every Thursday for fun vibes and drinks at our Beer & Wine Garden. What's on Tap? Only the best! Beer, wine, and mixed drinks. All proceeds benefit the Fullerton Museum Center.

ART WALK & OPEN MIC

Friday April 5th • 5 - 9:30 pm every first Friday of the month
Don't forget to sign up and share your talent during our open mic section.
Artwalk & open mic with free gallery admission.

Downtown Fullerton Plaza Market

125 E. Wilshire Avenue, Fullerton

2024 Band Lineup

All Bands perform from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

APRIL 18 The Actors
April 25 The Blairs
May 02 Bordertown
May 09 Southland
May 16 Smokin' Cobras

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center

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

MAGIC STRINGS

Thurs, April 18 • 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm
• Admission: \$35

Magic Strings (formerly known as Firebird Balalaika Orchestra) is building a reputation as a unique, dynamic, and accomplished group of musicians performing on traditional instruments from Eastern Europe. These include the domra, the balalaika, and the bayan, a member of the accordion family popular in Ukraine.

ELI COOK

Thurs, April 25 • 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm
• Admission: \$35

Eli Cook comes from the crossroads of blues, the highways of rock, and the back roads of country, and with his gritty voice, there ain't nothing like it. His guitar prowess includes pickin', slidin', and strummin' from a Fender to a National Resonator Tri-Cone; he amazes the traditionalists and scares the modern players.

Toastmasters International

The leading nonprofit dedicated to effective oral communication and leadership development. In the last 99 years there have been 4 million members. Members meet to deliver and evaluate prepared and impromptu speeches in an effort to improve as speakers and leaders. Mid-Day club generally meets the first and third Saturdays at 7am to 8am Pacific Time, and the second and fourth Tuesdays at 8:30 am to 9:30 am Pacific Time. Guests are always welcome.

Mid-Day Toastmasters meets for 1 hour on

- Saturdays April 20 at 7 to 8 am.
- Tuesdays April 23 at 8:30 to 9:30 am.

The meetings will stream
<https://tinyurl.com/zoomwithmidday> and
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9239283290>

ALIENTO A
TEQUILA

through May 25th

Aliento a Tequila (or The Spirit of Tequila) exhibition explores and celebrates the landscape, culture, and traditions that gave birth to tequila, Mexico's mestizo national drink. This series of photographs by Joel Salcido includes the original distilleries that literally founded the industry, as well as several artisanal tequileras committed to the ancestral ways of tequila-making, from harvest to bottle.

Fullerton Museum Center

301 N. Pomona Ave, Fullerton

CSUF, Meng Concert Hall

800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton

(657) 278-3371 • \$10 / \$8 Titan

UNIVERSITY
SYMPHONIC WINDS

Sunday, April 21, 3pm

Gregory X. Whitmore, conductor

\$10

Fullerton Jazz Chamber Ensemble
and Fullerton Latin Ensemble

Tuesday, April 23, 8pm

Rodolfo Zuniga & Francisco Torres, directors

\$10

UNIVERSITY BAND & PACIFIC
BRASS ENSEMBLE

Wednesday, May 1, 8pm

Dustin Barr & Steven Mahpar, conductors

\$10

Fullerton Jazz Orchestra

Friday, May 3, 8pm

“Great Women of Jazz” Music by Melba Liston, Mary Lou Williams, Mina Choi, McCoy Tyner, Count Basie and Eva Scow featuring jazz mandolinist Eva Scow and Mina Choi, guest composer and conductor. Bill Cunliffe, director

\$10

UNIVERSITY WIND
SYMPHONY

Saturday, May 4, 8pm

Dustin Barr, conductor

\$10

Jazz Singers

Monday, May 6, 8pm

Teryn Ré, director

\$10

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center

1201 W. Malvern Ave, Fullerton

(714) 738-6595 • info@themuck.org

SALVADOR DALI

Main Gallery • April 25 to June 28 • 10 am to 5 pm

Gallery Admission: \$5 - Includes access to all current exhibitions

“The fact that I myself, at the moment of painting, do not understand my own pictures, does not mean that these pictures have no meaning; on the contrary, their meaning is so profound, complex, coherent, and involuntary that it escapes the most simple analysis of logical intuition.” — Salvador Dali

Opening Reception: Thursday April 25 @ 6pm

RSVP- <https://themuck.org/program/2024/salvador-dali>

The Muck is honored to share an exhibit of Salvador Dali’s lesser known works from the personal collection of Benjamin Feldman. Featuring images of sensuality and eroticism, the collection highlights include the Surrealist artist’s iconic Les Amoureux (The Lovers) and Pantagruel.

Cal State U Fullerton

800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton

(657) 278-3371 • \$10 / \$8 Titan

L'INCORONAZIONE DI
POPPEA
(THE CORONATION OF
POPPEA)

Recital Hall

April 18, 19, & 20 - 8pm

Sunday April 21 - 3pm

Murder plots, seduction, and power. Come witness the goddesses of Fortune and Virtue, and the god of Love wreak havoc on Imperial Rome as this ancient soap opera comes to musical life when the CSUF Opera Theatre presents Monteverdi’s masterpiece “L’incoronazione di Poppea.” Sung in Italian with English supertitles, discover the heat that really made Rome burn. \$5

URINETOWN THE MUSICAL

James D. Young Theatre

Apr. 18*, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 - 8pm

Apr. 20 & 27 - 2pm

*ASL interpreted

Urinetown is an irreverent satire that skewers politics, social irresponsibility, and even musicals themselves. After a devastating 20-year drought, the government of a Gotham-like city has banned private toilets, forcing citizens to pay admission to a single, sinister company for one of life’s most basic needs. But a brave hero emerges and decides enough is enough and inspires the town to revolt along with him. \$24

Arts Orange County & Media Arts Santa Ana Present

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& EVENT CENTER

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SAT., APRIL 27, 2024

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Support for OC Día del Niño is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, The Crean Foundation, the Richard & Elizabeth Steele Endowment Fund at Orange County Community Foundation and The City of Fullerton.

Arts Orange County

MASA

CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL

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Fullerton Joint Union High School Board and Fullerton School District

by Vivien Moreno
For more information on FJUHSB: (714) 870-2800 or www.fjuhsd.org
FSD Boardmeetings are held at Fullerton School District Headquarters
Located at 1401 W Valencia Drive • Go to www.fsd.k12.ca.us for more info.

FJUHSD Single Plan for Student Achievement 2023/24

FJUHSD combined the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) with a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) midyear spending update. When school budgets tighten, the SPSAs expose the most effective student support programs against the least effective ones. Unique programs and services at one school are often effective at other schools. The student mental health wellness centers are an SPSA program now implemented across the district.

SPSAs implement services and programs allowing a school to provide specialized support for their students' needs while maintaining the district's overall student achievement goals. School site advisory councils (comprised of parents, students, teachers, and administration) annually review school successes and areas needing change. They create the SPSA to record the school's challenges, projected solutions, and the ultimate outcomes. SPSAs provide understanding for all stakeholders to recall prior challenges and what solutions were most effective, allowing a school to strive for improvement continually. It should never be a rubberstamped review; real progress is reflected in how challenges are resolved, and new issues are exposed.

Over the last decade, SPSA program ideas have added family liaisons at every school site, provided 24/7 tutoring services for all students, and increased support for achieving greater career and college opportunities. The wellness centers reflect a districtwide recognition that students are experiencing increased levels of stress, and both teachers and administration should help every student feel more comfortable reaching out for support.

Usually, the school principals present their new programs and support services while explaining how each program aligns with the district's goals. This year, the Education and Assessment Services Coordinator, Dr. Melissa Freeman, presented the high schools' new solutions. The overall district goal focused on English language competency and student mental health and particularly on English language learners and students with disabilities.

These student populations had the greatest challenges during the pandemic, exacerbating existing issues and uncovering new student support needs.

Dr. Freeman shared that **La Habra and Sunny Hills High Schools** will focus on English Language instructors meeting with every EL student and a family member to review the qualifications necessary to achieve Reclassification to Fluent English Language Proficient (RFEP). The four criteria to achieve RFEP are passing the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) at performance level 4, teacher data-based evaluation, parent permission, and passing English Language Arts at grade level.

Sonora High School extended Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) support for science classes and expanded its Spanish dual immersion program in history. The program offers advanced International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish courses. Sonora student intervention meetings now include a mental health professional to address the "whole student." Including a mental health specialist allows students to share additional challenges that the administration may be unaware of.

Fullerton and Buena Park High Schools increased training and collaboration between general curriculum teachers and teachers of students with disabilities.

La Vista/La Sierra High School is enrolling additional students in its concurrent college enrollment program by offering "The History of Rock 'n' Roll" and Counseling 151 and 140. These courses teach students college-level study skills while exposing them to new college and career opportunities.

Sunny Hills High School invested in the "5 Star Student Manager" App. "5 Star tracks students' attendance at school activities and events, records student behaviors, and can monitor hall passes. The App is accessible to students, faculty, and administration and is managed by the administration. Administrators believe student involvement in extracurriculars creates a more cohesive high school environment.

Troy High School expanded the hours for their mental health wellness

center, "The Lounge." Troy High School has 174 students with disabilities and 109 in the EL program. 12 EL students achieved RFEP last year, reflecting a solid rebound from pandemic distance learning with little information about the EL program or methods used to support these students in the SPSA. Students with disabilities have the highest percentage rate of suspensions and the lowest testing increase adds. Although there are numerous reasons behind this data, there was little support service explanation in the SPSA for this population.

There were no public questions concerning the SPSA plans. The preliminary LCAP for 2024 will be posted on the FJUHSD website on May 10.

Second Interim Budget Updates

The second interim report assesses the updated district budget, which looks at district spending from July 1, 2023, to January 31, 2024. It compares state and federal money inflow to the existing mid-year budget. Every budget update includes a three-year outward look. Out-year planning for California public schools is always a bit deceiving since school districts cannot count possible one-time monies in these projections, and determining California's future income is difficult. Fullerton elementary and high school districts are concerned about issues for outgoing years like decreasing student enrollment, rising health care costs, world conflicts affecting the economy, the end of federal COVID recovery money, and state revenue. California is due for an economic slowdown after a decade of growth (as predicted by the nonpartisan Legal Analyst Office).

The FSD presented a fiscally sound budget with income of state, federal, and local funds of over \$151 million and expenditures of \$148.70 million, spending on average \$12,447 per student. Despite the concerns of some elementary school trustees about future budget outlooks, Dr. Rob Copeland, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, warned against implementing severe cuts, which would cut desperately needed services to students going through school now. Trustee Hanchett mentioned that she appreciates the FSD belief to "spend today's money on

today's kids." She also appreciates the staff's willingness to find grants and other funding streams to provide richer experiences for the students. Considering the issues of declining enrollment, rising health costs, and an uncertain economy, the district is shoring up the future deficits with its \$27 million reserve. Although Dr. Copeland acknowledges that you cannot predict the future, all indications indicate a tighter budget in the next few years. The trustees approved the budget 5-0.

The FSD is proactively addressing potential budget cuts by implementing early measures. This includes laying off a percentage of the classified staff from June 30 until school resumes on August 15. In response to trustee concerns, Dr. Chad Hammett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, provided a detailed explanation of the process. Human Resources will assist each staff member in finding continuing positions that are currently open during the summer or help them secure summer employment. Trustee Aaruni Thakur expressed his initial discomfort with the process but now believes that the district is working in the best interest of the affected staff.

The FJUHSD budget, as reported by Ruben Hernandez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, shows an increase in expenditures of about \$4 million, totaling \$252.135 million. The income from state, federal, and local funds amounts to \$250.633 million. The district currently allocates 71% of the budget to benefits, salaries, and retirement. The increase in expenditures is attributed to the completion of facility projects and the initiation of summer projects. The district maintains a reserve of \$77.074 million, with \$17.6 million unassigned to cover any discrepancies between expenditures and income.

FJUHSD Trustee Marilyn Buchi was the single trustee who asked public questions, including if the recently passed proposition 1 would affect the current mental health services the school district provides. Mr. Hernandez said he would watch the May review to see how this money reallocation will affect the district. proposition. 1 moves Mental Health Services tax money from local county budgets to the state to build mental health facilities and provide care for people experiencing mental health issues and addiction recovery.

The other trustees had no further questions, and the second interim budget was approved.

Fullerton School District Preschool Program

Free Part Day & * Full Day Preschool

Children who have their birthdays between 12/02/2019 and 12/01/2021 may be enrolled in the California State Preschool Program.

Children who turn 3 after December 1 of the current school year may be enrolled on or after their third birthday.

REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR THE 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Complete the Intent to Register Form by scanning the QR Code

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

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Part Day (3 hours): Based on family size and income


Full Day/Full Year: Based on family size, income and need

* Monthly charges may apply to families in the Full Day Program

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

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Life's Lessons by Erin, 9th grade

Blooming flowers, Blooming Benefits

Spring is the blooming season for gardening. Many benefits sprout from this hobby. According to U.S. News, about a fourth of America's elderly are either injured or worse from falling. The Netflix series "Live to 100: Secrets of the Blue Zones" talks about the blue zone (a clustered area where many long-living people reside) of Okinawa, Japan, which has an exceptional sense of balance despite being old.

Many of Okinawa's residents have gardens that require "low-intensity physical activity" with a "range of motion" to keep them thriving. The flexibility needed for everyday movements that require strength and stability, like carrying mulch or digging up

weeds, keeps their bodies in check and healthy. Gardening is not only a physical activity but also a mental one.

Being surrounded by nature allows us to slow down and be present, which reduces stress and increases attention span, which many wired people, like teens and kids, struggle with these days because of social media. As you become more mindful, gardening also opens up a new growth mindset of accepting mistakes and that perfection is impossible. There are so many "countless factors you can't predict" that you will inevitably encounter problems to learn from and create solutions for (*Psychology Today*). Spring isn't just the time for baby birds to be hatched but also for new hobbies to be born!



Kids Rule by Teagan, 6th grade

Young Baker Juliette Supports House Rabbit Society

Although she is only in junior high school, Juliette has already made a name for herself in the baking world. Her delicious creations, sold on-demand through her Rilakkuma Bakery, are featured on Etsy, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble.

Recently, Juliette decided to use her baking skills to support a cause close to her heart – helping rabbits in need. Juliette learned that rabbits were being purchased as Easter gifts only to be abandoned shortly after.

Organizations like the House Rabbit Society are working tirelessly to educate the public about the responsibilities of owning a rabbit and finding loving homes for abandoned rabbits. Juliette wanted to help, so she baked Easter cookies and donated the proceeds to the House Rabbit Society.

Juliette's fundraising efforts were a success, with customers showing their support by purchasing the delicious Easter cookies. The proceeds from the sale provided a better life for rabbits like Freddie and Archie, two rabbits

from Singapore who were rescued by the House Rabbit Society. Freddie, now 8 years old, was part of a 62-rabbit rescue that was prompted by a boy and girl bunny being kept together and multiplying rapidly. Archie, just a few months old, was found abandoned and near death in a grocery bag on a park bench. From the love and care provided by their foster parents and adopters, Freddie and Archie now have a chance at a happy and healthy life.

Juliette's dedication to this cause shows that young people have the power to enact change and support those in need. Her passion for baking and commitment to helping animals sets her apart as a young entrepreneur with a big heart. Her creativity and compassion are inspiring others in her community to take action and support important causes.

If you're looking to satisfy your sweet tooth while making a difference, be sure to follow Juliette on Instagram at [jhwsweets88](#) for more delicious treats for a good cause!



Tween Experience by Alicia, 6th grade

The End of Elementary

When the end of elementary school is nearing, middle or junior school is typically on the minds of tweens. It's exciting, terrifying, and nerve-wracking to watch the last day of being in a youthful, innocent, and playful environment of childhood speed towards us like a blaring train. So, what does waiting for middle school feel like?

About five months before the first day of being an official middle schooler, you experience a dump of stress and pressure. You are hit with countless tests that will determine whether or not you qualify for honor classes. You do them with all you have, then wait, questioning everything you have done with your life. After you receive your scores, you start to forget everything.

It's either "Oh, I didn't make it. Okay. I'll go do something else; it's over." Or, "Great, I made it! Now I have to downplay everything I do so no one thinks I'm a self-obsessed nerd." Either way, everything goes back to the way it was.

Then comes the electives. Choosing electives for middle or junior school is fun if you ignore that these choices may determine your happiness for the next school year. (It doesn't, but we still think that anyway because overreacting comes naturally to us.) And there is always someone rushing you. It might be your teacher, your mom, or even yourself. There's nothing much to do besides focusing on working at your own pace.

When you're done, like a typical tween, you may focus on all the end-of-elementary-school activities ahead. Fun events like science camps or class parties will begin to make your schedule colorful. It was an excellent ending to elementary.

The transition from elementary to middle school can be daunting, but it's also filled with excitement and fun. Sometimes, it seems to pass by quicker than you'd like. Moving from one chapter of your life to the next, or even from one book to the next in a series, is a significant milestone.



View Point by Irene, 12th grade

Crumbs of Wisdom

Scrubbing toilets was the furthest thing on my mind when I applied for a part-time role at my local bakery. Although I had romanticized the life of a barista — brewing fragrant coffee, chatting with customers, and indulging in copious amounts of bread — the realities of my part-time job were far from what I had imagined.

Initially, I intended to find a job early into my senior year of high school, but in light of various commitments, I waited until early February to reach out to the bakery to inquire about employment opportunities. The manager responded a few weeks later to extend a job offer. Since then, I've dedicated 14-21 hours a week to working late-night shifts at the store.

Now, two months into the job, I have gained the ability to balance my academic, social, and work life. My responsibilities include crafting drinks, addressing diverse customer needs,

managing inventory of baked goods, sanitizing the bathroom and kitchen, and collaborating with colleagues to ensure efficient workflow. The demanding work has equipped me with practical skills, allowing me to hone my communication, problem-solving, customer service, and multitasking abilities. Above all, my experience in the workforce thus far has provided valuable insights into financial literacy and early exposure to professional environments.

Although I am not in a position to gain full financial independence, earning my own money has proved to be liberating. Despite its challenges, my part-time job has instilled in me a great sense of responsibility for my future and immense pride in my work. As I near the end of my K-12 education, I want to encourage every high school student to experience part-time work at least once in their academic career. The struggles are real but all the more rewarding.



National Observances by Mateo, 10th grade

World Art Day April 15

For thousands of years, people around the world have used art to express themselves and the world around them. By utilizing specific color palettes, unique shapes, and meticulous details, artists depict their religious viewpoints, an event in history, or a scenic location that holds great meaning to them. Art is such a crucial part of society that anthropologists who study human civilizations study art's intricate symbolism and material makeup to learn more about how people lived in ancient times.

World Art Day is celebrated each year on April 15th as a day of appreciation for the diversity and variety of art, as well as to recognize its ability to tell a story without the use of a single word.

The first official World Art Day was observed in 2012 by the International Association of Art (IAA), an agency supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to honor the contributions made by artists around the world, share the vast history of art with more people around the globe, and instill the importance of art in the hearts of students everywhere by making it a part of their education. The date

April 15th was selected because it happened to be the birthday of Leonardo DaVinci, the most influential artist of all time due to his incredible mastery of both painting and sculpture.

Here in our city of Fullerton, art has a significant effect on our culture. For instance, the Fullerton School District in partnership with the All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation makes it possible for students to observe, learn about, and create art as part of their education.

Fern Drive Elementary School has its art museum on the school's campus, where students from all over the district can come and learn about various forms of Native American art. Furthermore, Fullerton is home to an art museum that features an exhibit on Leo Fender, a Fullerton native known for innovating the modern electric guitar, as well as many other visually appealing artworks from different artists.

So, in honor of World Art Day, enjoy some fascinating art today, whether it be physical, visual, or digital, and if you happen to do so, take time to learn about the history that led to its creation and delve deep into its meaning and purpose.



Featured Pet by Jules, 8th grade

Paw-some Eliza!

Sun's out, tails up! Meet Eliza, an ecstatic 2-year-old Dutch Shepherd who's looking for a human companion. Eliza is a sweet and caring canine who is gentle with humans. She's leash-trained and knows her basic commands. This compassionate pup can be shy at first but once acquainted she'll give you all her love!

If you want to take this paw-some pup to her forever home, please contact the OC Animal Care at (714) 935-6848 and state animal ID A1846394. Eliza hopes to see you soon!

(Paw-some = awesome)





Healthy Awareness

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2024

Fiddler on the Roof and Prejudice

Last month, I went to the Muckenthaler Cultural Center, the mansion on the hill in Fullerton, to see “Fiddler on the Roof” performed by the Electric Company Theatre (ECT). ECT has been the resident theatre company at the Muck since 2021. It was an exciting and inspiring performance.

The play is based on a collection of short stories written in Yiddish by Sholem Aleichem and debuted on Broadway in September 1964. It is set in the valley of the Anatevka Pale Settlement in Imperial Russia, where Jews were allowed to live. The main characters are Tevye, a poor milkman, his wife Golde, and five daughters. Prejudice forces his community to leave their homes.

What is prejudice? According to Webster’s Dictionary, it is the action or belief resulting from some judgment of another’s legal rights and has no grounds or sufficient knowledge to substantiate it. Here are just a few examples.

Like in the musical “Fiddler on the Roof,” Bielke was born in Russia. When Gorbachev opened the borders, she left with her husband because of the prejudice they had experienced because of being born Jewish. They had to relinquish their Russian citizenship and leave everything behind, including money. Friends in San Jose, California sponsored them, but without money, they went without food for days before reaching California.

During race riots in the summer of 1963, prejudice was shown toward black people in Cambridge, a small city on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. People were on the main street in town with guns and a lot of hostility and anger. For what reason other than they had different colored skin and lived in different sections of town?

Prejudice can show its “ugly head” in many ways by the persecution of people just being different in race, culture, religion, color of skin, political or sexual orientation, etc. As anthropologist Richard Shweder reminds us in his *Psychology Today* blog, truth is often a social construction that differs across cultures and informs our perceptions of reality.

I did not want my children to be prejudiced, so we joined the Friendship Family for international students at Fullerton College, which allowed them to grow up meeting students from Africa, China, and India. These students were far away from their homes, so we were there for them, providing family meals and meeting their needs. Situations where they needed help varied. For example, one student needed money for school because his family could not get the money out of the country due to a boycott. Another student bought a car and called at 3am because he had been in an accident and did not know what to do.

The Friendship Family Program was a wonderful way to help these students and have our children meet others from diverse cultures without making biased judgments. Interacting with people of different races, cultures, religions, and political or sexual orientations can reduce prejudice.



School Viewpoint by Marcella, 7th grade

Only Trash Cans?

One problem schools have is that there is only one trash bin. There is no recycling bin or compost bin. Everything gets put in one bin and is thrown in the dump when some of it could be composted and used for flower beds in the school, or some could be recycled and used in an art project. There are many ways to reuse “trash”; people choose not to because it’s easier. But really, when people throw everything away into the dump, it just gets piled up and even ends up in the ocean, and that kills animals.

“Recycling can significantly impact our natural environment. It not only diverts materials from landfills but also reduces the energy and greenhouse gas emissions associated with creating new materials,” wrote Anna Carter in her article, *Recycling in Schools: How Can We Reduce Waste*. Recycling underscores the dual benefits of improving the school’s appearance and contributing to a healthier planet.

According to Eco-Cycle, “Approximately one-third of a school’s waste is organic, compostable materials.” So many teachers and students are just throwing away their papers and food, not knowing they could recycle it and help the environment. Also, according to Eco-Cycle, “When organic materials are landfilled, they decompose without oxygen, producing methane gas. Methane is a greenhouse gas much more potent than carbon dioxide. If organic materials are composted properly, methane gas is not produced.”

So, stop and think the next time you’re about to toss something in the trash. Could it be composted? Could it be recycled? By taking a moment to consider these options, you’re not just reducing waste, you’re positively impacting our environment.

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The Dental Corner: Better Oral Health

Night Guards (Part 2)


Today, we will explore another long-term benefit of Night Guards: preserving the natural shape of your smile.

Our teeth are extremely durable, but we certainly put them through the ringer. Over many years of chewing and grinding, our teeth slowly wear down and become flatter and shorter. The extent of this progressive damage is different for each person.

For some, this can be relatively harmless and unnoticeable. But others are disappointed that their smile isn’t what it used to be. Our teeth are naturally rounded at the edges and come in different lengths. Patients with significant damage might see that their front teeth are completely flat and even in length. In advanced cases, patients end up with front teeth that have been worn down almost halfway.

It is challenging (and costly) to restore a natural appearance to worn front teeth. Unfortunately, predicting which patients will eventually wear their teeth down significantly is almost impossible. I would personally love to see more patients of all ages utilize a simple Night Guard to preserve their natural smile.

I know I will!



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*"If you don't see a clear path
for what you want, sometimes you have to
make it yourself." —Mindy Kaling*



Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2024 • JonDobrer@mac.com

The War with Iran Turns Hot

Almost every war begins with a tragic series of miscalculations. Nations get fooled into not understanding the gravity of their actions, and sometimes, the whole world pays the price. Today, three hours before this moment, Iran made a blunder. It fell into a trap that it believed it had to enter. This moment is neither a beginning nor an end to a longstanding war between Iran and Israel.

Iran has consistently called for, planned for, and longed for the utter destruction of Israel. Why? I don't know. The Iranian people and Israeli Jews generally get along and have great educational systems, a sense of family, and millennia of history and culture. The motives for Iranian animus I don't understand. However, the pattern of destructive hostility and their enrollment of Sunni Hamas, along with the Shiah Houthis, Hizballah, and their own Quds Force, have effectively surrounded Israel with powers bent on Israel's destruction.

Only this week, Argentina found Iran, along with its proxies, Hizballah and Islamic Jihad, guilty of being state sponsors of terror and labeled Iran a terrorist state because of their bombing 1992 of the Israeli Embassy, killing 22 people, and the 1994 bombing of the Jewish Community Center that killed 94. This is a long-simmering conflict. When Iran began calling for the annihilation of Israel and developing a nuclear program, Israel responded by assassinating Iranian nuclear scientists, sabotaging their nuclear program, and, with America's help, planting the

Stuxnet computer virus into their nuclear labs.

On October 7, Hamas terrorists swarmed over the border between Gaza and Israel and slaughtered men, women, and children - young people at a music festival, and babies in arms. They raped, tortured, and abducted civilians and even local Palestinian and Bedouin Arabs.

Hamas knew that Israel would respond pretty much as Israel did—with overwhelming violence. This has been the well-known and advertised strategy of Israel: Disproportionate retaliation in order (in theory) to deter further violence. Hamas, understanding the response, was setting a trap. They knew Israel would enter their trap. Israel also understood that this was a trap, that they had to respond, and that responding would cost them in world opinion and support—as well as further loss of Israeli lives. They believed that they had no choice. Even knowing it was a trap, they entered with predictable and tragic results for the Gazans.

Hamas had perverse incentives. Not interested in peace or a two-state solution, they believed that with Saudi Arabia moving towards regularizing relations with Israel, they were losing stature and had to reclaim leadership in the Resistance. Hamas knew that they

gained status with every Israeli they killed, and they gained power with every Gazan who was killed. After October 7, Hamas called for a ceasefire—knowing it was an impossible demand for any government, no less Netanyahu's, to take.

Israel fighting in three dimensions—the air, on ground level, and in tunnels—wreaked destruction. Refugees were driven from the north of Gaza to the south and the theoretically safe area of Rafah. Israel might have believed that they had cleared out the north, but they are finding, like the American counter-insurgency strategy in Afghanistan, you can clear, but if you don't hold, all you have done is kill people and destroy buildings.

Now, with a million Gazans in Rafah, Israel says that it must take Rafah. Hamas wants nothing more than for Israel to kill more Gazans, particularly women and children, violently. Again, Israel knows this is a trap, and Netanyahu insists that he must go into the trap.

What else could BiBi do? Well, he could bait a trap for Iran.

Israel struck the Iranian Consulate in their diplomatic compound in Syria. The Consulate was adjacent to the Iranian Embassy, which, with the legal doctrine of extraterritoriality, is technically Iran. The Consulate is not legally Iran, but in this case, proximity counts.

Iran had to respond and, like Israel, even knowing it was a trap, they responded today by attacking Israel and not with proxies or with the vagueness of the attack coming from south Lebanon or Syria but from sovereign Iranian territory. The attack on Israel

was disproportionate and consisted of drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles and targeted Israel itself. With such a clear return address, Israel, according to the futile and cruel rules of international warfare, must respond against Iran's actual territory.

Every interest has done exactly what their adversaries have wanted them to do. All were drawn into obvious traps and entered them willingly. So, is this the end of the Israeli-Iranian War? Of course not. Will this now-hot war likely escalate and spread further with more killing, destruction, and human tragedy? Most likely.

Will this make Gaza safer? No. Will it make Israel more secure? Of course not. Will it do anything beneficial for the people of Iran? Not a chance.

Cui Bono/Who benefits? In the short run, it puts off Netanyahu's date with accountability for his utter failure to protect Israel or to pursue a policy that had a chance of freeing the hostages. It also removes the threat of America trying to put conditions on military aid because what is needed to fight Iran and hold off the Houthis and Hamas can't easily be kept out of the war with Hamas.

This is now officially a regional hot war. Iran fired their missiles, rockets, and drones, then announced that it's done, and Israel mustn't retaliate—like Hamas calling for a ceasefire on October 8. There is no chance of that.

So, what will happen? We'll know when we find out if Israel's inevitable retaliation will be proportionate to the damage Israel suffered (very little) or, as usual, disproportionate to send a message. "Disproportionate" is not my word but Israel's stated policy.

Whatever one's moral calculus, it hasn't brought peace to Israel or a state for Palestinians. It brings only escalation and death.

Will this make Gaza safer? No. Will it make Israel more secure? Of course not. Will it do anything beneficial for the people of Iran? Not a chance.

AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2024



Change your perceptions, change your reality

"Under the present brutal and primitive conditions on this planet, every person you meet should be regarded as one of the walking wounded. We have never seen a man or woman not slightly deranged by either anxiety or grief. We have never seen a totally sane human being."

—Robert Anton Wilson

Since the initial experiments with psilocybin, mescaline, DMT, and LSD in the 1950s and 1960s, which involved enthusiastic laymen (e.g., Gordon Wasson, Henry Luce), and trained scientists (Drs. Timothy Leary and Richard Alpert), neuroscience has come a long way in understanding how entheogens (another term for psychedelics) affect the brain at the neural level. Some liken it to a kind of "reset" of the brain, a suppression of conditioned responses, allowing a reexamination of said responses and an evolution of novel reactions to stimuli that could have therapeutic effects on conditions ranging from anxiety to PTSD. Specifically, the primary action of many entheogens is to dampen the reactions of the amygdala, the seat of emotions in the brain, allowing

patients to access and process traumatic memories without being overwhelmed.

But as is true with so much about the brain, there is still much to learn. More research is urgently needed. For example, how and why do entheogens like ayahuasca and MDMA suppress the actions of the amygdala, and how does that allow trauma survivors to be more able to access and process those memories? What are safe and unsafe doses for entheogens? Additionally, why do people with schizophrenia not respond well to treatment with these substances? Add in that there are currently at least a dozen companies developing proprietary formulae and "set and setting" modes (basically where to take them, how much, and who with—at raves with strangers is considered sub-optimal) for psilocybin assisted therapy (PAT) treatments, which could lead to dramatically lowering or raising costs of treatment, depending on what or who meets with the approval of the US Patent Office.

Enter Senate Bill 1012, authored by State Senator Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat, and Assemblymember Marie Waldron, a San Diego Republican, which would allow adults 21 and older to use psilo-

cybin mushrooms, MDMA, DMT, and mescaline in a controlled setting and under the supervision of a licensed and trained facilitator. Governor Newsom had vetoed a bill submitted in October 2023 that would have pro forma legalized entheogens while signaling that he would consider legislation based on therapeutic models. This bill would satisfy that condition, placing the critical "set and setting" modes under the control of the therapist and patient.

Wiener's advocacy seems well thought out and understands the immediacy needed to implement access to this novel treatment. "I want California to be on the leading edge of psychedelic access for people seeking therapy, I also want California to be on the leading edge of public education and safety around psychedelics, and this bill will point us in that direction...We are not waiting for the federal government to bless us. We are addressing California's legal obstacles to this therapy."

There are no miracle cures here, no wands to be waived. PAT has helped a lot of people. It may not be able to help everyone with a mental disorder. But when you look at the past solutions—chemical and physical lobotomies, forced hospitalizations, and institutionalizations—using entheogens is a lot more humane and efficacious. Also, it is much less expensive and traumatic.

What is the best thing the Federal Government can do? Stay out of it. That libertarian attitude has ostensibly been part of the Republican playbook since caveman times, but we all know

how good conservatives are at talking out of both sides of their mouths. States' rights to govern as you see fit? Sure, unless you want to end slavery, give a hand up to LGBTQ+ people, and give everyone bodily autonomy. Hypocrisy is so normalized on that side of the aisle that it has no semantic meaning. There is no more room anywhere for the hypocrisy that now thoroughly dominates the Grand Old Party.

Currently, psilocybin and LSD are still on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, along with cannabis and heroin. That makes it difficult, if not impossible, for them to be accessed and used in medical studies. That's why the DEA must be edged out of the process: they've already set medical science—specifically neuroscience—back decades by restricting access to those entheogens. It is arguable that when LSD, psilocybin, mescaline, etc. were still legal, we were looking at potential treatments for alcoholism, pervasive trauma, chronic depression, and a myriad of mental disorders until Nixon got in the way and gave the DEA the power to decide what we could put in our bodies.

Of course, we do have treatments that work—cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) has done wonders for people with depression and anxiety since it was introduced in the late 1970s. Numerous studies indicate that CBT, in conjunction with medications such as SSRIs and SDRIs, is even more effective, so imagine what CBT could do in conjunction with PAT. Perhaps we won't have to imagine much longer.

Jeanie Schultz 1933 - 2024

Jeanie Schultz, age 91, passed away peacefully on March 16, 2024, following four days in hospice care.

Jeanie grew up in a loving home in La Puente, CA, and graduated from Puente Union High School in 1950 and Mount San Antonio College in 1952. She worked for Southern California Edison before her marriage in 1955.

She loved to travel, read, and crochet. She was an avid volunteer at Friends of the Fullerton Library, Fullerton Railway Plaza Association, Fullerton United Methodist Women, and the Fullerton branch of the National Giving Alliance (NGA).

Her husband Harold, parents Clark & Blanche, and brother Bill preceded her in death. She is survived by her children: Roger & (Natalie) Schultz, Janice & (Steve) Freeland, Glenn & (Linda) Schultz; grandchildren Jennifer & (James),



Megan & (Satoru), Kylie & (Joseph), Ben, Thomas & (Liz), and great-grandchildren Andy, Emerson, Ryland, Graceyn, and Whittaker.

Services will be held at Fullerton First United Methodist Church, 114 N. Pomona Ave, Fullerton, on April 20 at 10am. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to NGA Fullerton, P.O. Box 6294, Fullerton, CA 92834

LETTERS TO EDITOR • LETTERS TO EDITOR

The city needs to invest in protected bike lanes. There has been extensive research that painted bike lanes actually make the roads LESS safe for both drivers and cyclists. They do less than nothing. More people would choose to commute by bike if they felt safer and getting people out of cars is probably the most impactful thing any city can do if it's trying to "go green." **Sara Fullerton**

My wife Neva and I would like to send our thanks to Mr. Emerson Little for his recent article on the Lucy Van Der Hoff Trail here in Fullerton. We have lived and worked in Fullerton since the 1980's, and have walked and run the local trails since that time. But in all the times we've stretched our runs past Laguna Lake north to Imperial, we had never even heard of the Van Der Hoff Trail!

We now work as volunteers for Fullerton Meals on Wheels, and saw his article in the *Observer* there. So the next day we drove up to the Lake, and walked the trail - and loved it! The

part of the trail that was overgrown when he checked it out for his article has been cleared out, and we thoroughly enjoyed our hike.

Today, after our Meals on Wheels deliveries, we told Sandy White (MoW President) about it, and she told us that Mr. Little had made a Podcast with her about Meals on Wheels a few years ago. We just finished watching it, and that was excellent, too.

Anyway, please thank him and commend him for his great work, and for contributing to our quality of life here in Fullerton.

Bill & Neva Higgins Fullerton

Over the years, I have read the *Observer* while waiting in one of the medical offices at St Judd's Val Mesa building.

Your piece about the importance of local media told me that I needed to subscribe even if I do not live in Fullerton. Newspapers with real people researching and writing stories of what is actually occurring in the community is so critical. Now more than ever.

News reporters keep citizens informed and governments and organi-

zations on their toes. The "news" that so many people get over the internet is garbage. That is why the recent downsizing of the news room at the *Los Angeles Times* is so disturbing.

Except for those years I was in the service or at school, I have depended on newspapers. During WWII, the *Washington Post* was my geography text.

Thank you for carrying on with the *Observer*.

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Category: Airport / Maintenance
Department: Public Works
Job Number: 2024 - AirportServWrk

**Community Services
Leader Series
- Community Center**

Full Time: \$15 - \$16 Hourly
Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
Category: Parks and Recreation
Department: Parks and Recreation
Job Number: CSL-CC-2023

**Community Services
Leader Series
- Park and Trail**

Full Time: \$15 - \$16 Hourly
Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
Category: Parks and Recreation
Department: Parks and Recreation
Job Number: CSL-PT-2023

**Community Services
Leader Series
- Youth Services Division**

Full Time: \$15 - \$16 Hourly
Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
Category: Parks and Recreation
Department: Parks and Recreation
Job Number: 01 - Youth Srvc Div

**Community Services
Specialist Series
- Community Center**

Full Time: \$16 - \$17 Hourly
Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
Category: Parks and Recreation
Department: Parks and Recreation
Job Number: 02 - Community Ctr.

**Customer Service
Representative Series**

Full Time: \$16 - \$17 Hourly
Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
Category: Clerical & Data
Entry/Accounting & Finance/Parks & Recreation
Department: Multiple Departments
Job Number: 2024-SCSRS

Electrician

Full Time - \$4,982 - \$6,358 Monthly
Category: Maintenance / Utilities
Department: Public Works
Job Number: 2023-ELTRC-Con

**Fire Department
Utility Worker I/II**

Full Time: \$15 - \$16 Hourly
Category: Public Safety / Fire & EMS
Department: Fire Department
Job Number: 22-FD Utility Wkr (Cont)

**Homeless Outreach
Case Manager
(Consultant/Specialist)**

Full Time: \$30 - \$33 Hourly
Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
Category: Community & Health
Services/Human Services
Department: Community & Economic
Development
Job Number: 2024 - Homeless
Outreach

Laborer

Full Time: \$16 Hourly
Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
Category: Maintenance
Department: Public Works
Job Number: 2024 - Laborer

Library Page I

Full Time: \$15 - \$16 Hourly
Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
Category: Library
Department: Library
Job Number: 2023-00009

**Library
Technology Assistant**

Full Time: \$48,095 - \$61,382 Annually
Category: Administrative Assistant
Department: Library
Job Number: 2024-Lib Technology
Asst

Police Cadet

\$15 - \$16 Hourly
Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
Category: Police Department
Department: Police Department
Job Number: 05

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD

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ANSWER KEY TO PUZZLE "HEADY STUFF" on pg 7:



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

A	R	T	U	R		B	A	R	R	E		J	A	G
M	O	O	N	Y		A	R	O	A	R		E	R	R
C	O	F	F	E	E	B	E	A	N	S		L	G	E
S	K	U	A		D	E	A	L	T		B	L	U	E
				I	S	U			D	E	L	A	Y	E
E	M	B	R	A	C	E	S		D	A	U	B		
N	I	L		D	E	R	A	T		M	E	E	S	E
I	N	A	L		E	L	O		B	R	A	I	D	
D	I	C	E	Y		S	E	D	G	E		N	L	E
		K	E	N	O		M	O	R	R	I	S	O	N
R	O	B	R	O	Y	S		E	T	C				
A	L	E	S		S	P	R	I	G		I	C	E	E
N	D	A		S	T	R	I	N	G	B	E	A	N	S
G	E	N		T	E	A	M	O		A	S	S	E	T
Y	R	S		D	R	Y	E	R		S	T	A	R	E

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

continued from pg 5

Agreement with California Department of Transportation for State-funded Projects

Stephen Bise Director of Public Works presented the agreement to award a consultant for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Multimodal Action plan, otherwise referred to as an SS4A.

Background: The SS4A is a federal grant program funding safety initiatives to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries on our roadway network. The program requires an eligible action plan to be adopted before seeking implementation funds. Staff applied for the Action Plan grant in September 2022 and was selected for an award in February 2023. The council subsequently accepted the grant in June 2023. The total grant is for \$200,000. The city is required to provide a \$50,000 local match, resulting in a project budget of \$250,000.

The action plan will provide the foundation to implement low-cost, high-impact strategies to improve safety over a wide geographic area, including within the city's disadvantaged communities. The plan will utilize citywide collision data and claims history to identify safety needs throughout the city. The goal is to deliver a plan that mitigates fatalities through proven and innovative means in line with public expectation. The scope of work includes reviewing existing conditions and data collection, public outreach, analysis of the data, and outreach input; and then the creation of a preliminary project concept, design plans, cost estimates, fact sheets, a draft, and a final plan for adoption.

A Request for Proposal was released in November 2023. Four qualified firms submitted proposals for review. After a thorough review from the staff, they selected KO as the preferred consultant to perform the work. They have 37 years of experience in transportation planning and traffic engineering. With roughly 100 employees, including a certified roadway safety professionals, they've completed similar projects in Pasadena, Commerce, Azusa, and for the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. Staff recommended including a professional service agreement with the selected consultant.

Public Comments

Anjali Tapadia: Regarding this project, I wanted to thank the staff for moving forward with the Safe Streets for All program. It's a visionary project here in Fullerton that represents a huge leap forward. It recognizes the importance of safety for all road users, not just those in cars but also those on foot, bicycle, or using public transit. This project is important because our current road design disadvantages non-automobile users regarding both safety and convenience.

The US has the highest rate of traffic fatalities in the developed world. That doesn't even consider the impact of non-fatal injuries in near misses, and our road design discourages active transportation. By some estimates, the cost of externalities related to prioritizing car driver convenience over all other road users totals over a trillion dollars annually in the US alone.

Recently, the City of Fullerton declared a climate sustainability plan, which is great. But unless we take meaningful steps to curtail the negative environmental impacts of all of our current road designs, which advantage car drivers and seriously discourage all other forms of transportation, we cannot make this declaration with a straight face.

I request that staff consider coordinating communication among Transportation & Circulation Commission, the Active Transportation Committee, and Parks and Rec. Cross-communication could yield some insightful perspectives to ensure that this project, which will carry implications for generations, is as holistic and successful as possible.

Lastly, I request that the safety recommendations of the Safe Streets for All initiative be adhered to. I see us paying consultants for report after report and not actually acting on them. We as a city, and council in particular, have not always respected our existing Bicycle Master Plan and Active Transportation Plan. We need to force our city to respect the plans that it itself has paid for and has requested.

Passed unanimously.

“It’s not about money or connection
— it’s the willingness to outwork
and outlearn everyone.” – Mark Cuban

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All ads will be verified. Any ad that can not be verified will not be printed.



VIDEO *OBSERVER*
by Emerson Little © 2024

See videos on YouTube @emersonlittle1901

David "Mr. Bucketlist" Jerome
Writes Book on Baseball History

Fullerton’s history is intertwined with baseball’s past. As a lifelong Fullerton resident and baseball fan, local author David Jerome decided to combine his passion for the sport and the city’s history into book form, writing about nearly thirty years of Pacific Coast League (PCL) teams who trained on the Amerige Park baseball field in “Spring Training in Fullerton: 1935 – 1963.” I recently had a chance to catch up with Jerome about his career as a writer and his passion for local baseball history at the field where over forty Hall-of-Fame members played ball.

Jerome delivered the *Fullerton News Tribune* on his bicycle as a child. From 1994 to 1996, he self-published a comedy newspaper called *The Irreverent Times* before writing over 200 articles for the *News Tribune* section of the *Orange County Register*. During his travels around the United States, Jerome has seen baseball games at over 40 major and 50 minor league stadiums. He’s had many unique baseball experiences, including receiving Angels tickets from former President Nixon, taking batting practice at Fenway Park, delivering the scorecard before a Texas Rangers game, shooting hot dogs into the stands with the Philly Phanatic, dragging the infield during an Angels game, and throwing out the first pitch before a Chicago White Sox game.

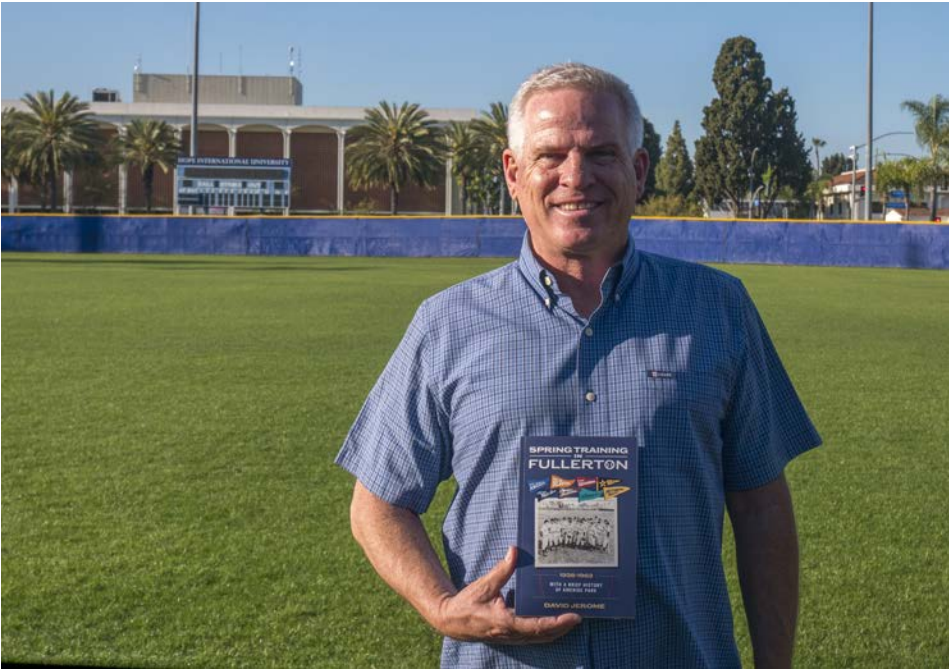
As writer of the "Mr. Bucketlist" column in the *OC Register*, he had to develop new materials and topics each week. He often found himself digging

deeper and deeper into Fullerton baseball history. Initially, the idea was to make “Spring Training” into a chapter of a larger book about Fullerton’s extensive baseball history, but since there was so much material, he expanded it into its own story.

“I wanted to document what has happened at Fullerton’s Amerige Park because it has a long and interesting baseball history behind it, and I feel that it’s never been fully recognized,” said Jerome while sitting in one of Amerige Park’s grandstand seats (originally from Dodger Stadium).

“I had heard that Fullerton had hosted Pacific Coast League teams. But all that had been said in the other Fullerton books is just ‘what team was here’ and ‘what year they were here,’ and they didn’t go any deeper than that. I decided to look deeper. I went over to the Fullerton Library’s history room and just started looking up ‘March’ of whatever year because I knew that a team was there that year, and I decided to see what kind of articles had been written. I would purposefully find articles with a box score to know what players had played here, which teams had played against them, and what had happened in each game at Amerige Park.”

Once Jerome had the names of Pacific Coast League members, he began researching the players and what they had done in their careers. Jerome said that in 1935 a lot of baseball players chose to be a part of the PCL, even though they could’ve gone to the big leagues, and that a lot of people con-



David Jerome holds his book on Amerige Park baseball field

PHOTO BY EMERSON LITTLE

sidered it a third major league because the quality of play was that good, the pay was that good, the weather was that good, and a lot of them chose to stay here.

“Whenever Fullerton was hosting Pacific Coast League teams, it was like the circus coming to town; it was that big of a deal,” he said.

“In the Thirties and Forties, this was their form of entertainment. Depending on what team was training in town, people would come out and pack Amerige Park.”

A lot of famous games have happened in Fullerton over the years, but Jerome thinks that the most famous one took place on Thursday, March 31st, 1938, when Arky Vaughn, who had grown up here in Fullerton and had become a major league all-star, returned home to play a game. The townspeople who had watched Vaughn grow up and play at the Fullerton Union High School were excited that he was returning as a member of the

Pittsburgh Pirates, who also had few future Hall of Famers playing. Some residents at the time even called it “Arky Vaughn Day.” According to Jerome, over two thousand people showed up. Like a scene from a movie script, Vaughn hit a home run over a fence at Amerige Park onto Highland, and Jerome thought it couldn’t have been scripted any better.

“Spring Training in Fullerton: 1935 – 1963” will be David Jerome’s fourth book. He currently lives in the former home of Hall of Famer Arky Vaughn, serves as administrator for the Facebook group page Fullerton Baseball History, and is working on two more books about baseball in Fullerton.

“Spring Training in Fullerton” can be found in local bookstores and institutions, including Past Times Collectibles in the Villa Del Sol, the Fullerton Museum gift shop, and the Titan Baseball Games souvenir shop.



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