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AUGUST 2024

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Bicycling brings the community together

A lot of time and effort went into planning the successful Fourth of July event, which really shows the dedication of the Parks and Recreation team. *The day started* with a community bike ride hosted by Fullerton Loves a Parade coordinated by Tim and Nancy Johnson. The City had a car show, and various contests and activities. and ended with a spectacular fireworks display.



Walk on Wilshire is on Life Support by Jack Hutt

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The council's decision regarding the Walk on Wilshire (WoW) at the July 16 meeting left the fate of the pedestrian and bicycle street segment hanging in the balance, with a potential expiration date of October 15 looming. The 200foot-long WoW has been in operation for the past 18 months on a trial basis and was set to end on June 30. It aimed to facilitate and promote outdoor dining through the use of "parklets." Despite its mission, only three out of seven potential eateries - Mulberry Street, Fullerton Brew, and SomiSomi - opted to participate, with Mulberry Street being the sole establishment to commit to the concept fully. The short-term

nature of the pilot program may have dissuaded the others from making the necessary financial investment.

During the Council meeting on July 16, the issue of whether to continue and expand or shut down the WoW program was addressed. Staff members advocated for the first option, citing an informal survey that garnered over 500 responses, the majority of which supported continuing the program. At the meeting, 25 individuals voiced their opinions, with the majority expressing support for continuing the program. Opponents included business or property owners and a few longstanding government critics. A common concern raised was

the negative impact of street closure on local businesses. However, no data was presented to substantiate this claim, leaving questions regarding the extent of the alleged harm caused by the street closure.

Some claims were extreme. The owner of a restaurant on Harbor, which is not adjacent to Wilshire, said that his business was hurting because the City cut off half the access to his parking. That restaurant backs up to a municipal lot with five entrances, the smallest of which had been closed. But even he did not suggest closing down WOW, just opening the alley to the lot.

WoW on Life Support continued on pg 4

Legislation Fighting for Newspapers

The growing problem of news deserts in California, and the impact on civic engagement, has become a heated topic in the state Legislature.

California's Assembly Bill 886 proposes that social media platforms and search engines pay news outlets for using their articles, with publishers required to allocate 70% of the funds to pay California journalists. Senate Bill 1327 suggests taxing large tech platforms for user data and using the revenue to support news organizations through tax credits for employing full-time journalists.

AB 886 is sponsored by the California News Publishers Association, which argues that online platforms are hurting the newspaper industry by taking ad revenue and publishing unpaid content. The Los Angeles Times, a CNPA member, supports the measure publicly. The legislation has faced strong opposition from Google and other tech companies, who argue that it would disrupt their business model. The rise of the search engine is one of many factors pushing California newspapers out of business.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- President Biden explains why he will not accept nomination for a second term as president and endorses Vice President Harris. The official nomination occurs at the upcoming Democratic National Convention in August in Chicago.
- Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu addressed a joint session of Congress and thanked President Biden and Congress for supporting a war against Hamas in Gaza. President Biden, Vice

President Kamala Harris, and over 100 Democratic congress members did not attend in protest. The president and vice president will meet Netanyahu in private talks, and Netanyahu will meet with Republican presidential candidate Trump in Mara Lago.

Outside, thousands of US citizens protest the invitation to war criminal Netanyahu to appear before Congress and the US participation in the ongoing war, which has killed over 39,100 Palestinians.

In Israel, demonstrations of thousands of Israeli citizens called for Netanyahu to step down and for the war to cease.

• The International Court of Justice

ruled on July 19 that Israel is committing racial discrimination and apartheid against the Palestinian people in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem in its continuing illegal occupation and humanitarian law violations and called on all member countries of the United Nations to intervene. In May 2024, the International Criminal Court requested arrest warrants for Israel's Netanyahu and Hamas members Sinwar, Al-Masri, and Haniyeh for war crimes in the war in Gaza.

• Israel blocks US doctors with Palestinian heritage from entering to serve in hospitals in Gaza.

https://www.democracynow.org/

The following is an open letter to the Fullerton City Council and the Fullerton Police Department, as well as to the general community, regarding the recent killing of Lorenzo Roger Hills III by the Fullerton Police Department.

What words are there to use when a police department - whose official task is to protect, serve, and defend a community - kills more people in half a year than there are non-police homicides in a year? What words are there when a police department taking up over 40 percent of the City's General Fund budget - at a time when we are in a major budget deficit - is spending its time and resources killing people who aren't even Fullerton residents, and then covering for those cops instead of fighting real crime?

A full month after his death, Fullerton PD has finally released the footage showing the killing of Lorenzo Roger Hills III, a 27-year-old man of color from Brea. Quick to jump on his death as "suicide by cop," Fullerton PD and those who publish its press releases have dragged through the mud the name of a man in a mental health crisis who was killed by the very officers who should have protected and helped him.

The publication of this news follows continued stonewalling from the City Council and the Police Department, who have continued to gaslight the community about what could not be clearer: the excessive use of force against the North Orange County community at large. Two months after I called out Chief Jon Radus and other police officers for confronting and intimidating students as Titan YDSA exited a City Council meeting, they did the same to members of Dare to Struggle who came in support of Alejandro Campos Rios's family.

There was no justice in the case of Kelly Thomas, whose murder was so brutal that it made national news; his killing at Fullerton Station remains one of the few actual incidents of violence of any kind on/near the Metrolink and Amtrak systems. There was no justice in the case of Hector Hernandez, who was killed in front of his own home for defending himself against a police dog who FPD admits was acting outside of procedure.

With the new City Council, there remains no justice. The Council had the perfect opportunity to demilitarize our police force in the weeks after Alejandro Campos Rios' death - in

Thank you FPD for confiscating 300 pounds of illegal fireworks this season. We really noticed the improvement in our neighborhood.

Everyone had fun and we could still see each other and weren't scared of fire or someone blowing fingers off.

Sharon Kennedy Fullerton

HOW TO VOICE YOUR OPINION

The Community Opinion pages provide a free forum for the community. The *Observer* welcomes letters on any subject of interest. Opinions are those of the writer.

We must know your identity, but we allow initials and town to be printed if desired, or anonymous in print if a reasonable case can be made as to why that is necessary. Opinions sent to us without name, address and phone number will not be printed. Shorter letters have a better chance of getting in.

contact@fullertonobserver.com or mail to: Fullerton Observer, PO Box 7051, Fullerton CA 92834 fact, not doing anything would have provided for reform under state law - and yet they continued to uphold the use of military weapons on our streets. Those who murdered him in cold blood have faced no accountability and likely never will. Likewise, with all the verbiage that Fullerton PD has used after they killed Lorenzo Hills, there will likely never be accountability for his death.

Five officers across at least four vehicles appeared at the site where Lorenzo Hills would eventually die. This overresponse was met with a firing squad just around a minute from when officers arrived. California police officers are some of the best trained in the nation and around the world, and they know how to deescalate situations and handle situations without the use of any weaponry; considering the heavy body armor officers had, and their incredible training, the knives held by Lorenzo Hills faced no real danger to the officers. Even though their usage of a single sponge round was excessive, they decided to use two rifles and two pistols alongside the sponge round to kill him instantly.

In addition to fighting him off through their training - which they could likely do without weapons - a variety of other options were available. By the time they saw him start to charge, they could have moved back and changed positions, allowing them to go for and set up a net web to immobilize Hills. While also possibly excessive, they could have tased him, rendering him immobile for just long enough to disarm him. They also could have simply moved away from the charges and eventually gotten in their cars, tiring him out until they could restrain him with minimal violence and get him help. Instead, five police officers all decided at the same time to kill him, shedding more blood on our streets and permanently bloodying their hands.

In researching this article, I came across shocking crime statistics for Fullerton. In terms of murder, we have only one non-police-caused homicide per year; however, this year alone, we have already had three fatal shootings by police. Even without counting the man who was shot during a Wells Fargo robbery, we still have four times the rate of killings by police as we do by random people; these effects sprawl

out into the surrounding communities, with the killings in question this half-year being of residents from Buena Park and Brea.

Fullerton is facing a \$14,546,387 budget deficit in 2024-25. Our projected General Fund expenditure for next year is \$132,859,319, and \$61,551,581 of that is allocated to the Police Department. That does not include code enforcement or other services commonly considered auxiliaries of law enforcement in the City, which is the Police Department alone. That is 46.3% of our City's budget; without even touching the bloat and possible corruption in other departments by even a penny, a simple and single 23.6% reduction in police expenditures alone would completely balance the budget and end years prior and years to come of deficits.

In the meantime, aside from killing our residents and those of our neighboring cities, what does Fullerton PD do with all that money? Well, they certainly don't stop crime. Per those previous statistics, Fullerton has a higher rate of rape than the national average (+42.3%), which includes major cities like St. Louis and Chicago. Those statistics are even more shocking when considering that California differentiates sexual crimes into a wide variety of different categories, and reports generally target specific statutes rather than categories. We also have higher rates of violent robbery (+61.4%), nonviolent burglary (99.9%), theft (29.2%), and grand theft auto (50.0%).

It's time to drop the act, Fullerton. We can look back at the killings of Kelly Thomas and Hector Hernandez and see the similarities, the broken promises, and the calls for change that were never fulfilled. We will never forget Alejandro Campos Rios and Lorenzo Roger Hills. We will never forget those in the Fullerton Police Department and those on the City Council who stood by and watched, hearing the cries of the people, and did nothing of substance - who used rhetoric about "revenge firing" to justify keeping employed known murderers.

We've had enough of false promises of change. It's time for you all to do your jobs and protect this City—or come November, we will find people willing to fulfill these sacred civic responsibilities instead.

Amy Parker Fullerton

Fullerton Observer

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

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

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

• STAFF•

- ACCOUNTING: Saskia Kennedy
- CALENDAR: Marjorie Kerr
- CHIEF WEB OFFICER: Mehul Desai
- COPY EDITOR: Stephen O'Connor
- COUNCIL REPORT: Needed
- Crossword: Valerie Brickey
- DISTRIBUTION: Jere GreeneDOWNTOWN REPORT: Mike Ritto
- EDITOR: Saskia Kennedy
- EDUCATION: Vivien Moreno
- FEATURE: Emerson Little and Roberto Melendez
- HEALTH: Jo Ann Brannock & Michell Gottlieb
- Movie Review: Joyce Mason
- PHOTOGRAPHERS: Emerson Little, Mike Ritto, Jere Greene, David Spargur, and Gaston Castellanos
- POLITICAL COMMENTARY: Jon Dobrer, Vince Buck, Jodi Balma, Marcy Fry, and Jack Hutt
- REPORTERS: David Spargur, Andrew Williams, Jody Vallejo, Karen Lloreda, and Diane Vena
- ROVING REPORTER: Jere Greene
- SHIPPING: Irene Kobayashi, Marjorie Kerr, Leslie Allen, and Barbara Meyer
- SOCIAL MEDIA: Volunteer Needed
- THEATRE REVIEWS: Angela Hatcher
- Young Observers Editor Edyn Jada Mai

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

- ACTIVE TRANSPORT REPORTER
- ADVERTISING SALES AND CREATIVE
- CALENDAR LAYOUT EDITOR
- CITY PLANNING REPORTER
 INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER
- OCPA REPORTER
- OC Supervisors Reported

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NEXT DEADLINE FOR WRITERS & ADVERTISERS IS AUGUST 26.
THE EARLY SEPTEMBER ISSUE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON SEPTEMBER 02.

Paramedic Subscription Program



Fullerton Paramedics have you covered.

Enrollment will end at the end of August

Annual enrollment costs \$46.00 and covers all members of your household for Emergency Medical Services within Fullerton.

Call Fullerton Fire Department at (714) 738-6341 for full details and assistance.

Program membership covers unlimited service visits and medical treatment from First Responders/EMTs and Paramedics.

Membership does not cover ambulance transport.

Anisha Aluwihare Makes Waves in Education and Girl Scouts

by Edyn Jada Mai

Fullerton, but it is very rare to find those who have made it to completion. Troy High School Student Anisha Aluwihare is one of the few who have pursued the Girl Scout Gold Award, a final assignment for Girl Scouts to receive the highest honor possible for Girl Scouts. The Gold Award requires their scouts to address a global issue sustainably, meaning it must be able to outlive the one year the project was

In pursuit of her Gold Award, Aluwihare created Saving Our Oceans, a lesson plan dedicated to teaching students about ocean acidification. Her project was distributed to 5th-grade classrooms across 12 schools; it included a presentation and labs to help students visualize ocean acidification's impact. Aluwihare's Award is a step toward building more awareness of Climate Change. Her love for the ocean and her passion for chemistry inspired her.

"I love the ocean, and I've always been really passionate about conservation," said Aluwihare. The Gold Award was her way to express her passions and instigate further education to preserve the ocean she loves.

"I just really enjoy being in the water, and I wanted to make sure my project reflected that." Aluwihare's Gold Award project is an amalgamation of

Girl Scouts are common throughout everything she loves and wants in her

Initially, Aluwihare intended to write a book to educate students about ocean preservation. However, after a discussion with her mentors, she decided that a book would not make the same impact as she imagined for the project. Creating a lesson plan made the content more engaging with hands-on

"I also really liked to be able to interact with the kids, answer their questions, and get them excited about something," said Aluwihare.

The process of creating the lesson plan was a team endeavor. She got help from her project advisor, who works at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center. Not only did her mentor have experience in ocean research, but she also experience in education. Aluwihare used this resource to create the initial draft of her lesson plan. Once she finalized the lesson plans, her parents helped build and assemble the lesson packages for distribution.

Aluwihare emailed around twenty 5th-grade teachers, 12 of whom committed to accepting the lesson plan. She introduced the lesson plan to around 400 students in 12 schools in Orange County. The teachers were then given three options: to teach the lesson plan themselves after a briefing with Aluwihare, to play a video of the



Girl Scouts Gold Award Recipient Anisha Aluwihare presents her lesson plan Saving Our Oceans to 5th-grade students and teaches them how to determine acidification

lesson plan, or to allow Aluwihare to teach their class. Aluwihare preferred teaching the lessons herself, saying the experience was her "most gratifying experience" throughout her Gold Award pursuit.

As her journey with the Girl Scouts ends, Aluwihare is still planning on continuing her lessons. Although she can no longer teach the classes herself, all 12 teachers agreed to continue teaching the lessons for years to come. Aluwihare's experience enriched the minds of 5th-grade classrooms and helped her refine her communication,

time management, and leadership

One message Aluwihare wants to share with the Fullerton community is, "I'd really like to thank all of the people who helped make this project possible. I couldn't have done this without my project advisor, troop leader, all the teachers who participated, the eager students, and most of all, my parents. I'd also like to say that if any teachers are interested in using the lesson plans in their classroom, they can contact me at anisha.aluwihare@gmail.com."



Community Resource Fair was a Success

210 S Basque Ave. Over 50 vendors offered vital services to constituents in Assembly District 67, aiming to centralize district resources for easier access to support and information.

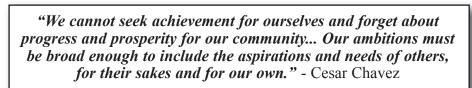
The event was made possible through partnerships with the City of Fullerton and the Fullerton Public Library, with support from CalOptima and Kaiser Permanente highlighting the importance of community collaboration.

Assemblymember Quirk-Silva, CalOptima CEO Michael Hunn, Kaiser Permanente Provider Gabriella

Assemblymember Sharon Quirk- Hernandez, and local leaders highlight-Silva hosted a Free Community ed community solidarity and accessi-Resource Fair at the Hunt Library at ble resources. The fair featured booths, activities, and cultural performances including opera, traditional dances, and Korean drum performances, as well as services spanning community centers, healthcare, education, employment, arts, youth organizations, environmental resources, and social servic-

> The event showcased the power of community collaboration in ensuring equitable access to essential services for residents of Assembly District 67 and beyond.

> For updates and upcoming events, visit a67.asmdc.org.







Left to right: Marlene Fritts, Tom Baer, Carolina Wehrle, and Jim Lockridge

Fullerton Community Center Luau by the Senior Club of Fullerton

The Senior Club of Fullerton Community Center put on a Hawaiian Luau Social on Tuesday afternoon, July 11. Wearing colorful tropical outfits, seniors danced to the music of DJ Jose Miranda and sat at tables covered with deep blue tablecloths. Entertainment was provided by a performance of FCC's own Hula dancers, and a raffle added to the fun. The highlight of the event was a Hawaiian Luau dinner consisting of pork, chicken, rice, and salad. Everyone agreed they had a great time! Sent in by Edith Harvath.

City on the GO

City Hall on the Go aims to make local government more accessible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of citizens by providing an opportunity for residents to engage with local officials and City staff, share feedback, and learn about upcoming initiatives or projects affecting their neighborhoods.

- Saturday, August 10, 2024 from 10am 12pm Chapman Park, 2515 San Carlos Dr
- Saturday, October 5, 2024 from 10am 12pm Laguna Lake Park, 3120 Lakeview Dr
- Saturday, December 7, 2024 from 10am 12pm Woodcrest Park, 440 West Orangethorpe Ave

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, July 02 Meeting

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Nicholas Dunlap appointed Mr. Richard Kroll. Councilmember Dr. Shana Charles appointed Miss Rosie Walcheck. After appointments were made council voted to ratify the appointments and the Senior Advisory Committee had their first quarum.

Public Entity	Sales Tax %	\$1 in Sales Tax Collected
State General Fund	5.50%	\$0.71
County Public Safety (Prop 172)	0.50%	\$0.06
City of Fullerton (Bradley Burns)	1.00%	\$0.13
County - Local Transportation	0.25%	\$0.03
Orange County - OCTA (Measure M2)	0.50%	\$0.06

TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX PRESENTATION

Director Chang presented. This agenda item provides a high-level overview of the mechanics of the transactions and uses tax, also referred to as an addon sales tax or transactions tax. Sales and use tax, also called Bradley Burns, is the 1% distributed to local agencies to support local government needs. The transaction tax is generally applied to the same goods or services. As such, no tax is levied on necessities such as rent, medicine, prescription, or nonprepared groceries. The difference is primarily in how and when local jurisdictions receive either tax.

The current sales tax rate in the city of Fullerton is 7.75% of every \$1.00 of sales tax collected; the city receives 13 cents or 1%. Of the 7.75% sales tax rate. As you can see from the slide, most of the sales tax revenue is allocated to California. Transactions tax is sometimes referred to as an add-on sales tax because it may be approved locally and added to the sales tax rate. Transactions tax differs from sales tax in its application. Transactions tax is

generally distributed to the jurisdiction to which goods are delivered or placed in use. This may differ from sales tax, which is distributed to the jurisdiction based on the place or point of sale.

A transactions tax can be for a general or particular purpose. General purpose transactions tax requires a 2/3 vote of the City Council to place a general purpose tax measure on the ballot and requires a majority of the electorate for the measure to be approved. Conversely, a special purpose transactions tax requires a majority of the City Council to place a special purpose tax measure on the ballot and requires a 2/3 vote of the electorate. For the measure to be approved.

The city currently receives about \$30 million of sales tax revenue annually, as it only receives 1% of the 7.75% sales tax rate. A transaction tax of 1% would generate approximately \$30 million of transaction tax revenue annually. Staff asked direction from the City Council.

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

- August 13 at TBDpm: Senior Advisory Committee
- August 14 at 6:30pm: **Planning Commission**
- August 19 at 5:00pm: Infrastructure and Resources
- August 20 at 5:30pm: City Council
- August 21 at 5:30pm: Active Transportation
- August 22 at 6:00pm: Library Board of Trustees
- August 28 at 6:30pm: **Planning Commission**
- September 02 at 4:00pm: Transportation & Circulation

How to contact your District Representative

Mayor/ Chair • District 2: Nick Dunlap

(714) 738-6311 nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com

Mayor Protem/Vice Chair • District 1: Fred Jung (714) 738-6311

fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com

• District 3: Dr. Shana Charles (714) 738-6311

shana.charles@citvoffullerton.com • District 4: Bruce Whitaker

(714) 981-8474 bwwhitaker@live.com

• District 5: Dr. Ahmad Zahra (714) 738-6311 ahmadz@cityoffullerton.com

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resource Fair

Mira Patel and Azule Galarza invite the community to the upcoming Community Resource Fair on behalf of Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva. The fair will feature diverse vendors and stations providing essential resources, educational opportunities, and local business showcase.

City Council Timer

Todd Harrison expressed surprise that the session was not canceled due to the holiday week. He suggested using camera technology to display a countdown timer for the benefit of both in-person and Zoom commenters. He believes that this change would help provide a better view for everyone.

New Road Damaged

Aaron Perot expressed appreciation for the road improvements at the intersection of Associated and Imperial in Gingerwood but raised concerns about road cleanliness and damage caused by a company installing fiber optics, which led to gas disruptions for the community. He questioned whether the city could hold the company accountable for the road damage and the financial burden on residents. Despite these concerns, he appreciated the overall positive impact of the road improvements in the community.

Karen Lloreda, a Fullerton resident, expressed frustration with the city council's decision-making process. She urged council members to be better prepared for meetings and to make efficient, informed decisions. Lloreda also emphasized the need for the mayor to facilitate productive meetings and advised thorough preparation for items placed on the November ballot.

Low Income Housing

Katie Lee (KJ) is the only social worker at City Lights, where she has provided social services for over 20 years. Seeking additional funding to support the challenging residents dealing with mental illness and substance abuse, she expressed gratitude to Nick Ward, a pastor from Fullerton Friends Church, for their significant support through donations and events.

The pastor at Friends church in Fullerton commended City Lights and their staff and volunteers for their work with the at-risk population in the community. He praised KJ's work ethic and dependability and expressed support for their requests for funding and a salary raise.

Christine, the lead volunteer at City Lights, has stage 4 cancer. She used to be a nurse until she had a major car accident, but she continues to volunteer. Despite her condition, she helps other residents and is passionate about helping KJ, whom she describes as an awesome person. KJ has assisted many people and as a volunteer I love working with her. Her long-term commitment is highly appreciated, and she is invaluable to the organization.

Housing Assistance

Miss Bowers said she needed help finding an apartment because she does not drive and it's hard doing it by buses.

Curtis Gamble is an activist for the homeless, veterans, students, bus drivers, seniors, and the low-income community. He advocates for collaboration

between City Lights and the Fullerton Navigation Center. He recommends the Fullerton City Lights Apartments and the use of Cash Up Cards for community funding. Additionally, he supports legislation such as AB 2011 and SB 1395, which aim to provide housing and support for those in need.

[AB 2011 allows for by-right approval of affordable and mixedincome housing on commerciallyzoned lands, as long as the projects meet specified affordability, labor, and environmental criteria. It also mandates prevailing wages and health benefits for construction workers.

SB 1395 extends the expiration date for emergency housing under the Shelter Crisis Act, allows certain actions related to homeless shelters to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, eliminates the sunset for low barrier navigation centers, and includes emergency shelters and interim housing in "Housing First" programs.]

City Lights

Kurt Johnston. I'd like to discuss the Transportation Advisory Board and safety concerns, particularly regarding the poor lighting and road conditions on Orangethorpe. I propose reallocating funds to improve lighting and address the road curvature. Additionally, I suggest considering a double safety bike lane to mitigate speeding like they have done in Placentia.

Funds for Roads

My name is Zee, and I moved here in 1978. Street sweepers clean the streets and can ticket cars. I support ticketing cars that are parked improperly. However, if there are no cars or tickets, the street sweepers won't fix the roads, resulting in extra costs. The curved roads are designed to prevent flooding by allowing water to drain.

I'm concerned about finding the necessary funds for road maintenance. I've presented a plan and data to Dr. Charles, a council member. My plan could generate \$33 million every six years and potentially \$100 million every six years in additional taxes and funds for the city. I've been asking the city about their five and ten-year plans. The city engineer informed me that there are insufficient funds to repave the roads this year. They're also using a cheaper and less durable method for road replacement, which I believe will cost more in the long run. I hope the city can allocate funds for road maintenance and street lights for safety. I want to express my gratitude to the Parks Department for organizing the outstanding 4th of July event, as I don't recall having one in previous years. I appreciate the hard work that went into making it happen. Thank you, and happy July; it's Disability Pride Month.

Maureen Milton advocates for people with disabilities and mobility challenges. "I need to know the drop-off location for the 4th of July car show and event at the Plaza for my Access Taxi reservation. Also, thanks to Todd Harrison for addressing the timer issue. Also, I'm curious about the Girl Scouts' cookie sales presentation - how much money did they make and what are they planning to do with the funds? As a former Girl Scout, I'm surprised to hear about the thousands of boxes being sold."



The Parks and Rec staff in attendance not in order: Christian Hernandez, James Stellino, Zoey Van Vorst, Miriam Duarte, Camryn Worsham, Aimee Aul, Karla Madrigal, Jocelyn Lagarde, Alma Peralta, Melissa Leggett, Joanna Sanchez, Naomi Gomez, and Bella Veloz were honored by Mayor Dunlap and Councilmembers Charles, Whitaker, and Zahra. Not in Attendance: Amanda Arbiso, Edgar Rosales, Eche Echeverria, Rachel Castanon, and Susie Camarillo

PROCLAMATION: JULY IS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

July is National Parks and Recreation Month in Fullerton, recognizing the importance of access to local parks and promoting physical, emotional, and mental health. Parks and Recreation fosters social cohesiveness, offers learning opportunities for all ages, and provides vital services during emergencies. A certificate was presented to director Mr. Hernandez for his leadership and the collective efforts of all employees.

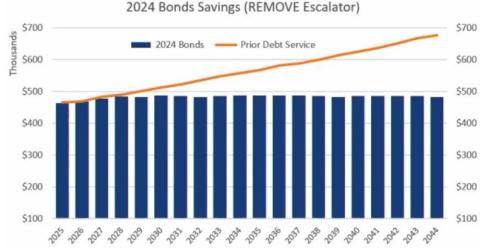
CFD for Amerige Heights Special Tax Refunding Bonds Issuance annual report presented by Director Chang

In April, the City Council decided to refinance the 2014 Community Facilities District #2 Amerige Heights bonds to reduce property taxes. The City Council reviewed the refunding debt structure and consider authorizing the refund of the 2014 bonds.

In 2014, the City of Fullerton issued Community Facility Districts special refunding bonds for public improvements in the Amerige Heights community, composed of 113 residential properties. These bonds were secured by special tax revenues assessed on property owners in the district. Of the initial issuance of \$7.57 million, \$6.92 mil-

lion of debt is currently outstanding. Interest rates on the current debt range from 4 to 5%, and debt payments escalate by 2% annually. Staff is recommended direction requested from the City Council to refund the 2014 Bonds with Level Debt service, which removes the current annual 2% escalator.

The net present value savings for homeowners is estimated at \$265,000 (3.83%). The City Council may opt to refund the 2014 bonds using the current escalating debt structure. Once approved, the resolution will authorize the financing team, the issuance of the



2024 bonds, and the financing documents in substantial form.

Motion proposes staff to refinance with a level debt structure, adopt resolution for issuance and sale of special refunding bonds, and approve related documents and actions. Passed.

WoW is on Life Support continued from front page

Another said that dozens of cars used to drive down the street every day, but now the street is dead, so his coffee shop is not doing well. There are no traffic counts for Wilshire that were mentioned, and the front of his shop is narrow and nearly invisible. It is doubtful that many cars driving by would notice it. Councilmember Charles says that she goes there regularly and that it is usually crowded. An ad in the Observer would draw attention to his coffee shop more than opening up the street. (Also, fewer unnecessary 15-minute parking spaces on that block might help.

Thus, it went vague and unsupported suppositions and equivocations. Like the owner of the restaurant on Harbor, several business owners said that they would like to see the project succeed but that it had not been done well and was not succeeding. One even said he would like to extend it for the entire block west to Malden to include his business.

Another said that dozens of cars used to drive down the street every day, but now the street is dead, so his coffee shop is not doing well. There are no traffic counts for Wilshire that were mentioned, and the front of his shop is narrow and nearly invisible. It is

When it came time for the council to weigh in (Mayor Dunlap having recused himself since his father is part owner of Villa Del Sol), Councilmember Jung came out in full opposition to the project (a position he had held all along), stating that the government should not be helping individual businesses by closing streets. Councilmembers Zahra and Charles supported the implementation and recognized some problems so far.

Councilmember Whitaker, a supporter in the past, said that he was switching his support and spent 8 minutes trying to explain why, including problems with police and fire access (it is 200ft) liability, not a resounding success, government overreach, some-

thing the private sector should be doing, etc. In other words, everything but the kitchen sink.

But it gets more curious: he said he was unwilling to pull the plug. The initial proposal was to continue the program for six months, but that was lost on a 2-2 vote. With some encouragement from Charles, Whitaker suggested keeping the program alive for 90 days. After some discussion, it passed on a 3-1 vote. But it is unclear what might happen in those 90 days: will there be an overwhelming outpouring of community support? Will the (under-personed staff) come up with some brilliant new idea or plan, a plan currently missing? It is not clear, nor was clear direction given.

IMHO, the real value of this project is not to support a couple of restaurants but to provide inviting communal spaces as a baby step towards building community. It is unsuccessful, but going backward leads to 200' of the underutilized street. We have the start of something special and a chance to move forward.

And then there is politics. Ninety

days, the decision will be moved to the last Council meeting before the November election when three Council seats are up. Whitaker is termed out, but his wife Linda is running against a strong Latina candidate in a heavily Latino district, which Bruce won by less than 3% last time against a non-Latino candidate. Does he really want to vote against this popular project at that time? If the Council majority votes to end the project and there is a new majority in December, presumably, it could be brought back. Contact your council person to let them know your opinion of the WoW.

Addendum: Councilmember Jung said that he did not like using the public right of way to benefit individual businesses. Neither he nor anyone else mentioned the sidewalk encroachment on the northeast side of Commonwealth at Harbor, now Mickey's Irish Bar. Neither the council nor the staff are willing to act on that encroachment.

City Council Notes continued on page 7

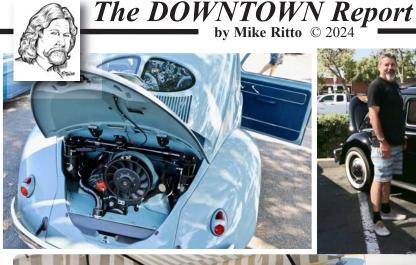


VWs And More

When we first heard there would be a car show at this year's Day of Music, we had to wonder, with so much competition from other events this time of year, how many classic cars would show up. Never fear, especially if you are a fan of classic VWs, bugs, buses, Karmann Ghias, and even fastbacks dating back to the early 50s. Wow! We honed in on the bugs and buses.

Every gearhead who is a fan of classic cars seems to find one the same year or very close to it at shows like this. In fact, car lovers of all types always look for them. Yours truly spotted a '56 oval window right away, and it was a nostalgic trip back just looking it over, inside and out. Then, nearby, a very rare '51 split window, with maximum restoration and customized to the hilt. Most readers here would glaze over if we listed all of the work that was done, so the photos will do.

If you have ever owned a legendary Vee Dub Bus, you know why the underpowered vehicles will never go out of fashion. Look at these and imagine a casual trip to a campground or surf break and a weekend of com-







muning with nature and other like-minded enthusiasts. You can't be in a hurry with one of these, and why should you be? Relax and take life in, listen to the hum of the 4-cylinder engine being pushed to the limit, and enjoy the rustic luxury. These classics, once affordable, are now priced like luxury cars, so hopefully, you still have yours.





Bike Parade

You have already seen a lot of photos here, but we wanted to look back and see a few more. If you were there, you noticed the huge number of participants, well over 1000, some say up to 1500 or even more, but who's counting? The big takeaway was the diversity of the participants, young and old,

on all manner of transportation over and above the bicycles, and everyone with a smile to give.

Those lining the parade route on Wilshire experienced a lot of camaraderie and where we were, the neighbors launched bubbles and blasted music into the air, welcoming one and all to stop and visit in their front yards.



New in Town

Cupid Hot Dogs has moved on and very quickly, U-BU U-BU moved right in. They are still working on the menu and getting everything ready, but right now, they are having a soft opening, so you can stop in at 106 ½ North Harbor and give it a try, plus you can take advantage of their buy one and get one 50% off introductory deal through August 15.







Fender Bender

Now that we have your attention, this is not about a minor auto incident, or accident, this is about something to cheer about. Come out to celebrate Fullerton's own Leo Fender, the man of the strength of th

who put Fullerton on the map all over the globe, on Saturday, August 10, from 5 to 9pm. Why? See photo. Also wanted to mention that his wife Phyllis, friend to all, passed away 4 years ago, July 22. Miss you too Phyllis.

Photo Quiz

Send answer to Mike at AllMedia@sbcglobal.net

This time: A few of these fire escapes still exist downtown; some of them are nearly hidden from sight in alleys or parking lots. This one is very visible, where is it?





Last time:

Do fake owls really keep pests away? We did not see any snakes, rats, or wolverines here, just south of the Chapman Building, visible in the background. Nobody got it this time, hmmm.

CROSSWORD & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

"FACE IT" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 19)

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9			10	11	12
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ACROSS

- 1. Kobe's nickname Black
- 6. Raw fish dish
- 10. Health org. based in Atlanta
- 13. Bypass
- 14. Genesis garden
- 15. Seed or pet
- 16. At a loss for words
- 18. Jonathan or Jennifer, on a TV series
- 19. Emulated Katie Ledecky
- 20. Woman of letters?
- 21. "Picnic" playwright
- 22. Get along
- 24. Defamation
- 26. Trophy spouse, so to speak
- 31. Rob of "The West Wing"
- 32. "Do the Right Thing" pizzeria owner
- 33. Behalf
- 35. '80s TV series about attorneys
- 38. Some Feds
- 40. mode

- monster
- 42. Natty neckwear
- 44. Cuba's Castro
- 47. Suffix with pamphlet
- 48. Autocrat until 1917
- 50. Sets aside, as funds
- 52. Mutually accept
- 55. Mo. with no major holidays
- 56. Alexander who claimed he was "in charge" after Reagan was shot
- 57. Froot
- 60. Just a bit
- 64. Boat in "Jaws"
- 65. Empty promise
- 67. Danny ____, ventriloquist dummy
- for Jimmy Nelson
- 68. Ballpark figs.
- 69. Relinquished
- 70. Address book no.
- 71. Conclude's one's case
- 72. "All kidding ..."

Down

- 1. They're underfoot
- 2 Affirm
- 3. Lisa of the Louvre
- 4. Whopper rival
- 5. Granny flat, e.g.
- 6. "I'd Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur org.
- 7. Father of Thor
- 8. Wails woefully
- 9. Ultimate goal 10. High light
- 11. Sad song
- 12. Do lunch?
- 15. Informal conversation
- 17. Part of a meet
- 23. Beetle juice?
- 25. "You've got mail" co.
- 26. "¿Cómo ___ usted?"
- 27. Dish next to stuffing and cranberry sauce
- 28. Kind of engineer

- 29. Unable to hear
- 30. Ivy Leaguer
- 34. Baby's first word, maybe
- 36. Supermodel Wek
- 37. The "W" in V.F.W. 39. Small bouquet
- _ kwon do
- 45. Clear the blackboard
- 46. Private Jesuit college in L.A.
- derby
- 51. Mezcal plants
- 52. "Give ____, don't pollute!" 53. "En ____" (fencer's cry)
- 54. Clamor
- 58. Goes (for)
- 59. "Hey, buddy!"
- 61. Conn of "Grease"
- 62. Passed with flying colors
- 63. "Venerable" English writer
- 66. Zenith rival

"The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot do as well for themselves in their separate and individual capacities." - Abraham Lincoln

City Council Notes continued from page 5

PROGRAM NAME	24-25 Request	24-25 Recommended
Boys & Girls Club/After-School Program	\$50,000	\$45,000
CARE Housing/Fullerton City Lights Social Services	\$50,000	\$18,000
Community SeniorServ	\$30,000	\$10,000
Hart Community/Monkey Business Café	\$45,000	\$40,000
Homeless Intervention Services of OC	\$200,000	\$43,062
Lutheran Social Services/Victims Intervention Project	\$20,000	\$10,000
Mercy House/Bridges at Kraemer Place	\$10,000	\$10,000
Pathways of Hope/Regional Homeless Services Coord	\$50,000	\$20,000
YMCA Richman/ Youth Achievers	\$15,000	\$15,000
PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES SUBTOTAL:	\$470,000	\$211,062

2024-2025 Community and Economic **Development Annual Action Plan**

Five Year Consolidated Plan

- · Assistance to homeless and at-risk homeless
- Assistance to non-profit organizations that provide public services to low-income residents
- Development of affordable housing
- Job creation and retention
- Provide public infrastructure
- Rehabilitation of substandard housing
- Support of fair housing practices

Total HUD Entitlement Funds decreased by 3.44%

The Community Development Block Grant for 2024/2025 was \$1,407,083 and the HOME partnership Investment Program Funds were \$461,693 totaling \$1,868,776.

Fair Housing Services

- Fair Housing activities are conducted under administration
- Fair Housing Foundation holds seminars/workshops for tenants and landlords regarding fair housing practices and laws, and programs in rental counseling and financial goals.
- Fair housing Foundation anticipates serving over 225 Fullerton residents

Program Administration

funding CDCC recommends Housing Administration at the requested amounts \$277,776, including \$20K for Fair Housing.

Activities include:

- Administration of the Citizen Participation Process (CDCC)
- Administration of the Housing Rehab Program
- Monitor program compliance of non-profit subrecipients
- Monitor affordable housing project annual inspections
- Administer/Monitor HOME Affordable Housing Project
- Prepare required documents (One Year Action Plan, Consolidated Plan (CASPER)

Housing Rehabilitation

• Community Forgivable Loan Program – Provides loans for exterior work for residents Citywide who

are below the income guidelines. Loans cover new roofs, exterior paint, code items, disabled modifications, and mobile homes.

- Block Improvement Grant -Provides grants for exterior rehab work for owner occupied homes in the identified community preservation areas that are located in the CDBG areas
- Rehabilitation Program Provides loans for interior and exterior work for residents Citywide who are below the income guidelines Lead Reduction Program –

Provides grants to residents Citywide

who are below the income guide-

lines. Grants abate or provide interim

reduction of lead hazards

- Special Code Enforcement One designated Code Enforcement Officer is assigned to address complaints in the designated areas to
- eliminate blight. Proactive code enforcement is provided in designated areas
- The Code Enforcement Officer provides information such as the Block Improvement Grant (BIG) offered by the Housing Division

Park Improvements

- Union Pacific Park Improvements
- 121 West Truslow Ave 1) 1.4 acre park
- 2) Repair damaged walkway
- 3) Sports courts

Staff recommended the approval of the 2024/25 Annual Action Plan, authorize the City Manager to make budget amendments, and consider amending the action plan to reallocate up to \$25K from current CDCC subrecipients to CARE Housing Services, to continue to provide critical onsite direct social services to Fullerton City Lights residents.

Councilmember Ahmad Zahra made a motion to approve with exception of allocating \$25K to City Lights CARE programs and not allocating to new requester Homeless Intervention Services of OC based in Placentia. Motion passed unanimously (Jung

DAVID YNIGUEZ LANDSCAPING

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SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTES by Vivien Moreno



• Fullerton School District Board meets at 6pm at District Headquarters, 1401 W Valencia Dr, Fullerton For agenda go to: www.fsd.k12.ca.us or call 714-447-7400

• Fullerton Joint Union High School Board: (714) 870-2800 or www.fjuhsd.org

FSD Community School Update

Two years ago, Fullerton School District (FSD) received a California Community Schools Partnership Program grant. This created a cohort of community schools serving students through a "whole child" approach which relied on four pillars of service and supported families and students in the district with bilingual services offered in English, Spanish, and Korean. (Additional languages are available upon family request.)

The initial six designated community schools were Commonwealth, Maple, Richman, Woodcrest and Valencia Park Elementary Schools and a Community Center location at Nicolas Junior High School. The four pillars of service integrated academics, social service resources, family and community engagement, and extended learning opportunities beyond the typical school day.

Examples of whole child care

include mental and physical health screenings, food support, clothing and housing assistance, parent education, and afterschool, weekend, and summer learning enrichment for students. Each Community School offers access to basic services with the Nicolas Junior High Community Center able to directly connect any qualified FSD family to additional services and resources including pharmacy access, transportation support, and parent education. The Community Center currently has 10 staff members including a program specialist, mental health and social service counselors, a nurse, and a clerk providing services to the surrounding district community, Monday-Friday 8am to 4:30 pm with extended hours Tuesday-Thursday to 5:30 pm, during the regular school year.

FSD Program Specialist, Jackie Gallardo-Hoffmaster and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Erlinda SolteroRuiz, updated the trustees at the June 18 FSD board meeting about how many students and families received services through the program this last year and presented new plans for expansion into the 2024/25 school year. At the Community Center, Nicolas Junior High students can take advantage of tutoring, afterschool activities, and quiet space or mental break areas during the school day. Families and students can get counseling and health screenings, mental health support, and basic resources concerning housing, clothing, and food. State, county, and private funds all come together to provide a one-stop location for families to get their essential needs met, so that students can focus on learning and feel secure in participating in day-to-day academic activities.

Last year, through this program outreach, health care providers carried out over 2,350 eye and hearing screenings for district students and, through partnerships with the LA Clippers Foundation, provided 668 pairs of glasses for students with vision challenges. St. Jude Heritage provided vaccinations and health screenings while Dental Mobile beta tested student dental services at Commonwealth Elementary last spring. Over 70 mental

health responses included family counseling together with home calls and referrals to ongoing interventions through Care Solace.

Parenting classes include navigating academic programs, mental health development, and the CHOC (Children's Hospital of Orange County) PODER program that offered diabetes prevention and care information for families. Administrators and teachers are collaborating with social services to better serve all student needs and teachers receive traumainformed instructional methods to support students better.

Ms. Gallardo-Hoffmaster announced her replacement, Ms. Jennifer "Jenny" Alida Saul as 2024/25 program specialist. She also announced new goals for expanding private partnership supports, creating a stakeholder steering committee, and expanding the community school cohort to include Orangethorpe and Pacific Drive Elementary schools with a new 5-year, \$2.8 million grant. FSD families can sign up for services on their bit.ly account or call the Community Center after August 12 at (714)447-2889 during school hours.

Fullerton Joint Union High School District has a New Bond Resolution for November Ballot

At the July 23 FJUHSD board meeting, trustees tentatively approved adding a school facilities bond to the November ballot. The proposed bond would levy an additional \$21 per \$100,000 on residential properties in the high school district, aiming to raise around \$284 million for facility updates.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Ruben Hernandez, quickly reviewed the process of completing the district's Master Facilities Plan and surveying potential voter support for another bond. He also discussed the financial impact of another bond if it's passed, especially when added to the two previous facilities bonds that FJUHSD area property owners are still paying off.

Mr. Hernandez emphasized that the district's \$515 million highest priority projects focus on upgrading utilities and creating safe environments. The school committee requested new locker rooms, estimated at \$37 million each, and artificial grass fields and plastic running tracks at \$7-10 million each. Trustees met with Mr. Hernandez Superintendent Dr. Steve McLaughlin about the bond, but there was no public board discussion about these projects or the need for another bond after spending Measure I funds. Trustee Marilyn Buchi voiced concerns that the completion of recent Measure I projects might raise questions about the need for another facilities bond. She supported the district's previous bonds but was hesitant about another so soon. Trustee Joanne Fawley and Dr. Vicki Calhoun focused on data indicating voter approval for the new bond, while Trustee Lauren Klatzker acknowledged the ongoing maintenance required for the district's old schools. Board President Dr. Chester Jeng stated, "It is allowing the voters to decide if there is a bond."

The proposed FJUHSD facilities bond would increase property taxes by \$21 for every \$100,000 of assessed value for property owners in the district. The assessed rate is based on property tax rates and not market value. Current residential property owners are already paying for two previous FJUHSD facilities bonds: Measure AA from 2004, which adds \$9 for every \$100,000 of assessed value

until 2029, and Measure I from 2014, which adds \$19 for every \$100,000 of assessed value until 2039. If the new measure passes in November, it would add an additional \$21 for every \$100,000 of assessed value until 2049. Homeowners would owe a total of \$49 for every \$100,000 of assessed value until 2029, and \$40 for every \$100,000 of assessed value until 2039 when Measure I is paid off, provided that no additional bonds are passed in the meantime.

The trustee's voted 4-1 (Dr. Vicki Calhoun voting no) to place the new facilities bond measure on the November ballot.

The next FJUHSD board meeting is scheduled for August 6 at 6pm.

CSUF's Scott-Jewett Fund to Provide \$1 Million for Social Justice Programs

The Scott-Jewett Fund for Student Success and Innovation will fund eight student-centered projects at CSUF during 2024-25.

Cal State Fullerton's Scott-Jewett Fund for Student Success and Innovation this year will back programs supporting a career development network for Black communications students; a performing arts student group that explores Latinx identities; and a leadership program for underrepresented women in business.

The fund was created in 2021 after the university received a historic \$40 million gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. CSUF dedicated \$3 million dollars over three years — set to end in spring of 2025 — to support student success and innovation. The fund supports educational opportunities led by CSUF faculty, staff or students that focus on social justice and inspire the students and alumni. CSUF individuals or groups could apply for grants of up to \$150,000.

"From the beginning, CSUF's Scott-Jewett Fund was to benefit Titans and have transformative effects for generations to come," said Kimberly Shiner, vice president for University Advancement. "These programs and projects led by Titans for Titans are inspired and strive for social justice and equity — goals that stretch far beyond just our region. The continued investment fuels our proven pathway

to opportunity."

In the first two years, 17 projects received a total of \$2 million in grants. Now in its final year, \$1 million was awarded to eight proposals.

This year's grantees include:

- Advancing Educational Equity and Social Justice: From Campus to Classrooms
- Black CommUnity: Preparing Future Black Communications Professionals
- Funding Career Coaching Sessions for Underrepresented Women in the Women's Leadership Program
- Grupo de Teatro en Español:
- Equity Initiative for Student-led Latinx Theatre Events
- Project Rebound and Empirical Research on Prejudice and Discrimination in the U.S. Legal System
- Summer Program in Public Interest Law
- Transfer Titan Success
- Sustaining Success: Black Undergraduate Student Creative Activities and Research + (BUSCAR+)



Point of View by Alicia, 7th grade

Summer Break Activities

Summer break feels slow. Students ies. They prep for their who usually have hours worth of afterschool tasks, are given an immense amount of free time. Even on top of summer programs and preparations for the following school year, there's nonetheless so much space on our calendars to fill out compared to in

Some students like to take this time to stay at home as much as possible, enjoying the comfort of their beds. Others desire to fill their days with activities, from productive studying to raging parties.

Many students participate in a summer camps, like an athletic camps. Introductory camps are where you'd typically find those exploring new things or those wanting to master the basics of something. It's an astounding way to spend your summer, finding new hobbies.

There are definitely also those who prefer to focus intensely on their studupcoming tests, look over schoolwork from

the next school year, and search for opportunities that could end up on their college applications.

It's not a complete summer without some fun, of course! Friends are meeting to see the July fireworks, throwing parties on warm beaches, and splashing in the crisp waters of a pool.

Summer break presents a remarkable opportunity for students to explore a range of activities. Whether you choose to relax at home, dive into new hobbies, focus on academics, or enjoy social events with friends, there's something for everyone.

The freedom and flexibility of summer lets us discover things we enjoy and how we want to spend our time. Embrace the diversity of options and make the most of your summer break, creating memories.

Back to School by Erin, 9th grade

How to Rewire Your Summer Brain for School

As we unwind in our summer mindset, thoughts of school begin to surface. While some look forward to getting back, many of us feel overwhelmed by homework and classes. This often leads to procrastination. Being prepared is essential to make the school year smoother over the next 180

The younger generations, surrounded by social media and smart phones, often have a limited attention span, which affects their study habits. Healthline explains that compulsive phone use is triggered by a desire for stimulation, leading to a dopamine "reward" in the brain. Changing input can lead to different outputs, and being mindful of actions can help refocus priorities.

Instead of spending the next hour

scrolling through your phone, try putting it away under a pillow.

I've found it's not easy to stop once you start, so it's best to prevent it from happening. To avoid burnout and boredom, you can use a study method like the Pomodoro Technique, which involves studying for 25 minutes and then taking a 5-minute break. It's a good way to minimize distractions. When you have reminders to look up something, jot them down so you can address them during your next break.

Hopefully, with peak productivity and your mind at ease, you can make room for the straight A's, extracurriculars, and school activities you missed because you stayed up until midnight rushing to finish your English essay.

National Observances by Mateo, 11th grade

Featured Pet by Jules, 9th grade **Meet Janie**



Janie is a one-year-old cutie cat searching for a forever home! Currently Janie and her kittens are staying at the OC Animal Care. Janie

is now ready for a human companion. Openly displaying her affectionate nature, Janie's purr-sonality is sweet and easygoing. Ready to share her soothing purrs Janie hopes to see you soon!

If you would like to meet or adopt Janie, please contact the OC Animal Care at (714) 935-6848 and state Animal ID: A1866221 or visit their website at ocpetinfo.org.



New School Year by Marcella, 8th grade

Time to Fix a Big Problem

Happy New School Year! The time has come when summer

comes to an end and preparing for school comes into play! Students and their families are going back-toschool-shopping and teachers are preparing for they're new school year. But as the beginning of the school year draws close, we need to make sure our schools are safe for all students. A very common thing at all Junior High Schools are fights.

Fights are scary. Girls pulling hair, boys punching, kids pushing their way to see the fight. But what is worse is students running, pushing and pulling out their phones thinking it is fun.

Fights are a big problem at Junior High Schools. Fights make school not feel safe, and school is supposed to be the safest place for a kid. This is why students need to avoid fights, even if they are not in the fight itself. People need to understand how bad fights are. Parents and teachers need to tell their kids or students not to fight, not run towards the fight, not video the fight, and not ask for the video of the fight. For students, they need to understand that fights are not a good thing. Most students think it is fun to watch the fights. Many students run towards the fight and stand on lunch tables just to see the fight. Only a small percentage of JHS stand back away from the mob of kids trying to see the fight, terrified. Only a small percentage of students at JHS think that fights are wrong and scary. Those students who are scared by the fights need to tell their peers to stop encouraging the fights by cheering, running to see, recording, and asking for the videos.

By sharing these videos students are not just encouraging the fights, but people are also being incredibly disrespectful towards the teachers and principles at the JHS. As it says in the article Dealing with fight videos from the website, esafety.gov.au, "Sharing these recordings can lead to more violence or retaliation and sometimes encourage ongoing fighting. It can be humiliating and re-traumatizing for those filmed and may have a long-term negative impact on their emotional and mental wellbeing."

Another thing that eggs on the fights is when a student takes their device home and shows their parent the video and the parent laughs with their child, not seeing how wrong and horrifying this problem is. Adults also need to be aware of this problem and need to stop themselves and their children/students/nieces/nephews/grandchildren from videowing/watching/sharing/asking for/laughing at the video instead of seeing the problem and putting a stop

People must stop fights. They are horrible and students are not being helpful toward teachers and principles by recording them and sharing the recordings. The staff at JHS are trying to prevent these fights, but they can't stop them all if no one helps them.

National Chicken Wing Day July 29th Chicken wings have been a staple of Domino's Pizza began American cuisine. With the right

sauces and dressings, just one small wing can pack a flavorful punch, making them an appetizer that can perfectly complement any occasion. Whether for a nice family outing at the local diner or a huge watch party for a big sporting event, chicken wings never fail to spice up the environment and satisfy your taste buds. Each year, on July 29th, National Chicken Wing Day is celebrated as a testament to the deliciousness and boldness of the savory morsels.

The National Chicken Council claims that chicken wings originated in the southern United States and have been a big part of Southern cooking for quite a while. However, they were never made with hot sauce until 1964, when bar owner Teresa Bellissimo whipped some up as a late-night snack for her son and his friends at her Buffalo, New York establishment. They enjoyed the hot wings so much that they were added to the menu the next day under the name "Buffalo Wings." In no time, their popularity began to grow as many other bars started selling them to increase their beer sales. Eventually, major fast food chains such as McDonald's, KFC, and

selling and promoting chicken wings themselves. The mayor of Buffalo even started National Chicken Wing Day to celebrate their influence on American culture.

Nowadays, chicken wings are prevalent in the cuisine of many different cultures worldwide. Their combination of flavor, affordability, and compatibility with all kinds of sauces and dressings is arguably unmatched by any other food on the planet. As you may have guessed, the best way to celebrate National Chicken Wing Day is by enjoying some for yourself. Many places in today's world serve chicken wings either exclusively or as their main meal, and the various sauces and sides they serve with their wings can be a bit overwhelming, so I will offer you some inspiration. Some of the most popular sauces served with chicken wings include BBQ, ranch, and buffalo sauce, but my personal favorite is garlic parmesan. Also, you cannot order wings without a side of French fries or celery sticks – they go together like peanut butter and jelly.

It doesn't matter how you enjoy your wings; just make sure to take the time to appreciate the intricate history of the timeless snack.

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HITS & MISSES



by Joyce Mason © 2024



TWISTERS: A HIT AND A MISS

Hoping to bring back to movie theaters the kind of attendance generated by the "Barbieheimer" blockbusters of last summer, theater owners are filling their spaces with many copies of "Twisters," starting every fifteen or thirty minutes. It is the kind of disaster movie that must be seen on a large screen. "Twisters" is a sequel to the 1996 disaster film "Twister."

We Californians don't worry much about tornadoes, but residents of Oklahoma do. Rick Smith, meteorologist at the National Weather Service Forecast, whose office is in Norman, Oklahoma, served as a consultant for "Twisters." Director Lee Isaac Chung thought it would be a lot of fun to chase tornadoes in Oklahoma, but he wanted to make his film scientifically accurate as well as entertaining.

At the heart of the plot in "Twisters" is a group of weather scientists from prestigious academic institutions, many with PhDs in meteorology, who want to test a concept for stopping a tornado before it becomes destructive. The experiment would involve piercing the center of the tornado with "superabsorbent polymers such as sodium polyacrylate, which would absorb the moisture of the storm and neutralize the cyclone." In layman's terms, they would be piercing the heart of the tornado with an absorbent substance found in diapers.

"Twisters" picks up on a new generation of scientists from those who

experimented in the 1996 "Twister." One of them is Kate Carter (Daisy Edgar-Innes), a dedicated scientist who grew up in Oklahoma but is now living and working in New York City. An old friend, Javi (Anthony Ramos), must convince her to join the crew headed for this experimental mission near the town in Oklahoma where they both grew up. He remembers that Kate hasan unusual ability to predict which ominous-looking dark cloud would turn into an active tornado. Even fine instruments are not always accurate in predicting this phenomenon.

Reluctantly, Kate agrees to participate in the scientific experiment. When the two arrive in Oklahoma, they find tornado chasers everywhere, the most active being Tyler Owens (Glen Powell). He calls himself a "tornado wrangler," sports a cowboy hat and sells branded T-shirts. Kate is repelled by his brashness, but romances have started from worse beginnings.

Before this movie is over, audiences will witness a "monster" storm that destroys a movie theater. They will also see the unusual paraphernalia that tornado chasers use as they venture near the storm. Large tanks and heavy trucks are equipped with giant screws that burrow into the ground and prevent the vehicle from being blown away by the storm.

"Twisters" is playing in theaters only and has a running time of two hours and two minutes.

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



DINNER: 7 days a week! 5pm to 10pm • Fri & Sat to 11pm **LUNCH:** Mon through Sat 11am to 3pm

Happy Hour: Monday through Friday from 4pm to 6pm



114 W. Wilshire Ave • Downtown Fullerton

Playing at the Maverick Theater

110 E Walnut Ave, Unit B, Fullerton • (714) 526-7070

KING KONG Playing through - August 25

Back for its 5th year! An original Maverick Theater stage adaptation of the 1933 film by Merian C. Cooper.

The play is based on the Delos W. Lovelace novel, which is the same storyline and dialogue from the original film with only minor changes and additions.

The overall show will have a lighthearted tongue-in-cheek feel but all the characters will be played honest and as true to the original; even the man in the monkey suit.

Suitable for ages 6 and up.



Curtis Theatre

1 Civic Center Circle, Brea 714-990-7722 | www.ci.brea.ca.us/1594/Curtis-Theatre

Page to Stage Playwrights Festival: "That's What She Said!"

Now in its fourth year, the Page to Stage Playwrights Festival has a mission to provide a platform for works focusing on the female voice, and nurtures rising artists by showcasing new plays and sharing them with our vibrant local theatre community. Produced in conjunction with Festival Director Heather Enriquez and the That's What She Said Women Writers Collective, Page to Stage receives hundreds of submissions each year, and has quickly become one of the most anticipated events in the Orange County theatre community.

Content Advisory: Some performances may have language, themes, or depictions that are not suitable for younger audiences.

My Mother's Three Mothers

by Gemma Cooper-Novack Friday, August 16, 8pm

Break

by Erin Galligan Baldwin Staged Reading Directed by Julie M. Smith Saturday, August 17, 3pm

Crazy Quilts

by Karen Fix Curry
Staged Reading Directed by Amanda DeMaio
Saturday, August 17, 8pm

Two One Acts: My Right Foot

by Dana Hammer
Directed by Heather Enriquez
79 Ways to Die

Written and Directed by Veronica Louisa Rosas
Sunday, August 18, 3pm



The Muckenthaler Cultural Center

714-738-6595 | info@themuck.org | 1201 W. Malvern Ave, Fullerton \$35 Non-Member; \$20 Member

Matt Johnson and The New Jet Set Thurs, August 1, 7:30pm

Welcome to a concert of retro-cool jazz interpretations of beloved songs from Disney animated films. Featuring a world-class quartet that combines virtuosic musicianship and charismatic personalities punctuated by delightful movie images and period footage, The New Jet Set is a dynamic tour-de-force of musical style and taste.

Experience compelling storytelling of songs from the animated films everyone loves.

Broadway All Star Benefit Thurs, August 8, 7:30pm

Monette Velasco comes home to the Muck for another Broadway musical revue, this time with a jazz twist! Enjoy Broadway jazz standards with surprise guests and friends. Monette was part of the Broadway tour of Miss Saigon and helped produce The Muck and Rotary concert benefit for Philippines hurricane relief.

Eric Anthony LopezThurs, Thurs, August 22, 7:30pm

Broadway & Screen Star Eric Anthony Lopez (The Phantom of the Opera, Evita, Syd in Disney's Chang Can Dunk Film) comes to The Muck to sing Broadway and Operetta Classics, as well as some surprises.



Thurs, August 29, 7:30pm

The Orange Empire Chorus returns

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Calling All Swiftys

Date: Friday, August 9, 2024

201 S Basque Ave, Fullerton

Get ready for a magical experience

celebrating all things Taylor Swift! This

spectacular event features LIVE

MUSIC with your favorite Swift hits, creat-

ing the perfect soundtrack for an amazing

day. Dive into a world of creativity with fun CRAFTS activities where you can unleash

your inner artist. Capture the moment at our stunning PHOTO OPS stations, which are

perfect for sharing your love for Taylor on

DOWNTOWN FULLERTON PLAZA

FULLERTON MUSEUM CENTER

VIP EXPERIENCE **WOODSTOCK TRIBUTE CONCERT**

Location: Hunt Branch Library,

Admission: \$5 for ages 5 and up

Time: 6 - 9 PM

(All sales final)

social media.

with Fullerton Police Department

Join the Fullerton Police Department on August 6, 5 to 7 pm at the Fullerton Museum Plaza located at 125 E Wilshire Ave to celebrate the Fullerton community.

Highlights include: Meet and Greet with Police Officers, K9, and horse mounted units; Interactive booths; Games and crafts; Dunk a cop; and Learn about different resource programs in your community. There will be free hotdogs and sliders while supplies last.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

\$125 MEMBERS, \$150 GENERAL

DEDICATED BAR, CATERED BY LES AMIS, CURATED COCKTAILS & MOCKTAILS, PRIME "BOHO" SEATING, COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRT

The Orange Empire Chorus

to the Muck! Organized in 1957, OEC is the Fullerton Chapter of The Barbershop Harmony Society. The society's mission is to perpetuate the barbershop art form and to support music education. Join them for an evening of comedy and song.

1 Civic Center Circle, Brea 714-990-7722 | www.ci.brea.ca.us/1594/Curtis-Theatre

Curtis Theatre in association with KJazz



Boogaloo Assassins An Evening of Latin Jazz Saturday, Aug 10, Showtime 4pm & 8pm

Boogaloo Assassins is a 13-piece Latin Boogaloo, Salsa, and Latin Soul group from Southern California. A live music favorite since 2008, their independently released 2013 debut album "Old Love Dies Hard" was inspired by the soulful Latin records of the 1960s, and their single "No No No" took radio and dance halls around the world by storm. Boogaloo Assassins receive airplay on radio stations all over the world, as well as press from NPR,

Vice, and the OC Weekly– winning the OC Weekly Music Awards "Best Latin Band" on three separate occasions. Still a live music favorite, Boogaloo Assassins are performing throughout California, with a new LP to be released in 2024.

Ticket holders are invited to join us on the Curtis Theatre plaza for a catered dinner and cash bar starting at 6:30pm. Food is included in the price of your ticket!

OLLI 2024 Summer Session Registration Now Open!

Retired or considering retirement and want to stay fully engaged in life?

OLLI can help you make retirement a Vibrant Chapter in your life:

- Continue lifelong learning;
- Satisfy your desire for social contact;
- Thrive in a positive learning environment.

The 10-week OLLI Summer Session: the perfect way to sample OLLI or try a new class.

Classes begin Tuesday, May 28. Register online today at: olli.fullerton.edu

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) **Ruby Gerontology Center** California State University, Fullerton olli.fullerton.edu (657) 278-4012

> OLLI-CSUF 45th Anniversary 1979 - 2024

FREE MUSIC Downtown Fullerton iza Market 125 E. Wilshire Avenue, Fullerton

2024 Band Lineup All Bands perform from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Darden Sisters August 1

August 8 Showkillers

August 15 Altar Billies August 22

The Mike Taylor Quartet Unstream August 29

Art Talk with Over the Moon

by Jane Ouweleen and Carol Van Ahlers

The Plain Truth About Plein Air Painting

When enjoying the outdoors, many of us have seen an artist equipped with paint palette and easel, creating their own version of the scene before them. This popular style of painting, known as plein air, celebrates the immediate and often unpredictable beauty of the outdoors. Unsurprisingly, most plein-air paintings are landscapes.

So what differentiates "plein air" from traditional landscapes, and how did it develop? A look at history offers some clues.

Prior to the 1400s, landscapes were not so important, and they were included in images primarily as backgrounds for religious or mythical scenes. With the beginning of the Renaissance period, representational art emerged, and landscapes gained popularity as singular images. During this time, landscape paintings were often created as commissions for wealthy patrons, being used to decorate palaces, estates, and public buildings. Landscape paintings from this era were typically created in a studio, based on a sketch or from memory. This setting allowed for a highly detailed, careful, and ideal composition.

Landscape art continued to evolve through the decades, with artists 'bringing nature indoors' for their patrons and creating beautiful and natural scenes of the countryside. By the mid-1800s, with the advent of portable paint tubes and the box easel, it became easier for artists to work outside their studios, and a new style of landscape art appeared, "plein air." Derived from a French term meaning "open air," this became the practice of painting outdoors with the subject in full view. In this way, the artist could witness firsthand the environment and strive to capture the changing light, weather conditions, and colors of the landscape. Plein air painting often features loose brushwork, vibrant colors, and a sense of immediacy. These stylistic features continued to cultivate and were important to the development of Impressionism. Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Camille Pissarro all embraced plein-air painting.

Southern California artist E.E. Jacks spoke to us about her practice of plein air painting, which began 15 years ago and assisted her in learning how to capture the nuanced play of light and changing environmental conditions. "I would often pursue the light at sunrise and sunset, exploring various coves along Laguna Beach," explained Jacks. "Despite facing challenges like time constraints, wind, sand, rogue dogs, rogue humans, insects, and more, I firmly believe that plein air painting profoundly influences my studio practice. It has honed my ability to work efficiently, compose confidently, and swiftly blend desired hues, and it remains the most influential teacher in my artistic toolbox." Jack's outdoor daytime and nocturne adventures have been filled with memorable



experiences, such as befriending a pelican and weathering intense storms that once whisked away a 16"x20" canvas. "I encourage every artist in every medium to extend an eye to the outdoors," said Jacks. "You'll be surprised by the profound connections you find between the dynamic moving world and your work."

A brief summary - While traditional landscape painting focuses on meticulously composed scenes, plein-air painting celebrates the immediate beauty of nature through looser compositions. On your next outdoor excursion, consider the light and colors around you, and you'll be looking at nature through a 'plein air' lens.

• Over the Moon Gallery is a 100% online art gallery that connects collectors with affordable artwork. www.overthemoongallery.com

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center

714-738-6595 | info@themuck.org | 1201 W. Malvern Ave, Fullerton

Jac Alva Curates "Unsavory" Through Aug 30 / Main Gallery

Throughout art history, food has been depicted in various forms, but often without acknowledging the troubling aspects of food production and consumption. "Unsavory" aims to expose the destructive impacts on both humans and the environment caused by food production and consumption.

Gallery Hours:
Monday-Friday: 10am-5pm
Please call for up to date information.
Gallery Admission \$5





YOGA at the MUCK

Muckenthaler Cultural Center 1201 W. Malvern Ave, Fullerton

Saturdays at 9:00 AM All Levels - Donation Based

Toastmasters International is 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 8am to 9am Pacific Daylight Time and Mountain Standard Time, and the second and fourth Tuesdays at 9:30 am to 10:30 am Pacific Daylight Time and Mountain Standard Time. Guests are always welcome.

Mid-Day Toastmasters meets for 1 hour on

- Saturdays August 3 and August 17 at 7 am to 8 am

- Tuesdays August 13 and August 27 at 8:30 am

For more information contact Jim Samuel, VPPR, (855) 402-8255, distinguished@rocketmail.com, see the club web page, or Toastmasters.org

Friends of Coyote Hills Nature Walk

Sunday, August 11

Please join us for a sunset Nature Walk, from 6pm to 8pm, on the new trails of the Robert E. Ward Nature Preserve in Fullerton's West Coyote Hills.

Meet just prior to 6pm at the gated entrance to the equestrian ring and dirt lot, approximately 3044 Lakeview Dr. Bring water to drink and wear comfortable shoes.

Friends of Coyote Hills Adopt-A-Park

Saturday, August 17

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

Clean-up is from 9am to 11am and meets at the lower parking lot of Sunny Hills Church of Christ, 2255 N. Euclid St. Bring water, "trash grabbers" and your own gloves if you have them. Wearing sunscreen and comfortable shoes is recommended.



FULLERTON CERTIFIED

FARMERS' MARKET

fruits . vegetables . eggs . honey . bread . plants . orchids . nuts .



Fullerton Community Center 340 W. Commonwealth Ave





The Hub At Fullerton

The construction of the 420 unit (1,251 bed) student-oriented housing development with 12,438 square feet of neighborhood supporting commercial on a 3.55 acre site is well on its way. The project is located at 2601, 2701, and 2751 E. Chapman Ave.

FULLERTON MUSEUM CENTER NATURE'S BLUEPRINT BIOMIMICRY IN ART AND DESIGN JUNE 15 - AUGUST 11 **EXPLORE THE PATTERNS AND PROCESSES** IN NATURE THAT INSPIRE THE DESIGN OF EVERYTHING FROM RAINCOATS TO SKYSCRAPERS.

OC Fair Express is Back! Through August 18

The OC Fair Express is returning this year for the first time since the pandemic halted it in 2020. Through the special bus service, OCTA will offer direct routes to the fair from four locations around the county on Saturdays and Sundays.

The OC Fair Express costs just \$4 round trip, and youth 18 and under

The buses will drop off and pick up passengers just a short walk from the fair entrance, providing affordable and convenient non-stop travel to the OC Fair. This year's OC Fair, themed "Always a Good Time," is scheduled to begin this week in Costa Mesa. The Express Service will be available Saturdays through August 18.

So save your gas and travel with OCTA on the bus to experience Orange County's annual fair this sum-

The service will be provided every 30 minutes, generally between 10 am and midnight. To plan your trip https://www.octa.net/about/aboutocta/digital-toolkits/oc-fair-express/

What Happens to Communities Without a Newspaper?

In a recent article by Jessica Garrison in-depth daily coverage of Richmond, in the *LAist* called "This California city lost its daily newspapers. It faces a crisis over what comes next," she recounts what happened to Richmond, California, when they lost their news-

Richmond City Councilmember Cesar Zepeda has been trying to bring a supermarket back to his industrial city on the edge of San Francisco Bay but has faced persistent challenges. He believes that the city is paying a hefty price due to its inability to tell its own

Richmond has been without its daily newspaper for years. According to Zepeda, the lack of coverage affects the perception of the community, creating "deserts" in essential services like hospitals and grocery stores.

In this news desert, the primary information source has the Richmond Standard, a news website funded by Chevron, Richmond's largest employer. But the Standard is conspicuously silent when it comes to hard-hitting reporting on the Chevron refinery, which activists blame for the city's high rates of hospitalization for childhood asthma. The City Council voted to put a measure on the November ballot, asking for a tax on the refinery to generate tens of millions of dollars annually. The Standard's homepage did not cover this important development.

Richmond is among Californian communities that currently do not have a traditional newspaper. The city, which once had multiple leading to their closure. As a result, the what-comes-next

a city with 23 distinct neighborhoods, competitive politics, and a crucial refinery, has gradually diminished.

Richmond's news decline began well before eveballs and advertising migrated online. But Richmond's story is not just about the loss of news. It also shows how a community gets information in a post-newspaper world.

Richmond is now home to online journalism startups, including one owned by Chevron, the city's massive refinery has been a focal point of concern due to toxic emissions. However, the independent online publications in the area have limited size and reach. Over time, Richmond has lost education and public safety reporters, causing a decline in coverage of sports and entertainment, while City Hall remains a priority.

During its peak, the coverage in Richmond was rigorous and played a significant role in civic life, according to Lazzeretti. The local newspapers of that era were not perfect, lacking ethnic diversity in the newsroom, but reporters tried to reflect what was going on in the city.

As the 21st century began, the West County Times, the only paper still covering Richmond, faced economic challenges due to the rise of online advertising. This led to a significant reduction in reporters covering Richmond on a daily basis.

the Read full story: https://www.latimes.com/california/sto ry/2024-07-24/california-newspaperspapers, has faced economic challenges are-disappearing-richmond-is-living-





PHOTOS COURTESY OF FULLERTON AQUATICS SPORTS TEAM

Above: Fullerton Aquatics Sports Team (FAST) hosted 100 Masters swimmers from more than 30 teams at a meet at the Janet Evans Swim Complex in Independence Park. Swimmers from ages 18 to 91 competed. Two dozen of the competitors were from the FAST Masters team, which holds regular practices at JESC. Swimmers do not have to compete to swim with the FAST Masters team. For more information about the FAST Masters team, contact Lauren Morford at Imorford@fastswimming.net.

Pictured at Right: Masters swimmers from Fullerton Aquatics Sports Team (FAST) won medals in the Newport Pier to Pier 2 Mile Ocean Swim. From left, Kathy Lany, Sherri Sawicki and Isabella Kearns swam in the open water event. Kearns was first in her division and Lany was third in hers.



FAST Hosts Second Annual Jon Urbanchek Invitational

by Leslie Brown

The Fullerton Aquatics Sports Team (FAST) hosted its second annual Jon Urbanchek Invitational, where three Olympians competed in preparation for Paris. Urbanchek co-founded FAST in 1964 and was a legendary and beloved swim coach. He was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2009. After coaching for 20 years at the University of Michigan, his alma mater, he returned to Fullerton in 2010. Sadly, he passed away in May. Throughout his career, he coached more than three dozen Olympians.

The recent swimming meet in mid-June at the Janet Evans Swim Complex in Independence Park was a testament to the incredible talent and sportsmanship within the Fullerton community and beyond. The victories of Paris Olympians Tomer Frankel of Israel, Rafael Miroslaw of Germany, and Marwan Elkamash of Egypt, in their respective events, were personal triumphs and a source of pride for all of us. Their dedication, hard work, and perseverance testify to the power of pursuing one's dreams.

Moreover, the presence of esteemed Olympian Janet Evans, who generously presented awards at the meet, added an extra layer of inspiration. Her impact on the sport and the athletes is truly remarkable.

The success of the Jon Urbanchek Invitational was not just about the athletes but the entire community. The impressive participation of nearly 200 athletes from diverse teams and the breaking of 15 meet records and six pool records is a testament to the extraordinary skill and determination within the swimming community. This event serves as a reminder that with passion, dedication, and hard work, athletes can achieve greatness, and the community's support and participation make these achievements possible.

Let's take inspiration from this event's remarkable achievements and continue striving for excellence in all our endeavors!

Everyone took a moment to remember Urbanchek's impact on the community. His dedication to coaching and mentoring shaped the lives of numerous athletes and inspired others to give their best. It's incredible to see how many people from Southern California were influenced by him and continue to carry on his legacy. The stories shared at the luncheon highlighted his positive influence as a coach and person. It reminds us of the lasting impact we can have on others through our actions and connections.

About Jon Urbanchek

After college, Urbanchek worked as a health teacher and aquatics coach at Garden Grove High School. In 1964, he moved to Anaheim High School and coached successful water polo and swimming teams. He co-founded the Fullerton Aquatics Sports Team (FAST) in 1964 and earned a master's degree in education from Chapman University in 1973.

Urbanchek left Anaheim High School in 1978 to become the head coach at Long Beach State, where he coached the 49ers' swim program for five years. He was named the Pacific Coast Athletic Association Coach of the Year in 1981 and led the United States to a second-place finish at the 1979 FINA Men's Water Polo World Cup.

Urbanchek became the head coach at the University of Michigan in 1982, leading the resurgence of the men's swimming program. His teams won 13 Big Ten Championships and established a "Decade of Dominance" from 1986-1996, including an NCAA Championship. After retiring as head coach, Urbanchek continued to coach with the school's affiliate club team, Club Wolverine, and assist the men's team.

Urbanchek returned to Southern California in 2010 to direct the U.S. Olympic Post-Graduate Training Center at Fullerton Aquatics Sports Team (FAST). He coached two swim-

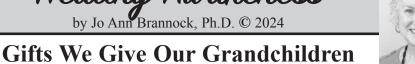


Mrs Urbanchek at the invitational for her late husband Jon Urbanchek
PHOTO COURTESY OF FULLERTON AQUATICS SPORTS TEAM

mers to gold medals at the 2012 Olympics (Tyler Clary and Matt McLean) and served as special assistant coach for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Swimming Team. For the next ten years, Jon worked with athletes and coaches nationwide, leading and assisting with training camps at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and volunteering on decks throughout Southern California, doing what he loved.



Healthy Awareness by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2024



Children

from this

type of

parenting

become

self-reliant,

self-controlled,

and

high-achieving.

Positive parenting, where the parents are caring and sensitive to their children's needs but set limits and encourage responsibility, has been shown to be important in children's lives. Children who experience this type of parenting turn out to become selfreliant, self-controlled and high achieving. They also seem more content, goal-oriented, friendly, and socially competent.

Grandparents are also important in providing positive parenting but can also give their grandchildren relaxed learning experiences with special time

together. My neighbors are examples of positive grandparenting, and the following are "gifts," according to chronological age, they have given to their four grandchildren.

For babies up to the age of three, they have read to, prayed with, and talked to them to help build a vocabulary. Since they all lived in different states they learned to carry on a conversation on the phone. Hugging and appropriate touch were important in

bonding. Communication was important, so sending them cards in the mail regularly (not only for birthdays) was part of what they did.

For children from the age of 3 to 7 years old, they have had fun planting a garden and identifying flowers by name. Picking lemons and oranges to make juice or picking strawberries and blueberries gave their grandkids a sense of the labor involved. Going out and selecting a Christmas tree provided a feeling of togetherness. Modeling the behavior to stop and smell the roses was important. This was the age to strategies like playing cards/board games and doing puzzles together. Self-control was learned by limiting consumption of candy and soda. Nurturing creativity was accomplished through drawing, building a stuffed bear and doing ceramic classes together. Visits to the zoo were always fun and informative. Visiting a farm and seeing a horse give birth could be a learning experience particularly when we are there to answer their grandkids' questions.

For children from the ages of 7 to 11 years old, they shared jokes and laughed with them. This was the time when they could begin to carry their load such as their own suitcases and to build new skills such as swimming, biking, hiking, riding buses, escalators,

> trains and planes. Playing games one-on-one was important as was taking time to enjoy the Disneyland fireworks and the Christmas light displays in various neighborhoods. The grandchildren at the age of ten did their own research on foreign countries and then got to independently choose their own special trip with their grandparents. This age was chosen because, as they get older, they would be more involved with

sports and other activities. Also, they would probably remember more than at an earlier age. My neighbor suggested giving each of them a camera so you would see how differently they see the world.

Ages 11 to 18 years old was an important time to teach the grandchildren how to invest by setting up stock accounts for them and talking monthly about their investments. This interest led them to read the daily stock reports in the newspapers. Then came the time when my neighbor taught each how to

Now two of the grandchildren are off to college in the fall. They are high achieving, confident adults and have been self-reliant about selecting the college of their choice.

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." - World Health Organization

The Dental Corner: Better Oral Health

Interested in Dentistry as a Career?

I plan to share insight about dentistry with young readers interested in pursuing a career in this field in the coming articles.

Dentists should help patients feel comfortable by being gentle, attentive, and understanding. It's crucial to be mindful of the patient's feelings and offer support as needed.

Dentists need to be effective communicators, as patients often have questions before agreeing to treatment. While some questions are easy

to address, others may be more complex ("How long will this treatment last? Is it worthwhile to save this badly damaged tooth?"). Articulating clear and helpful responses to these queries is a skill that requires time to master.

Bedside manners and communication are crucial skills in dentistry. If you want to be present with people and guide them through their questions and concerns, stay tuned for the next article!

Eric Kim, DMD: Family Dentistry 501 N Cornell Ave • 714-992-0092 www.erickimdental.com



Fullerton

• August 2, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm, Red Cross Blood Donation Center, 1379 S Harbor Blvd, Fullerton • August 3, 7 am - 3 pm,

Red Cross Blood Donation Center, 1379 S Harbor Blvd, Fullerton

Brea

• August 2, 1 - 7 pm, 500 E Imperial Hwy, Brea

BALANCE & CHANGE

by Michelle Gottlieb, Psy.D., MFT, LPCC © 2024

Making Changes

Are you familiar with the Serenity Prayer? It is full of wisdom. Here it is, in case you do not know it:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; Courage to change the things I can; And wisdom to know the difference. (prayer attributed to Reinhold Neibuhr, 1892-1971)

You don't need to believe in a higher power to take in these words of wisdom. It's important to have the serenity of acceptance for things that you cannot change. Struggling against something that is unchangeable will only bring you pain and frustration.

You have the ability to stop struggling against things that cannot be changed. Making necessary changes may require a great deal of courage, so make sure you have the support and tools you need.

It's crucial to be able to distinguish between what can be changed and what cannot. Investing your energy into what is possible is a much better use than struggling with what is impossi-

So, as you go about your day, please remember these words. And, as always, enjoy your journey!

My experience with eyecare

by Saskia Kennedy



At around 10pm, I made the decision to go to the emergency room as the migraine that had started at 10am was getting worse. At the St. Jude emergency room, the staff swiftly ushered me into a room, asked me questions, and began various tests. My blood pressure was very high, and I was blind in one eye with rainbows around all the lights in the other. I was given an IV of saline and Benadryl, which began lessening the pain right away. All the nurses and doctors were very efficient and professional.

My eye pressure was measured at 60 millimeters of mercury (mmHg). According to the Cleveland Clinic and American Academy Ophthalmology, eye pressure is measured in millimeters of mercury, like a thermometer measures temperature using mercury. Normal eye pressure is usually considered to be between 10 and 20 mmHg. Having eye pressure that's too low or too high can damage your vision.

After a battery of tests, a series of eye drops, and seven hours at the hospital, I was finally discharged. I promptly scheduled an appointment with an ophthalmologist at Tapadia Eyecare, a decision that would prove to be crucial.

It was during this visit that I was diagnosed with acute angle-closure glaucoma.

High eye pressure happens because fluid called aqueous humor can't flow freely in your eye. In angle-closure glaucoma, a bulging or swollen iris blocks the drainage system. The condition may develop quickly or over time.

Other names for angle-closure glaucoma are closed-angle glaucoma and narrow-angle glaucoma. Angle-closure glaucoma will happen to about 1 in 1,000 people. It's most likely to occur after the age of 40. One estimate by the American Academy of Ophthalmology is that 17.14 million people over 40 throughout the world have primary angle-closure glaucoma, with a majority (12.3 million people) in Asia.

Unfortunately, you can't prevent angle-closure glaucoma. However, screening eye exams with an eye care provider will help you know if you have risks. If you have eye pain, headaches, redness, and feel sick to your stomach, contact your provider or go to an emergency room. You may need immediate medical treatment to save your vision. Other types of angleclosure glaucoma also need treatment. It's best to find out what you have and how to treat it early in any condition.

Thank you to all the fantastic doctors and nurses who helped me.

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His

stepping down

was inevitable,

but his

gracefulness

and expressions

of gratitude

were special

and

valuable gifts

to the



Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2024 • JonDobrer@mac.com

What a Month!

They say that in politics, a month is a very long time. Well, this month seems to have begun a thousand years ago in a Galaxy Far Far Away and a whole different political reality.

My last article evaluated the disastrous debate performance of President Biden, a performance from which I believed there could be no recovery. I wrote, "11 minutes in, I said to my family that the election was over." I was half right. Biden's chances of leading the Democrats to victory were over, but not the election—not with a new candidate.

This month, Biden was nudged, noodged, pushed, pressured, and coerced to step aside. It seemed as if he were going to resist until he, his party, and his legacy came to a tragic end.

I saw his resistance and denial as tragic in the classic sense. I thought of King Lear, a once wise leader who, in his old age, arrogance, and hubris, made tragic decisions in giving way to flattery. Nearly everyone suffered: Lear, his family, and his kingdom. I saw Biden tempted by that path.

I felt the deep sadness for him as I did for Willy Loman in "Death of a Salesman." Willy, a once moderately successful traveling salesman, loses his gift of gab as he ages. His once immaculate suits, ties and snappy hat get worn, used, frayed, and ultimately become both cause and metaphor for his decline and suicide.

As I reviewed the film of Biden from years ago, the decline was clear, obvious, and hard to watch. It wasn't just an "off night." Never a gifted orator, he

was reduced to bouts of incoherence. Obviously, I can't diagnose the cause, but neither can I deny the decline. I hoped that he could hear and take in the feedback from people who cared for him and were courageous enough

to convey the difficult message. They did-Nancy Pelosi, Hakeem Jefferies, and Chuck Schumer, with whispers and some leaks, made it clear that it was time to step aside. Still, he resisted.

Then, the money slowed to a trickle, Hollywood closed the spigot. Neither hubris nor pathos could overcome this. He had to capitulate. Promising to be "in it to win it" meant that he was in it if he could win it. American people. When it became clear that he couldn't, he stepped aside.

Almost no one with power knows when it's time to hang it up. Nureyev danced well past his prime. My memory of Willie Mays' last days with the Mets, stumbling in the outfield still fills me with pain. Few people of privilege gracefully surrender their power. No ruling class happily gives up ruling. It's always a struggle.

This could have gone so terribly wrong. For a couple of weeks, it looked like the President might have been self-seduced by denial and

hubris—his version of Trump's "Only I." "Only I can beat Trump...Only I can finish my work."

Yet Biden eventually stepped away and did the right thing. It was hard for him to choose the party over his ambition and the nation over his party. Most normal people do not cede power willingly or gracefully.

His stepping down was inevitable, but his gracefulness and expressions of gratitude were special and valuable gifts to the American people.

> So, the torch has been passed to a new generation—and it's about time. Kamala may win or lose, but she does have a chance, and Americans have a choice. The model is clear: The Prosecutor vs. the Perpetrator.

> What a month! Of course, a few other events took place.

There was the assassination attempt on Trump. A horrifying event. Violence and violent imagery are not the answer. They may be our tradition, but they are harmful to our nation. Conspiracy theories instantly sprang to life. From the Right, "It was directed by the deep state."

From the Left, "It was a hoax perpetrated by the Right to win sympathy."

Most air crashes come not from a single failure but cascading failures. So, with the assassination attempt. I knew instantly that the shot came from outside the stands and from an elevated place. I wondered how that had not been secured. I correctly guessed that the shooter was a young, alienated male, and this would be a mental health issue and not political. More John Hinckley than John Wilkes Booth.

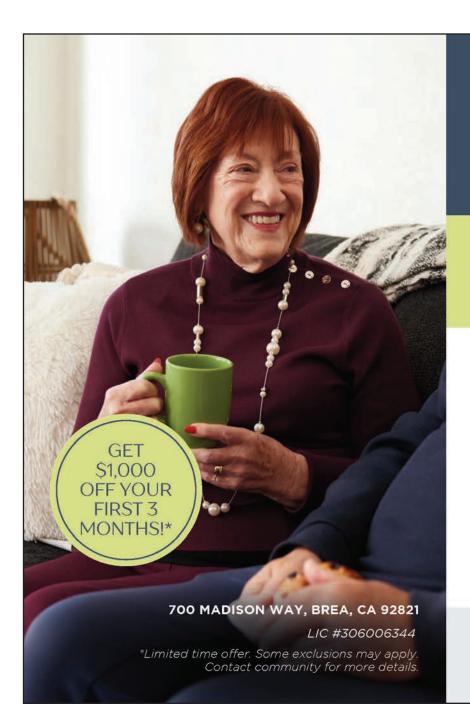
The cascading failures of the Secret Service were astonishing. Not clearing the elevated positions. Not stopping a drone that surveyed the field (It could have carried explosives!) Not meeting that morning with the local police. Not removing Trump directly without negotiating over shoes or his desire to stand up. There could have been another threat. Yes, the men and women were brave and prepared to die, but they did not follow protocol.

There was also the Republican convention. First, JD Vance was selected as Veep. He has a compelling resume: from near poverty to Marine Corps service to Ohio State to Yale Law. He wrote a best seller. He went from being a San Francisco liberal to acquiring mega bucks, from Protestantism to Roman Catholicism, and having very retro views on family, family planning, and the duty of women to stay in a violent and abusive marriage. Trump might regret this choice because it doesn't add any voters, and he might need to add voters running against Kamala.

After his brush with death, Trump promised a new and moderated tone. That tone lasted about ten minutes into his speech. He returned to his "nor-

Thirty days seem like a thousand years. I can't imagine the next thirty.

"The ballot is stronger than the bullet." - Abraham Lincoln



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AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2024



In the year 2025, if Trump gets himself (choke, gag) re-elected

If you haven't heard of or read about Project 2025, you'd better get real familiar with it real soon because it will be Trump's playbook from Day One or – if we dodge that orange bullet – the 2028 GOP candidate's. And you will find out–if you're lucky and haven't already–just how little it takes to get Orange Man angry, and what happens to you when Orange Man smash...especially if you're homeless, LGBTQ+, an addict, or all of the above.

The key to Project 2025 is three words: unitary executive privilege. Basically, it's an argument that the U.S. Constitution gives the President complete and total power over the other two branches of government: the legislative and the judicial. In other words, whatever decisions these two august bodies make can be overruled by the President (the executive), and that was the true intention of the founders. Which, it could be argued, would have been the case...if the majority of the founding males had been suffering from tertiary syphilis at the time they were crafting this founding document.

So let's assume the worst: Trump gets in and his minions start going about reconstructing the republic. Where would they start? According to their own plan, which is in the Project 2025 handbook, they would begin with what they consider the dark heart of the state: civil servants. The bureaucracy.

Here's where things start to get com-

plicated. Most civil servants are NOT appointed by the President. They are in the positions they are in because of their expertise, and expertise does not carry a party bias.

You don't care if the scientists at NASA or the rangers in the US Forest Service vote red or blue—you care if they know how to make the rockets go up and come down safely, and

you want rangers who understand how to and-most importantly-how NOT to interact with wildlife in our national parks

Nevertheless, the creators of Project 2025-mainly Kevin Roberts of the Heritage Foundation, one of the bestknown conservative think tanks-have decided to make ALL civil servants political appointees via Schedule F, which means loyalty oaths will be applied to ALL civil servants-no matter how irrelevant party affiliation is to their job. The architect of this part of the plan, Russell Vought, has calculated that non-political government employees comprise 68 percent of the bureaucracy of the federal government. This means thousands of civil servants will be compelled to either sign a loyalty oath to Trump or be replaced by mouth-breathers whose sole credential is being a big donor to Dear Orange

Leader.

According to their own plan,

which is in the Project 2025

handbook, they would begin

with what they consider

the dark heart of the state:

civil servants.

Let's just say that the potential losses to the government brain trust would be...catastrophic. When the qualification for a position becomes party loyalty and not decades of expertise, the result will be incalculable losses of life, liberty, and property. And that's just the tip of Project 2025's iceberg. Wait 'til you hear the other goodies!

If Trump is re-elected, one of the first things he plans to do is suspend habeas corpus. Habeas corpus is Latin for "you should have the body"--in other

words, the judge or court should have any person who is being detained brought forward so that the legality of their detention can be assessed. Without habeas corpus, a person can be detained

for any length of time without being seen by a judge. You can see why Trump would love having such power. "Detain my enemies for as long as I want without them seeing a judge? Where do I sign?" And it would be a perfect tool for detaining the unhoused–indefinitely.

And then there are other horrors for the MAGAots to get their jollies over, like Trump's stated intention to round up the unhoused, declare them "stateless," and put them in camps in godforsaken wilderness areas—hey, maybe he'll reuse the camps out here in the West that housed displaced Japanese-Americans during World War II! I mean, they're just sitting there unused! You wouldn't even have to refurbish them! Just imagine the savings!

Now, Titler won't actually be able to start locking up or rounding up people on Day One. But it won't take long for his people to begin replacing policy wonks with loyalists and left-learning judges with Trump-loving ones. So if you want to prevent this dystopian nightmare from becoming a hideous reality, you'd better start arming yourself with anger and knowledge. And read up on Project 2025. It's like Mein Kampf, if Hitler had had any capacity for linear thought. But it has one virtue: at 920 pages, it is slightly shorter than Atlas Shrugged.

https://www.project2025.org/



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for the candidate meet and greet in October.

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Nancy Elizabeth Bliss Estes 1952-2024



Nancy Elizabeth Bliss Estes, mother, grandmother, sister, friend, and resident of Fullerton for 54 years, passed away on June 2 at St. Jude Hospital surrounded by her family.

Nancy was born and raised in Hawthorne, California to Marie and Adolph Bliss. She had two older brothers, Allan and Randy. From an early age she developed a deep love for music. Her childhood inspiration was Julie Andrews. She knew from the time she was very young that she wanted to be an opera singer.

She moved to Fullerton to attend Cal State University, Fullerton in 1970. There, she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in music. Later, she returned to CSUF to earn her teaching credential in music education.

It was at CSUF that she met her husband and fellow musician. Chuck Estes. They were married for 30 years until his sudden passing in 2006.

With their combined love of music, they opened Estes Vocal Studio, where Nancy provided training for countless aspiring singers. Among the many talented students, Nancy taught through the years was the renowned soprano Deborah Voight.

After the death of her husband, Nancy began teaching music history and providing vocal training at local colleges including Riverside Community College, Norco City College, and most recently, Long Beach City College.

She also performed with countless local choral groups over the years, among them the Crystal Cathedral Hour of Power Choir, the Pacific Chorale, the Meister Singers, and the Camerata Singers. In addition, she had been a member of the group Tinbox Theatricals for many years and performed with them in their various seasonal musical showcases: Bloomers, Fall Fever, and A Child's Christmas in Wales.

Nancy loved to travel. Though she didn't get to every place on her bucket list, she was able to visit the Netherlands, Germany, France, England, Ireland, Wales, Kauai, and most recently had a memorable trip to New York City with her daughter, Gretchen, to see the Metropolitan Opera production of La Traviata.

Not all Nancy's bucket list wishes involved travel, however. In October 2007, another item from her list was fulfilled: a pie fight in honor of her birthday.

Nancy was an incredibly well-read, artistic, sarcastic, kind, beautiful person inside and out. She will be deeply missed.

Nancy is survived by her daughter, Gretchen, her son-in-law, Tim, her one-year-old granddaughter, Fiora, and her stepsons, Erich of Costa Mesa and Matthew of Eugene, Oregon. She is also survived by her two brothers, Allan and Randy, both of Auburn, California.

"All that we love deeply becomes part of us." - Helen Keller

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22

Sunday Service & Sunday school at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Testimony Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Reading Room: Monday thru Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.



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Marylouise Ukena Miller 1935-2024



Beloved Mother, Grandma, Great-Grandma and Teacher. Preceded in death by husband Gerald (Jerry). Longtime educator and resident of Fullerton.

Survived by Children David, Philip, Marian (Bartlett), Susan, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial service was held on Saturday, July 27 at 1:30 at the Fullerton First United Methodist Church, 114 N Pomona Ave Fullerton.

https://www.dignitymemorial.com/ obituaries/11860035



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City of Fullerton Employment

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Fire Department Utility Worker I/II

Full Time: \$89K - \$113K Annually Department: Administrative Services

Location: City Hall

Job Number: 2024-Fisc Oper Sup

Fiscal Operations Supervisor

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

Library Page I

Full Time: \$16 Hourly

Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)

Category: Library Department: Library Job Number: 2023-00009

Police Dispatcher - Lateral

Salary: \$4K - \$6K Monthly Department: Fullerton Police Dept Job Number: 2023-PDDIS-Lateral

Police Officer - Lateral/Academy Trained

Full Time: \$7K - \$9K Monthly Department: Police Dept Job Number: 2023-PO-Lateral

Principal Civil Engineer - Water & Senior Civil Engineer - Water

Full Time: See Discription
Department: Public Works
Job Number: 2024-srengw/prcegw

Community Services Leader Series - Community Center

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

Community Services Specialist Series - Community Center

Full Time: \$17 - \$18 Hourly Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited) Category: Parks and Recreation Department: Parks and Recreation Job Number: 02 - Community Ctr.

Principal Civil Engineer

Full Time - \$123K - \$157K Annually Department: Public Works Job Number: 2024-PRECG (CIP)

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- WAIT TO DIG until we either mark our natural gas pipelines or you

are advised that the area is clear.

• USE ONLY HAND TOOLS within 24 inches on each side of marked utility line to carefully expose the exact locations of all lines.

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OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

ANSWER KEY TO PUZZLE "FACE IT" on pg 7:



Puzzle Master Valerie Brickey was born in Fullerton and returned to raise her family here. She has contributed puzzles

since 2014.

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Glen Mann Makes **Palm Frond Figures**

Valencia Mesa Drive, you have probably seen animal and insect-like sculptures made from palm fronds either sitting, standing, crouching, or perched in upright positions in different front yards, residential street corners, and in front of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church. I've often wondered who makes these sculptures and why, so I contacted the church to see if I could obtain the name of the artist behind the works and was provided with contact information for Glen Mann, who has been working with found objects for years, beginning with his time living in Long Beach, and who continues to construct his unique sculptures after moving to North Orange County.

"Well, I lived in Long Beach on the third floor of a condo building, and on the third floor, you could see the top of all the queen palm trees," said Mann. "So every day, I'd wake up and see them, and finally, I just fell in love with them. I saw how beautiful they were, how the seed pods formed, and how they grew. Then, on the ground, I found one of the seed pod casings, so I made a small animal out of it and had it in the bushes. I had a yard sale, and a neighbor offered to pay for it. I said, 'Just take it. It's not even for sale.' So that started the whole palm frond thing. I saw that people were just drawn to it. Everything I made got such a strong reaction."

Early on a Thursday morning in late July, I met Mann by the church's community garden. He brought with him a red folder filled with notes that people had left on his old building. Going through the folder, he showed me photos of his sculptures that were made into physical cards by community members, revealed photos taken of some of his older bird-like palm frond sculptures, and read a few letters and correspondence complimenting his art, including one from an admirer of his work from Japan. Something in the folder must have jogged his memory because he recounted someone stealing an alligator sculpture he made and remembered that the next week, they left an envelope on his door with an apology and \$100 in it.

Mann said, "I would go around the

If you've ever gone down West city at night, initially just putting them out, and then the president of the neighborhood association found out who I was because I was making something outside, and she goes, 'So, you're the guy.' She kind of outed me, so then I was invited to events in Long Beach; they had an open invitation, and I was in the newspapers. Then, I was a featured artist at Night Dive at the Aquarium of the Pacific two years in a row. I didn't like the attention, but I dealt with it; I'd rather just do it anonymously."

He later left Long Beach with his partner and moved to Yorba Linda. Mann explained that he didn't think his art would go over well in Orange County because he initially thought, "It's so manicured here; Long Beach is a little less kept." Mann's neighbor, who happens to work at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church's preschool here in Fullerton, saw one of his bird sculptures and thought her director would love it. So, he showed it to the director, who said he could use a side of the property to work on his art.

"I immediately was excited because for like two years, I was meditating on finding a space where I could grow plants, farm even, and do my artwork," said Mann. "And I thought that wasn't going to happen, and I'd have to go out of the county somewhere where cheap land is. But then this came along, and I thought, 'How perfect.' I could do my artwork; there's a huge community garden, and at the preschool, I help out, volunteer, do whatever they need, so it's a nice trade-off."

Birds lend themselves naturally to palm fronds; at least, that's what Mann thinks. While walking around the church's community garden in a widebrimmed hat, he explained that he used to transport all his creations on the top of his 24-year-old Nissan Xterra. One day, a man stopped and asked Mann if he could put some of the sculptures in his backyard for a garden tour in order to raise money for cancer, so Mann did. A few women from the zoo who were on the tour said he perfectly captured the look of the birds.

He proceeded to show me an intricately constructed head that had fallen off a once 21 foot giraffe sculpture,



Above: Elephant sculptures made from palm fronds Below: Giraffe sculpture made from palm fronds



which had fallen down in the wind and had been deconstructed. According to Mann, his giraffes are very popular, but so are the birds, turtles, alligators, and insects he makes. In fact, he says that insects were his most commonly stolen sculptures in Long Beach. It turns out, despite his doubts, Mann's artwork has been well-received in Orange County, except in Yorba Linda, where he put up a bunch of sculptures around the city, and they disappeared in a couple of days.

"I know a guy who has a landscaping company, and when he does queen palm trees, he'll ask me if I need the parts. That's pretty nice; in Long Beach, I used to have to scavenge for them," said Mann. "I don't consider myself an artist. I never did. I'm just creative, I think. But I'm more guided by something. Like I'll find pieces and see what they're going to be."



