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# New Parking Law and Changes in Ticketing

Fullerton Police Department Notice

The Fullerton Police Department is advising residents of two significant updates regarding parking regulations. Beginning February 24th, the city will resume street sweeping ticketing, following a directive from the City Council issued in January. Residents are urged to adhere to the parking restrictions indicated on posted signs to avoid citations.

In addition to the resumption of street sweeping enforcement, a new state law AB 413 has recently taken effect, mandating that vehicles maintain a 15 to 20 feet distance from intersections and crosswalks. This legislative change aims to enhance visibility and improve traffic flow while also promoting the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists by giving them more visibility unobstructed by vehicles.

Residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these updated regulations to ensure compliance and contribute to safer roadways in the community.

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Shana Charles, Bill Preston and Amirah Saafir at the screening of "Black Barbie" at CSUF's Titan Student Union on Feb. 6. See story on pg 3

## Fullerton's Potential Shift to Charter City Status Discussed on March 4 by Vince Buck

Item 14 on this week's Council agenda proposes that staff study the possibility of making Fullerton a Charter City rather than remain in its present status as a General Law City. Unless you are studying for an exam in California politics, there is not much you need to know about these two types of cities.

There are currently about 482 municipalities in California, of which more than 121 are charter cities (Figures vary and are not necessarily up to date.) The latest charter cities were added in November after the elections, approved by a simple majority of voters. The principal differences are that charter cities are given more control

over "municipal affairs," a surprisingly loose and flexible term that includes municipal elections, term limits, compensation, financing public improvements, some special taxes, and to fend off state requirements for building more housing.

What is not in the agenda packet is who is proposing this study and what the purpose is. The city has struggled for well over a century with general law status. Why this change and why now? Does someone see this as a way to raise tax revenue or avoid statewide housing requirements? Transparency is not a priority with this Council. Here is the agenda packet here: https://fullerton.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

After nearly 80 years in Fullerton, the iconic Mo's Music store closes on May 13.

See story on page 6

# BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ENHANCEMENTS AT CITY COUNCIL

The City is launching a Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Enhancement Plan to improve walking and biking, particularly in underserved areas. A major focus will be to complete a key section of the Brea-CSUF-Santa Ana River Trail extending on Nutwood Avenue from State College Boulevard to Placentia Avenue by creating safe pathways under the 57 freeway and planning for a future pedestrian and bicycle bridge

Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. has been chosen to lead the project, and their proposal cost was reduced from \$1,696,955 to \$1,249,643, which fits within the City's \$1,300,000 budget for design services. The project is expected to be completed in a year, after which there will be presentations to City committees and CSUF.

Community input will be crucial as Kimley-Horn works on safety concerns and aligns the project with the Fullerton Bike Connection Plan. This item will be discussed at the March 4 City Council meeting at 5:30pm which will take place at City Hall located at 303 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton

## **Mystery and Sadness Linger After Deportation of Fullerton Couple**

The recent detention and deportation of the parents of three young children here in Fullerton has raised significant concerns within the local community. The incident was reported in the mid-February *Fullerton Observer*.

At the time, there was uncertainty about the children's safety; therefore, all parties' names were withheld.

The *Observer* asked Fr. Dennis Kriz, pastor of St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church, for an update on the wellbeing of the family.

"The parents' names were José and Gloria Gomez. The story was told to me by a parishioner who was their neighbor. The parishioner came to church on Thursday, January 30, quite upset, saying that ICE had taken the mother, Gloria, at about 6pm the previous evening from Gloria's home, leav-

ing three children, 5, 7, and 9, with their aunt Rosa.

"Gloria's husband, José, had been picked up quite randomly by ICE as he was leaving the Food4Less grocery store on Orangethorpe and Euclid in Fullerton on Tuesday or Wednesday, January 21 or 22. The agents were asking for and checking IDs of people who looked like they could be undocumented. José argued with them a bit but then gave them a false ID, which was taken away.

"By the time I had been talking to the parishioner reporting the story to me on the 30th, José had already been deported back to Michoacán. The concern was about the whereabouts of the mother, Gloria.

"She resurfaced again in Michoacán a few days later. In the meantime, the aunt took the three little children to Tijuana and put them on a plane to Michoacán, where they were reunited with their parents. Jose has already taken on a job in construction back in Michoacán.

"The Gomez family appears to be doing well. However, the family has endured significant losses. It is unclear whether they rented or owned their home; the family left behind their belongings and the community they had built in Fullerton.

"Since the parents were summarily deported without trial, we who watched this happen are left again without any idea as to why this happened.

"All we see is that a family that once quietly lived here in Fullerton with three small children is now gone."



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#### **RE: Education Column**

Education funding and oversight is such a tangled web, and Observer readers are lucky to have Vivian Moreno's column to help unwind it. In her mid-February column she listed all the moving parts and their functions as clearly as one can hope for. Prior to the last election, she did the same for the school ballot measures. Thank you, Vivian!

**Leslie Allen** Fullerton

#### **RE: City Council Notes:** Feb. 18, 2025

Wow, what a difference with Pro Tem Charles at the helm! Brava! That's the way you listen to the people. Erik Candless Fullerton

Generally, I'd rather have Council members who are long-winded but thoroughly explain their thought processes on public matters, as opposed to Council members like Jung, Valencia, and Dunlap who often offer little to no clear explanation of their votes.

Amy A Fullerton

She cut off the new councilmember. Wouldn't allow her to talk.

Hal Gabb Fullerton

Editor Response: Only the chair is allowed to interact with the public. Councilmembers can correct or dispute a public comment only when it is their turn to speak. The council follows Robert's Rules of Order, which are a set of guidelines for conducting meetings to maintain decorum.

#### **RE:Overnight Parking**

As a former renter in one of the many apartment complexes on the south side of West Union Avenue, I can testify to the City's greed and lack of sincerity in claiming to provide a way to get streets exempted. A couple of other apartment-renters and I spent over a month in the summer of 2003 going door-todoor in all the apartments, wrote the buildings' corporate owners, and the owners of the houses on Vista Verde Drive (whose enormous properties become the land on the north, hilly side of West Union Avenue), where the south-side apartment renters would have liked to park overnight (if they had more than the one car allowed for the complexes' alleyway garages.

The City refused our massive stack of signatures, however, because of one Vista Verde property owner who hadn't signed. Dozens of apartment folks had to suffer years' more tickets thereafter, since the City wanted the funds more than it wanted to meet the needs of residents. I would be extremely wary, therefore, of trusting the City not to nit-pick the signatures of any petition in order to find an excuse to deny an exemption request and honor their claim that "75%" of residents could sway them.

In 2003, at least they didn't require the ridiculous \$567 fee (and what bureaucrat came up with that exact amount?), which makes me even more distrustful now. The City's greedy probusiness/conservative majority has long kowtowed to the demands of noisy business owners, as proven by their bowing to the diktat of the ONE who shot down the Walk on Wilshire, when a 2-2 tie in the Council somehow became a majority vote! Their claim of allowing an exemption process for parking enforcement rings hollow and the fee should be cut entirely to show their sincerity.

> Randy Baxter Fullerton resident since 1999

I agree with all articles written in the Mid-February 2025 Fullerton Observer pertaining to overnight parking. Actually, all Fullerton's parking ordinances should be enforced. This could provide revenue for the city to fix our streets, which everyone knows is really needed. It would also prevent our streets from becoming parking lots for someone's business and enable our street sweepers do the job that we pay for. It's very frustrating not to be able to park in front of your own home or never get street sweeping because of illegal parking.

George S. Fullerton

#### Film Crew Shuts Down Resident Parking

Very inconsiderate (and unreasonable) to commandeer our streets for an unbroken period of time--it's one thing to say "no parking 7a -6p" and a whole 'nuther thing for it to be several days 'round the clock). There's a LOT of street-parking in this high-density area. Are residents going to be compensated for the inconvenience? And what about street sweeping? This will cause "mayhem" indeed.

Judy Berg Fullerton

#### HOW TO VOICE YOUR OPINION

The Observer welcomes letters on any subject of interest. Opinions are those of the writer. We must verify your identity, but we allow initials and town to be printed, or anonymous attribution if a reasonable case can be made. Opinions sent to us without name, address and phone number will not be printed. Due to space, shorter letters have a better chance of getting in. Send to contact@fullertonobserver.com or mail to: Fullerton Observer, PO Box 7051, Fullerton CA 92834

## **National Giving Alliance of Fullerton Needs Your Support**

by Beverly Berryman

The National Giving Alliance (NGA) has provided vital support nationwide for over a century. In Fullerton, the local branch has made a difference since 1952, continuing the tradition of neighbors helping neighbors.

#### A Legacy of Giving: The History of NGA

NGA was founded in 1885 in Philadelphia by Mrs. Alanson Hartpence, her niece, Mrs. Laura Safford Steward, and six friends. Inspired by the Oueen Mary's London Needlework Guild, they aimed to create garments for those in need. In their first year, they produced 921 garments for children in hospitals, orphanages, and needy families, ensuring each child received two articles of clothing—one to wash and one to wear.

By 1896, the Needlework Guild of America (NGA) was incorporated and quickly grew to 300 branches across 20 states by the early 1900s. Notable women leaders, including First Ladies Roosevelt and Frances Cleveland Preston, supported NGA. During the Great Depression, Preston led a clothing drive to help families in need, while Roosevelt praised the organization's efficiency, stating it accomplished much with minimal effort.

In 2023, the organization officially changed its name to the National Giving Alliance to reflect its broader mission. NGA operates 24 branches in seven states, with national headquarters in Warminster, PA. California has two branches, including the one in Fullerton, which will celebrate 70 years of community service next year.

#### Why New Clothing?

NGA believes that "new clothes equalize, and used clothes pauperize." Providing new clothing fosters dignity and self-worth, particularly for children, helping them feel confident in school, work, and life.

#### **How NGA Fullerton Works**

The Fullerton branch serves local organizations, including:

- Crittenton Services
- Pathways of Hope
- FJUHS District
- Fullerton School District
- La Habra School District
- Robbie Bobbie
- Young Lives Redeemed

When a need arises, requests go to the Clothing Director, who informs the Shoppers. Volunteers then purchase the items and deliver them to the designated contact, and receiving reimbursement for their generosity.

#### How You Can Help

NGA Fullerton depends entirely on donations and volunteers to fulfill its mission. Here's how you can support this vital work:

• Volunteer as a shopper: Join the team that fulfills requests for clothing and other essentials.

• Make a monetary donation: Every dollar helps fund purchases for individuals and families in need.

• Attend the fundraising luncheon: Join NGA for their annual luncheon on April 2 and learn more about the impact of their work.

Every contribution—big or small makes a difference in the lives of children and families in our community.

#### Join the Mission

As NGA Fullerton celebrates 70 years of service, the organization invites you to be part of its story.

To get involved or donate, contact the NGA of Fullerton at NGAfullerton@yahoo.com or mail to P.O. Box 6294, Fullerton, CA 92834-6294.

Together, we can ensure that every member of our community has the resources they need to succeed.

## 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.

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

Created & Published in Fullerton by local volunteers since 1978 Published by Fullerton Observer LLC

**N**EXT DEADLINE FOR WRITERS & ADVERTISERS IS MARCH 10. THE MID-MARCH ISSUE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED on March 17.



Panelists L to R: Asya Harrison, Amirah Saafir, L. Monique Ward, Antwaan Michael Simpkins, Kristin Denise Rowe, and Amirah Kambe

## CSUF Celebrates Black History with Screening of "Black Barbie" by Stepheny Gehrig

In honor of Black History Month, Cal State Fullerton's College of Health and Human Development hosted a screening of "Black Barbie", a documentary that explores the introduction of a Barbie of color to the toy line, together with an expert Q&A panel on the film, on February 6 at the Titan Student Union.

Directed and written by Lagueria Davis, "Black Barbie" is a deep dive into the significance of the first Black Barbie doll to hit the market in the '80s. Sparked by Davis' grandmother, Beulah Mae Mitchell, the Mattel employee who was among the first to ask the company to make a Black Barbie, Davis outlines the build-up to the release of the first Black Barbie and explores its significance and the need for inclusive representation.

CSUF's own Amirah Saafir, Ph.D., assistant professor of child and adoleswhich she also provided research.

Shana Charles, mayor pro tem and associate professor of public health at CSUF, presented a proclamation from the City of Fullerton to Bill Preston before the documentary. Charles and Saafir then introduced the film and a partial screening of the film followed

"This film explores the history of Black Barbie and specifically focuses on the three Black women who were at the helm of conceptualizing her, who were the ones who said, "We should have a Barbie who looks like me," who decided what she should look like and made sure she exists in the form that we see her in today," Saafir said. "I had the honor of contributing research. My particular role was to look at how Black Barbie impacts children today."

Closing out the three-hour event, a panel took to the stage as a Q&A was

cent Studies, is featured in the film, for hosted by Asya Harrison, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology at CSUF, and undergraduate public health student Amirah Kambe. In discussing the nation's political climate and the influence of inclusion, the panelists opened the door to enthralling and important conversations about political and societal influence on media, racism and inclusivity.

> "Black Barbie was in the background of my childhood," Saafir said. "Black Barbie, she's not just a doll. She's a cultural icon that impacts representation and toys in media and what it means for identity development and personal development to see somebody that looks like you."

> A notion that "Black Barbie" highlighted is that a movement toward inclusivity and representation has only been accomplished at a small scale, and there are more efforts to be made.

While there are strides toward inclusivity, taking no of what is deemed palatable in Western society is important in order to acknowledge and critique the non-inclusive or racist notions that can arise.

"The figure of the Black Barbie is allowed to mature, expand and take on different contours from the neck down, not because of representation but because we have a collection of white women who want bodies they cannot have or afford," Antwann Michael Simpkins, a graduate student in sociology at UCLA, who was featured in "Black Barbie," said during the Q&A. "What I think makes that moment possible is the Kim Kardashians who want to be Black women."

"Black Barbie" is available on Netflix. The film is rated for mature audiences and has a run time of one hour and 34 minutes.



Fullerton Sunrise Rotary shows up to assist residents of Truslow who are beautifying their neighborhood.

## Truslow Playground Transformed with help from Fullerton Sunrise Rotary Club by Kristen Groves

Twenty-five volunteers gathered on Saturday, February 8, at Truslow Park, 401 E. Truslow Ave., to create a clean, welcoming outdoor space for the children of the Truslow community. The first to arrive were local community members who served coffee to eager volunteers. The Fullerton Sunrise Rotary commissioned local artist Andrew Sturdivant to direct the mural. Sturdivant assembled the paint supplies and draped a tarp over the pavement under the unfinished left half of the mural. In addition, Sturdivant's 10-year-old song, Andrew, carefully painted the mural's brown background.

The unfinished mural is bold and vibrant, giving fresh, natural vibes despite consisting of acrylic paint on a two-foot cement curb. Local children chose the mural's images and visuals. Maple Elementary students drew what they would like to see on a mural in their community. Rotarian James Bobbett smiled toward large monarch butterflies on a blue background in the middle of the mural and said, "That's where the idea for the butterflies came from.'

A tent was assembled to shade volunteers, and curious homeowners in the neighborhood began to stop by to watch the action. Since adopting Truslow Park two years ago, Rotarians, community supporters, and students gather every second Saturday of each month to offer basic maintenance such as mulching, pruning, leaf clean-up, and trash pickup.

Altogether, volunteers involved in the mural agreed removing the old layers of graffiti and city paint was challenging. It took three months of work to expose the bare cement as the volunteers had to remove as much as 1/4 inch of paint in some areas.

Fullerton Sunrise Rotarians boast the slogan "People of Action". The estimated \$7,500 mural commission is funded from multiple sources. This includes the Sunrise Rotary's annual fundraiser, the Orange County Community Foundation, and the Rotary District 5320 match fund.

If you would like to volunteer or donate, contact Fullerton Sunrise Rotary Club at fullertonsunriserotaryinfo@gmail.com.

## City Council Notes by Tara Novelli

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 click on meetings and agenda. City Hall is located at 303 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton Contact Council at (714) 738-6311 or council@cityoffullerton.com

### **February 18 Meeting**

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

mously except Item 14, pulled by Councilmember Jamie Valencia, who wanted the public to know the cost of infrastructure improvements around the City. Public Works Director Bise agreed to give a brief presentation about that at the end of the agenda.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS / ITEM 14

As a former member on the Infrastructure and Natural Resource Committee (INRC), Councilmember Valencia wanted the public to know that, "We spend a lot of money on our roads and our streets and we still have a lot of roads to fix and repair, pipeline, sewer lines, etc., etc., streets, lights, you know, the whole gamut. And I feel like the general public should get some more transparency on the cost for us to fix even just a mile of road."

Director Public Works Bise explained that "Item 14 is an award for construction mainly for water and sewer mains. The project award to do this construction is just under \$2 million. That gives about a mile of water main and about 1/4 mile of sewer and this project does not even include repaving of those roads. The area will be repaved with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. However, the remaining portion has no funding to date."

"The whole project is about \$2.5 when design contingencies, inspection, testing, and construction are included. Included in all bid package awards is the itemized list for costs of construction elements. For this project there are a few high-priced items to install.

"For instance, 8-inch PVC water pipe

The consent calendar passed unaniis \$130 per linear foot. So if you add that up, it's a 4,300 linear feet, that's \$562,000. The City is installing a few fire hydrants. So for example, 4 standard fire hydrants are \$17,500 each (\$70,000 for four hydrants). And we're doing five that are streamer types, that's \$19,000 each (\$95,000 for those). So it adds up. Construction is expensive.

"We do have a lot of information on road paving and infrastructure costs on our website (https://www.cityoffullerton.com/government/departments/public-works)," said Director Bise.

"Specifically talking about repaving local neighborhood roads, it costs anywhere between \$1.2 to \$2 million per mile. The width of a road plays a factor in quantities and economies of scale when you're trying to bid out a project.

An arterial street is about double that. Anywhere between \$3.5 to \$4 million per mile. Construction unfortunately is very expensive, whether it's water mains, sewer mains, other types of infrastructure, or pavement or concrete."

Valencia thanked Director Bise and spoke about the importance of getting the money together to do these jobs and informing the community about the expense.

Mayor Protem Charles thanked Director Bise for the information and Councilmember Valencia for bringing the item forward. She reminded the public that the commissions and committees that study these subjects also hold meetings that are also open to the public. She directed anyone interested in coming up with ideas on how to cover expenses to the Fiscal Sustainability Committee.

Item 14 passed unanimously.



#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

2025-2029 Orange County Regional Assessment of Fair Housing **Notice of Public Meetings** 

#### **Program Description:**

Federal and State laws prohibit discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, negotiation, advertising, and financing of housing. The 2025-2029 Orange County Regional Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) is a five-year planning document that examines housing and demographic data to identify fair housing issues, determine contributing factors, and establish goals to ensure fair housing choice, address disproportionate housing needs, and increase access to opportunity. The geography addressed by this AFH includes 27 incorporated cities throughout Orange County as well as the unincorporated areas.

Public meetings will be held to provide an opportunity for residents to provide feedback on fair housing issues. Orange County residents are invited to attend any of the following public meetings:

- · March 5, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. at Santa Ana City Council Chamber, 22 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701 • March 5, 2025 from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm at Santa Ana City Council Chamber,
- 22 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
- · March 6, 2025 from 10:30 am 11:30 am at La Habra City Hall, Festival Rm, 110 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631
- March 6, 2025 from 6:30 7:30 pm at Costa Mesa City Hall, Community Rm, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Two virtual meetings also will be held. To access the meetings, visit the URL listed

- · March 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. https://bit.ly/OCAFH
- · March 13, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. https://bit.ly/OrangeCoAFH

#### **ADA Compliance:**

All in-person public meetings will be held at locations accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone who requires public documents in an accessible format, the jurisdictions will make reasonable efforts to accommodate requests. If special assistance is required to participate in a public meeting, the meeting host will attempt to make accommodations in every reasonable manner. Please contact David Flores, Housing Programs Coordinator for the City of Santa Ana at 714-647-6561 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to describe specific needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

Language Access: Translation services for participants in the public meetings will be available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Mandarin, and Arabic.

#### CITY MANAGER LEVITT'S REPORT

City Manager Eric Levitt talked about the issues surrounding the new water billing system. "We've started sending out inserts in the water bills" to provide more information. The water bills were delayed and sometimes reflected 90 days instead of the usual 60-day billing period. There have also been some people with water leaks, which caused larger water bills. Anyone concerned can contact City Manager Eric Levitt's office (714-738-6310).

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

- Jung appointed Jose Trinidad Casteñeda to the Community Development Citizens Committee
- Valencia appointed Susan Herzel to the Senior Committee

#### **Municipal Code Amendments** for Housing Incentive Overlay Zone (HIOZ)

Ordinance number 3337 passed unanimously.

This clean-up of the HIOZ passed at the December 10, 2024 meeting deals with notifications and height restrictions and adds a requirement that staff mail notices to property owners, tenants, and businesses within 300 feet of any HOIZ project. It also sets height limits of 30 feet on projects within 100 feet of historically designated houses or houses in preservation zones R-1P; R-2P; R-3P.

#### **Public Comments:**

•Curtis Gamble said he supported the item but was disturbed that "the Municipal Code for Emergency Shelters has not been updated since 2015. It should be included in the Housing Element." He recommended the City update the code to be more like Anaheim's 8-page code, which includes state and federal laws and city ordinances that are more comprehensive than Fullerton's 3-page version. "We are part of this, but you keep leaving us out," he said.

•Jane Reifer thanked the council "for hearing the public and applying the protections." She hoped that identified historic properties that have not yet been designated would be included in the process. She also asked that project notifications be posted on the City website so that the general public would be aware and that an interest list for upcoming project notifications be developed. Always a great proofreader she offered some corrections to the agenda information. While it was true that the Housing Element was passed on January 7 "this is really about the HIOZ, which was passed on December 10. And though it says there was a second reading on January 21, that one was pulled and brought back tonight."

#### **COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

Only Mayor Protem Dr Shana Charles had anything to report though before she began, she was reprimanded by Mayor Fred Jung over Zoom about her responses to the concerns brought up by the public. "If you are speaking on behalf of our council you may be laying out information to the public that may not be, one germane, or two, factually accurate. I would defer to our staff to answer those questions so they have direction accordingly," said Jung.

Mayor Protem Charles responded, "OK, thank you – so noted. As this is my first time sitting as chair, I would like to inform the public that I did mention to the City Attorney, before we stepped in, that if he felt I was overstepping the bounds of what I should be saying to please feel empowered to step in and let me know." She said she was informed that she could direct staff in discussing comments and asked the City Attorney if he had anything to say. He said he had no comments.

Mayor Protem Charles began her council report by saying she was very excited and honored to chair the session, with Mayor Jung unable to be present. She said she was excited about attending the OC Power Authority meetings and the OC Sanitation Board plishments of Black women.

as an alternate and learning about what they do. She reminded the public of the many ways she can be reached through social media, including Facebook (Shana Charles Council Member); Instagram (Shana.CharlesOfficial); Email to shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com, and in person every Thursday open office, 12noon to 2pm at City Hall (although for the last week in February, she will be at Titan Walk at CSUF). She also sends out a monthly newsletter to anyone interested.

She attended two important events open to the public at CSUF - a countysponsored Fentanyl Awareness & Education event where free naloxone nasal spray kits and overdose instructions were given out. She said it is incredibly easy to save someone's life with the kit available through OC Healthcare Agency.

The second event was a Black History Month celebration featuring the documentary "Black Barbie," which features CSUF professor Amirah Saafir. She highly recommended the film, which can be seen on Netflix. Also, during the celebration, there was a special recognition of Civil Rights icon Rosa Parks and the accom-

## PUBLIC LIBRARY ADJUSTS HOURS **DUE TO ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTION**

The library will operate under adjusted hours due to elevator construction in the building. The noise from the construction is expected to be very disruptive, leading to these changes in hours:

> Sunday, Monday: Closed • Tuesday-Thursday: 2:30pm-7pm Friday: 2:30pm-5pm. •. Saturday: 11am-5pm

Hunt Branch will remain open as usual.

These changes will take effect starting on March 4 and will continue until the construction of both public and staff elevators is completed, which is expected to be before June.

This project is part of the Building Forward #2 Grant that the Library received from the California State Library to improve infrastructure and address critical maintenance needs.

#### **Proposed 2025 Special Events Calendar**

- Parks & Recreation Manager Hernandez presented the proposed 2025 Special Events Calendar, which is designed to engage the community, promote local businesses, and provide entertainment for residents of all ages.
- 1) Community Yard Sale proposed for Saturday, March 15 at Independence Park is an opportunity to declutter your homes, discover treasures, and have a safe space open to the public with free admission. Space rents for residents (\$25) and non-residents (\$35). (\$2000 General Fund)
- 2) Fishing Day at Laguna Lake is scheduled for March 22. This is a free event. Registration is required because there are spaces for 200 kids only. The lake will be filled by California Fish and Wildlife. There'll be food trucks, and learning how to fish and spend the morning at Laguna Lake will be a lot of fun. This event is funded by a private donation. (\$3000 Private Donation)
- 3) Every Thursday Night Downtown Farmers Market returns on the first Thursday of April through the end of August. About 40 to 50 vendors participate on any given night. It includes live music and a museum beer garden. (\$5250 x 20 Thursdays = \$105,000 for the year from General Fund)
- 4) Eggstravaganza at the Downtown Plaza last year got rained out and was moved to the Fullerton Community Center. This year the City is looking to host the event on Saturday, April 19 at the Hunt Library from 10am to 2pm. Free. Grant funded. Photos with Spring Bunny, music, food vendors, and various kids activities, including face painting. (\$10,000 from Hunt Programming Grant)
- 5) Fullerton Airport Day Saturday, May 31. It is a free event to attend and is very popular and it's an opportunity for members of the community to visit the airport. View static displays, Enjoy helicopter rides, interactive displays and a kidszone with lots of fun. (No funding info given)
- 6) Food Festival at the Hunt Library on Saturday, June 28. Budget from the Hunt Programming Grant. Features an array of food from around the world along with live music performances and cooking demonstrations to highlight the thriving food scene in Fullerton. (\$5000 from Hunt Programming Grant)
- 7) 4th of July, there are five different proposed options. The cost of the event will remain free to attend.
- Option A: 4th of July celebration taking place on Thursday, Jul 3 during the downtown Fullerton market. So we would just enhance it with activities, games, contest, live bands. There are no fireworks proposed for this option. (\$20,000 General Fund)
- Option B: City of Fullerton 4th of July parade from the Orange County Courthouse to the Downtown Plaza. 9am start time, approximately about two hours. The parade will feature musical school bands, various city departments, bike organizations, officials, local organizations that would like to participate. There are no fireworks proposed for this event due to availability. (\$50,000 General Fund)
- Option C: 4th of July celebration on Thursday, July 3 from 2pm to 9pm in the Downtown Plaza. Car show with games, rides, live band,

- entertainment and a 20-minute fireworks show to conclude the evening. (\$195,000 General Fund)
- Option D: Host the 4th of July parade from the Orange County Courthouse to the Downtown Plaza with a festival event at the conclusion of the parade from 11am to 2pm featuring a live music contest, entertainment but no firework demonstration. (\$75,000 General Fund)
- •Option E: Not have a 4th of July event. (\$0)
- 8) Summer Movies in the Park on Wednesdays at various parks throughout the City. Free to attend. Activities will start about 6pm with movies starting at sunset. Food trucks, games and various sponsors and organizations. This would be a general fund budget item. (\$10,000 General Fund)
- 9) Friday Night Live Concerts at the Fullerton Sports Complex in the month of August. Free to attend. We would obtain funds from the Brea Dam. Live music, friends and family activities and food trucks. (\$35,000 Brea Dam Fund)
- 10) 2nd annual PupToberfest at the Hunt Library on October 11. Free to attend. The budget would be coming from the Hunt Programming grant. Features various dog breed races for small, medium and large dogs and puppies and dogs in costumes, kids activities, vendors and various food trucks. (\$7000 Hunt Programming Grant)
- 11) OctoBOOfest is held in October. We do increase the budget a little bit there for various kids' activities. This last year we had a magician who was very well-liked and we'll have various kid-oriented vendors, free trick or treating and a costume parade throughout the event. (\$2000 General Fund)
- 12) Turkey Trot Fall 5K. We're still working on that, but the idea is to either have it at Laguna Lake or at the Fullerton Sports Complex around Thanksgiving. We are looking for a minimal registration fee (\$40). Features health and fitness instructors, the local contractors to do warm-ups and partner with local companies to have a vendor fair. (\$10,000 General Fund or Brea Dam Fund)
- 13) Veterans' Day Celebration. Due to the closure of the local American Legion Post there was no celebration last year, but this year we are proposing to host one on November 11, 10am at the Hillcrest Park Great Lawn. Free to attend. Featuring military service with guest speakers and patriotic performance and potentially a gun salute and Fire & Police Departments. (\$20,000 General Fund)
- 14) Tree Lighting Ceremony Friday, December 5 proposed at City Hall. Free to attend. Face painting, photos with Santa, kids activities. We're looking for local performances and various vendors. Budget from the general fund. (\$10,000 General Fund)
- 15) First Night to welcome in the new year at the Fullerton Plaza 7pm start time through midnight, concluding with fireworks. Close all of downtown including Harbor Blvd and the surrounding streets. Features food, the businesses. Attendees freely stroll through the downtown and enjoy music, food and a fireworks show. (\$175,000 General Fund)

#### Council and Staff Discussion:

During a council meeting, Mayor Protem Charles praised staff and opened the floor for questions regarding fireworks for the 4th of July. Mayor Jung inquired about difficulties in securing a fireworks vendor, and Manager Hernandez explained that last year's vendor was uncomfortable with the location, and other vendors were unavailable due to long-term contracts with other cities.

Mayor Jung also questioned why funding was drawn from the general fund instead of seeking sponsorships. Deputy City Manager Perez noted that sponsorship efforts were ongoing but not finalized for this report.

Councilmember Nick Dunlap expressed frustration over the inability to organize fireworks while surrounding cities managed to do so, highlighting the cultural significance of July 4 celebrations. He mentioned a previous idea for multiple celebration locations and criticized the late discussion on this issue.

Deputy City Manager Perez clarified that cities mentioned by Dunlap do not allow the sale of certain fireworks, leading to their locked-in contracts with vendors. She suggested exploring a long-term agreement for prioritization.

Dunlap recalled past sponsorships from Republic Services, indicating that such arrangements should be leveraged upfront to support these events.

Councilmember Jamie Valencia proposed considering a drone show as an alternative this year, but Dunlap maintained that nothing replaces a traditional fireworks display.

#### **Public Comments:**

- Mr. Harrison highlighted the need for better public handicapped parking and transportation for events, advocating for designated areas for disabled attendees. He also suggested considering drone shows as a safer alternative to fireworks.
- Matt Truxaw applauded event planning but pointed out the absence of vendor fee estimates that could help offset costs. He encouraged the Mayor and Councilmember Dunlap to leverage their fundraising experience to seek sponsorships for events.
- A resident shared frustration over the timing of fireworks planning, suggesting that if fireworks couldn't be arranged for the 4th of July, it may be better to cancel the event altogether.
- Curtis Gamble called for a well-coordinated celebration, whether it be with fireworks or drones, and proposed

- improving bus transportation for ease of access during events.
- Victor Cortes proposed moving the fireworks to the 3rd of July to coincide with existing celebrations, suggesting it would satisfy vendors and residents alike.
- Anjali Tapadia raised the idea of extending the Farmers Market into October, highlighting its popularity and positive impact on community connection and city revenue. She emphasized the importance of events in fostering community spirit, even as she expressed a personal attachment to fireworks on the 4th of July.

#### **Back to Council & Staff**

Mayor Protem Charles requested that Perez explain the shortened timeframe for the farmers market, which was attributed to budget cuts and a decline in attendance after the school year began. Perez mentioned that other events like the Friday Night Live concert series and Octoberfest were added to enhance fall programming.

Dunlap emphasized the farmers market's value to the community and expressed support for extending it through September while wanting to assess costs. He mentioned the community's successful 4th of July event from the previous year and indicated disappointment over its potential cancellation this year. He noted that the bike parade is a significant local event that the city has informally supported.

There were discussions about possibly replacing the fireworks show with a drone display, with a vendor offering a customized 15-minute show within the existing budget. Valencia shared her memories of festive 4th of July celebrations and inquired about feasible locations for fireworks. Chief Loeser explained challenges due to high fire severity areas in the city and noted that Cal State Fullerton was considered but deemed cost-prohibitive. He mentioned that Amerige Park could be a potential location for fireworks with further assessment.

Mayor Jung expressed concern over the idea of a more subdued celebration for the 4th of July, indicating that a drone show wouldn't be sufficient to honor the occasion.

The motion to approve all events - with staff direction to bring back extending Farmers Market through September (with budget) and to bring back 4th of July location options with fireworks passed unanimously.

## Fullerton Updates Water Billing Process

Fullerton residents are being informed about changes to their water bills due to a switch to a new billing system. Bills for the month of February will show a longer service period of about 65 days. This adjustment is designed to ensure that all water usage is accurately recorded, especially for a portion of the summer months that hadn't been billed earlier.

Importantly, there will be no increase in water rates.

Typically, customers who receive bimonthly bills get six statements each year. However, this year there were only five bills issued in 2024. The adjustment aims to make sure everyone is billed correctly during this transition.

To make things easier for residents, the city has expanded water usage tiers by 15,000 gallons, which should help lower overall charges. There is also good news on late fees—no late fees will be applied to bills due from May 2024 to June 2025.

For those who may need extra help managing their payments, the city is offering payment plans.

Residents can call (714) 738-6890 for more information and assistance or visit www.cityoffullerton.com/util-itybill.

## **How to Pay Your Utility Bill Online:**

www.cityoffullerton.com/utilitybill to pay and sign up for our new online portal. Registration steps are listed under "Billing Information."

By Phone: Call (877) 768-8795. Have your Customer ID and Account Number ready.

## "You Don't Miss Your Water 'till your well runs dry."

That song lyric jumped off the wall of Mo's Music when we saw the photo of Gram Parsons just inside the door, and that thought will never ring as true as when Mo's doors close for the final time on May 31. That abrupt closing was first mentioned here on the *Observer* site on February 7, and we promised more info on this issue.

The suitors are circling. Fortunately, so far, at least one offer to keep the store alive and the condos at bay is in the mix. This brick-and-mortar is more than a building or a business. For many, Fullerton's last and only music store is a living, breathing space for teaching, learning, and sharing music, which has fed its survival since 1946.

Everything is rapidly disappearing off the walls, halls, and floors, as Roger and Company are now liquidating, and the business goes dark after an astounding 78-plus years in business. It's all 40% off now, so get there soon.

Roger told us he could keep things going if he was 20 years younger, even with the insane challenges of today's retail market, but he needs to start taking it easy and maintain his health. Well done, sir. Happy relaxation and travels.

Mo appeared on the scene in 1984, years after Millard and Dwayne Lundi took over for their Dad, and certainly, she was the driving force for decades. Her husband Roger has been a fixture and central to the store, as well, of course, and has been the



After nearly 80 years in Fullerton the iconic Mo's Music store closes on May 31, 2025.

big cheese since her passing in 2016. Another big piece of the heart and soul has to be Larry Samson, who has been there since 1971. Try to name a local guitar player who has NOT spent time with Larry. Good

Stories? Larry has a few, and as he revealed, under pressure, every April 1, he added an out-of-place item to Mo's legendary window display of hundreds of stuffed bears and each time, Mo eventually found

One year, Larry did nothing, which was the best prank of all. Unknown to me (I was President of the FDBA at the time), "someone" faked our letterhead and had a guy in a business suit hand deliver a letter telling Mo she had just been voted in as the new head of the Business Association. Was it his doing? "Possibly, but I'll never admit to anything."



EARLY MARCH 2025



#### **TMZ**

Once again, being close enough to production companies in the LA area, we found ourselves hosting yet another downtown shoot. A TV production began on Thursday, February 27 and continued through midnight Friday. Elle Fanning, Nicole Kidman, Michelle Pfeiffer and Dick Offerman star in this David E. Kelley series called "Margo's Got Money Troubles" adapted from the book. It's set in the world of Only Fans meets the world of professional wrestling, which means you will have to read the book or watch the



The location manager for Jellybean Ghost, the production company, told us he had been in talks with residents and business owners in the area, making sure they knew what the parking impact would be. We noticed they had many, if not most, crew members park off Harbor behind Angelo's & Vinci's. That lot has been fenced off for some time, so now it gets put to good use. In the interest of not intruding, we did not ask for access or take photos of the set, but hey, a photo of trucks, oh boy. Perhaps we will follow up at a later date.

#### No Reservations needed (310)538-4211

## \$25 Seven Days a Week

Pick up times & locations are: 7:30 & 11:30 am in Norwalk Town Square at Pioneer & Valencia 8 am & Noon in Fullerton Bowlero at 1501 S. Lemon & 91 Hwy

PALA Casino Spa Resort COMPLETE CHARTER



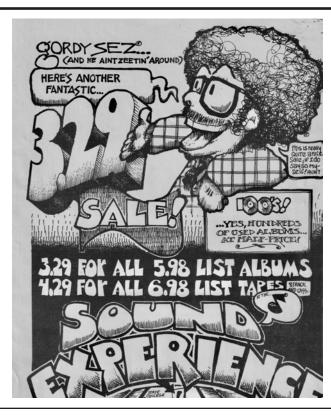
4 HOURS OF GAMBLING FUN!

## Photo Quiz Send answer to Mike at AllMedia@sbcglobal.net



Last time: Yes, indeed, it was right there next to the original RR Depot.

This time: Where and when was this **Fullerton** Record Store serving music lovers?



## OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

"EDGY" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 15)

1	2	3			4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13	П		14		15						16			П
17				18							19			П
20	П							21		22		23		П
24	Г	Г				25	26					27		П
28	Г	Г			29	Г		Г		30	31		Г	П
32				33			П			34			Г	П
			35			Г	П	36	37	Г	Г			
38	39	40					41	Г		Г		42	43	44
45	П					46						47		П
48				49	50					51	52			П
53				54		Г				55			Г	П
56	Π		57		58		59	60	61					П
62					63			Г			64			П
65	Γ				66	Г	Г	Г	Г			67		П

#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Blade in the water
- 4. Like draft beer
- 9. "Do \_\_\_\_ others..."
- 13. Jazz home
- 15. High-end German appliance maker
- 16. 12-time NFL Pro Bowler Junior
- 17. Part of a full count
- 19. Kirk's rank, briefly
- 20. Daly's TV co-star
- 21. Sorbonne summer
- 23. "Voices Carry" pop group \_\_\_\_ Tuesday
- 24. Fit for a king
- 25. Prepare to surf?
- 27. Brian of ambient music
- 28. LAX info.
- 29. Pouty look
- 30. "Bel " (novel by Ann Patchett)
- 32. "Fantastic Mr. Fox" director Anderson
- 33. Agreement
- 34. "No worries"

- 35. Aide
- 38. The 44th President
- 41. "Aladdin" parrot
- 42. Kung chicken
- 45. Archangel in "Paradise Lost"
- 46. Slight advantage
- 47. Tulsa sch. named for an evangelist
- 48. o' shanter
- 49. Some funny GIFs
- 51. Quarterback Favre
- 53. Tech. school degree
- Lanka
- 55. Hand-dyeing technique
- 56. No-frills grocery chain that collects a deposit for a shopping cart
- 58. Land way down south
- 62. Dressed (in)
- 63. Serta rival
- 64. Oft-injured knee parts, for short
- 65. High-fat, low-carb diet
- 66. Chew the scenery
- 67. Firm

#### **Down**

- 1. Got too big for
- 2. Wheaties box adorner
- 3. Krypton, for one
- 4. Russell Vought is the current dir.
- 5. Actress Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"
- Aviv
- 7. Contend
- 8. Basil-based sauce
- 9. Trojans univ.
- 10. Puts in order 11. Access, as a resource
- 12. Forecast
- 14. Peggy Lee's " Tramp"
- 18. Night school subj. 22. Tarzana neighbor
- 25. Centers of activity
- 26. Like some pitches, and a hint to
- this grid
- 29. More, in Madrid

- 31. Long distance inits.
- 33. Sacred songs
- 35. Black church inits.
- 36. Identifies, as in a social media post
- 37. Bio bit
- 38. Popular Subaru model
- 39. Raised writing
- 40. Set one's sights on
- 42. Study of verse
- 43. Newspaper piece
- 44. "Hey Ya!" duo
- 46. Marshall Mathers
- 50. Clear the board
- 51. English channel?
- 52. Pro
- 57. Swear words?
- 59. 2000 film "The of Steve"
- 60. Ctrl- -Del
- 61. Potent potable

#### How to contact your District Representative

- Mayor District 1: Fred Jung (714) 738-6311
- fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com
- Mayor Pro Tem District 3: Dr. Shana Charles (714) 738-6311
- shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com
- District 2: Nicholas Dunlap (714) 738-6311
- nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com
- District 4: Jamie Valencia (714) 738-6311
- jamie.valencia@cityoffullerton.com • District 5: Dr. Ahmad Zahra
  - (714) 738-6311 ahmadz@cityoffullerton.com

MONDAY PROTEST IN BREA

OFTHE PEOPLE

**Every Monday in March 2025 CORNER OF IMPERIAL HWY & STATE COLLEGE** 

BREA - OFF THE 57 FRWY 5:00pm to 6:30pm



## **Indivisible CA-45:** A Local Force for Change in Fullerton

by Deborah Langenbacher, PhD, Founding member of Indivisible in Fullerton

You may have heard of "Indivisible" at the national level or on the news, but did you know that there is an Indivisible chapter alive and well in Fullerton?

Our local group began in 2017 in reaction to Trump's first presidency. A small group of people quickly grew to over 1,000 in then California's 39th congressional district. The motto was to resist Trump's agenda and to work locally.

Our goal was to remove Ed Royce as our congressman and to elect someone with a more progressive outlook who would counter the MAGA agenda. We persisted, with weekly visits to Ed Royce's office, sometimes in large groups while at other times only a few people. Eventually, we succeeded and got Gil Cisneros elected in 2018.

With the 2020 election, census, and re-districting, CA-39 became CA-45, losing some cities such as Diamond Bar and Chino Hills, and gaining new territory such as Cypress and Hawaiian Gardens. Our new member of Congress was Michelle Steel, and we persisted in our work to remove her from office, having success with one of the tightest races in the country, electing Derek Tran as congressman for CA-45 in 2024.

After the 2024 election, our work to resist Trump's agenda, and particularly Project 2025, has gained momentum, with new members and greater urgency to protect our rights and our democracy.

Following the guidelines set forth by

the national Indivisible, we are currently working to build community, connect with those under threat (e.g., immigrants), support independent journalism, and, of course, have fun doing all this. Our goal is to work with Congressman Tran to support moral and progressive legislation.

At our first meeting in January 2025, we outlined some of the areas of Project 2025 where we will work locally to influence over the next several months:

- Immigration,
- LGBTQ+,
- Children,
- People living with disabilities, and
- Those facing racial discrimination

Some of the areas identified by Indivisible CA-45 members to address are keeping public benefits such as public broadcasting, Social Security, Medicaid/ Medicare, public education, and libraries.

We will persist in our efforts to build a relationship with Congressman Derek Tran and his staff, including tracking his votes on important legislation, requesting meetings and a town hall, and regular contact with phone calls and emails.

Indivisible CA-45 is committed to working with other groups that have a similar focus because when we all work together, we will prevail in our efforts to defend our democracy.

Please join us at: indivisibleca45.org, facebook.com/IndivisibleCA45, or bsky.app/profile/indivisibleca45.org

## **Disability Rights Panel Discussion** Sunday, March 23 at 1:15pm

Join the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fullerton (UUCF) for a Disability Rights Panel Discussion. The presentation is free, but we will collect donations to help Eaton fire victims with disabilities.

Speakers include: Dr. Jesse Weller (SGPRC), Dr. Shana Charles (CSUF), Donovan Rinker-Morris, JD and more. The presentation is held at UUCF, 109 E. Wilshire Ave, in the First Christian Church of Fullerton sanctuary. Free parking is available in the 3-story parking structure on Wilshire Ave.

Questions? Please contact administrator@uufullerton.org.



## HITS & MISSES

by Pamela Mason Wagner © 2025





#### **PADDINGTON IN PERU:** A HIT AND A MISS

The latest movie adaptation of the beloved children's books by British author Michael Bond, Paddington in Peru retains the charm of Paddington 1 & 2, while trading the cozy feel-good surroundings of the bear's beloved London for excitement and adventure in "darkest Peru." Perfectly voiced by the most British of actors (Ben Whishaw), Paddington remains a polite, unintentionally mischievous bear who often makes a mess while trying ever so hard to get things right. His adopted family, the Browns (Emily Mortimer replacing Sally Hawkins as his mother with Hugh Bonneville as his apprehensive father), follow Paddington to Peru to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy at the Home for Retired Bears.

Upon arrival, Aunt Lucy turns up missing, thrusting the travel party into an action-adventure-style chase. They strike out into the jungle in search of Aunt Lucy and, unbeknownst to them, El Dorado, the mythical city of gold. The thrills include vertiginous trips down waterfalls, and soaring airplane rides over forest treetops, with cinematography, animation, and CGI blending at a high level of technical bravura. Yet, the idea that the film might also be teeing up a theme park ride does cross the mind. Or perhaps the frantic pace was deemed necessary to hold the attention of youngsters raised on computer games and comic book franchise movies. However, much of the action and the loud soundtrack may prove too frightening for very young children – and teens will (played by Madeleine Harris and Samuel Joslin), be bored or roll their eyes.

Adults will enjoy the movie references, including a nod to Indiana Jones, and Olivia Coleman (as Reverend Mother, head of Aunt Lucy's retirement home) channeling Julie Andrews in A Sound of Music. My favorite line might be Olivia Coleman's: "Sacred Incan rock ruins aren't really a nun thing." Her performance is worth the ticket price, rivaled only by Antonio Banderas as Hunter Cabot, a riverboat driver with conflicting intentions about helping others or helping himself. His boat, with its luxurious mahogany paneled interior cabins, contains another movie reference: the steamship Fitzcarraldo, the 1982 film by Werner Herzog, also set in Peru.

Beneath the silliness, there are ideas at play: What is a family? What is home? For refugees, do loyalties lie more with their country of origin or their adopted country? In his blue duffel coat and wellingtons, Paddington outdoes the Brits at being British. But has he surrendered his identity in order to assimilate? Bond's books contain similar questions. The inspiration for the character of the lost bear in a train station waiting to be adopted stemmed from Bond seeing Jewish refugee children arrive in London during World War II bearing luggage labels similar to Paddington's tag "Please adopt this bear." The poignancy of that origin story continues to pervade the franchise, which might explain the star power willing to sign up for seemingly light-hearted duty.

One can enjoy Paddington in Peru likely, like the Brown teenagers without seeing Paddington 1 or 2 first. But for those who saw the second film, stay for the credits, which deliver fun to the final frame.

> • Two Hits: Don't Miss it! • A HIT & A MISS: You Might Like it. • Two Misses: Don't Bother.

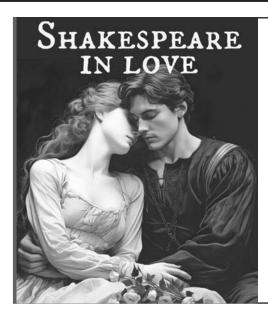


**DINNER:** 7 days a week! 5pm to 10pm • Fri & Sat to 11pm **LUNCH:** Mon through Sat 11am to 3pm

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



114 W. WILSHIRE AVE • DOWNTOWN FULLERTON



#### MAVERICK THEATER

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

#### **Shakespeare in Love** through March 16

Young playwright William Shakespeare struggles with writer's block on his latest comedy "Romeo and Ethel the Pirate's Daughter". Hope is lost until his greatest fan, the young wealthy Viola De Lesseps, dresses up as a boy and auditions for the part of Romeo.

#### At the Muckenthaler Cultural Center

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

#### Florence Arnold, Hard Edge Visionary On view: Feb 20-March 30 in the Main Gallery

Florence Millner Arnold, known as "Flossie," was a significant figure in Fullerton's cultural scene. A music teacher for most of her career, she began painting in the 1950s, leading to her active involvement in the arts. She served as president of the Orange County Art Association, co-founded the annual "Night in Fullerton" event in 1966, and was a member of the City of Fullerton Cultural and Fine Arts Commission. On her 85th birthday, the city honored her with the "Key to Our Hearts" for her numerous contributions to the community.



## **Fullerton Friends of Music presents** Jolivet Trio - flute, harp, bassoon Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 3:30pm

Fullerton First United Methodist Church, 114 N. Pomona Ave.

three musicians perform regularly with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Los Angeles Opera and the Santa Monica Symphony. The joy these musicians have found playing together and the communication special they share make this unusual combination of instruments and unique and rare concert experience.



All concerts are free. For more information, visit our website: FullertonFriendsofMusic.org, or call (714) 447-8364



## Save the Date! Saturday, March 22, 2025

A Day of Authors

at the Titan Student Union, CSUF

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:** Craig Johnson and Alison Espach

#### **BREAK-OUT AUTHORS:**

Désirée Zamorano • Jennifer Torres Nancy Cole Silverman • Susan Meissner Rick Jackson and Matthew McGough

**New this year:** Books can be ordered in advance and picked up at A Day of Authors. Details to follow.

#### California State University, Fullerton

800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton

#### **Broadway Bound and Beyond**

Sunday, March 2, 2025, 3:00 pm

Meng Concert Hall, Clayes Performing Arts Center \$50 each. Reserve tickets https://events.fullerton.edu/rsvp.aspx?levent\_sk=584 A review style performance, with singing and dancing.

Broadway Bound and Beyond is a fundraising performance for the College of the Arts. The monies raised support student showcases, master classes, and other projects for the students in theatre, dance, and music.

#### **Fullerton College**

321 East Chapman Ave • 714-992-7271
Gallery Hours: 10am-12pm | 2pm - 4pm
Open Fridays by appointment

## A Hero's Journey with Armand Serrano, the 2025 Artist in Residence through March 26

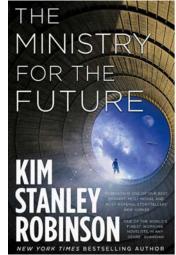
Art Lecture: March 6, 2025, 7-9pm at the Wilshire Auditorium Residency Week: March 3 - 7, 2025, 9am - 2pm in room 1023



Thank you Fullerton!
Proudly Serving the Fullerton
Community for over 28 Years!

Serving Breakfast & Lunch
Tuesday-Sunday 8-2PM
Private Events, Catering, Customized Menus

305 N. Harbor Blvd. Ste 115 Fullerton, CA Café: 714-526-9123 Catering: 714-454-3356





#### California State University, Fullerton

800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton

#### World-acclaimed climate fiction author Kim Stanley Robinson, Talking About the Future

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 3:00 pm

Titan Student Union, Titan Theater • Free to attend, no RSVP required The Patrons of the Library proudly announce world-acclaimed climate fiction author Kim Stanley Robinson, Talking About the Future. Kim is a New York Times Best-selling Author, Multiple Award-winner, and Time Magazine "Hero of the Environment." He will be talking about his novel, The Ministry of the Future, and possibilities for positive change.

## **Friends of Coyote Hills**

info and contact: coyotehills.org

## Nature Walk

Saturday, March 8

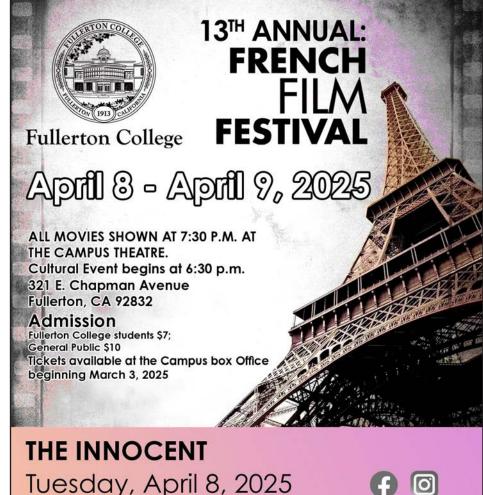
Please join us for a Nature Walk, from 9am to 11am, on the trails of West Coyote Hills and Robert E. Ward Nature Preserve. Meet at the driveway to the equestrian ring and dirt lot, approximately 3044 Lakeview Dr. Bring water to drink and wear comfortable shoes. Rain 24 hours before cancels.

#### Adopt-A-Park Saturday, March 15

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. Rain 24 hours before cancels.

@fcfrenchfilms





LES PETITES VICTOIRES

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

## Fullerton School District: The Safe and Welcoming Schools Resolution

by Vivien Moreno

At the February 18 Fullerton School District board meeting trustees agreed on a bold resolution to address the daily fear that district children are feeling with concerns that Immigration Control Agents or other federal officials will come onto school campuses and take people away.

The Safe and Welcoming Schools Resolution states that the district protects all students regardless of immigration status, nationality, gender identification, ethnicity, or race or any identifying factors against all persons or entities who wish to do them harm. District personnel will not grant federal personnel access to school campuses, students, or records unless specifically stated in a signed warrant by a federal judge.

Parents called the resolution a necessary statement against the intimidation and bullying of the new federal administration. The Safe and Welcoming Schools Resolution helps support an environment where "... people feel a sense of safety and belonging (instead of) exclusion and fear. Silence is complicity, so we must act now to protect our children." stated Dr. Jody Vallejo, FSD parent and USC Professor.

The Safe and Welcoming Schools Resolution will be voted on next board meeting.

Parents of students with disabilities spoke to trustees about possible future cuts to their children's educational accommodations due to the Trump administration's threat to dismantle the Department of Education. Federal money and laws ensure equitable education environments for students with disabilities, but most of the money

comes from the state general fund. At this

time, the district commits to educating all students in the safest and best possible environment and so far, no monies previously promised by the federal government have been revoked.

#### Mid-Year LCAP Update

The newly required LCAP midyear update was presented by Director of Education, Mr. Sung Chi. The report reveals the current fiscal expenditures a district has made compared to budgeted expenditures. It assesses available data that a district considers to measure student achievement goals and alignment with district and board policies and goals districtwide.

The elementary district has four goals for student success: academic achievement, a safe and secure environment, technical and digital literacy, and parent and community engagement. The Fullerton school district has data supporting test scores going up in both English language arts and math across the district and issues still apparent in chronic absenteeism and suspension rates. The Trustees did not ask questions about the data, but promised more discussion at future meetings.

The Board voted to release the first Measure 'N' facilities bond allocation to raise \$49 million in facilities funds. Superintendent Dr. Bob Pletka stated that the bond's first year goal is to have a facilities project completed or started on every campus in the district by the end of this year.

Next FSD Board meeting is scheduled for March 11 at 6 pm.

# Fullerton Joint Union High School District: Mid-year LCAP by Vivien Moreno

At the February 11 FJUHSD board meeting, Dr. Sylvia Kaufman, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, and Dr. Josh Porter, Director of Education Services, presented the mid-year Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) update. Dr. Kaufman reviewed the district's new 3-year goals of raising FJUHSD's proficiency scores in English Language Arts to 80% and math and science to 60%, increasing student career and college readiness, and raising a greater percentage of English learner (EL) student's reclassification to "fluent English proficient."

They achieve these goals by strategically focusing the teacher professional development-supporting Professional Learning Circle (PLC) culture, introducing Special Education Coteaching program, supporting student mental health services, enriching English Learner (EL) family engagement, and use the 3x a year assigned NWEA diagnostic test to gauge the progress of 9-11 grade students.

Using the FJUHSD Board priorities of student achievement, effective instruction, engagement, a safe and respectful environment, and optimizing fiscal resources as a guide, I wish the trustees had publicly asked about student impacts from these strategic focus areas. Dr. Kaufman and Dr. Porter reported having clear achievable goals and building connection through storytelling with an abundance of data, similar to October's Education Services presentation, but without much context on actual student impact.

The trustees are not responsible for FJUHSD's day-to-day operations, but they approve budget allocations, and none of the trustees have publicly inquired about the NWEA diagnostic test assigned to students three times a year in addition to AP, IB, PSAT, and benchmark testing. How long does the test take for students? Does the assessment count towards their grades, mastery of subjects. In other words, what do students get out of this test?

There has been no public clarification of which students are served by Professional Learning Circles (PLC). Is it the 27 students that Dr. Porter mentioned when talking about La Vista/La Sierra's ABC program which addresses credit recovery and chronic absenteeism? The ABC program serves students with high level support needs, but many students struggle at less intensive support levels.

Dr. Porter did not address Trustee Chester Jeng's request months ago to explain how district efforts to increase 2024/25 parent participation were going up from 2023/24's 995 in district parent surveys. FJUHSD's chronic absenteeism rate (where a student misses 18 or more days during a school year) went down from 17% to 15%, but none of the board members asked what methods were utilized to address the issue, especially concerning special populations of students experiencing homelessness, students with disabilities (SWD), and EL students.

Noting effective methods on best use of funding may assist board decisions when addressing future budget cuts. FJUHSD suspensions and chronic absenteeism dropped districtwide for the 2023/24 reporting year, but are still higher than the state average for SWD and EL students.

The reclassification of the district's 1,500 English learners (EL) and long-term English learners (LTEL) to fluent English proficient is complex. For the last 5 years on average, 41% of EL students made yearly progress, and the issues preventing progress were not addressed. Dr. Porter said the district is revisiting the English Learner Master Plan.

The midyear LCAP report allows parents and community taxpayers to understand where school districts spend money, which students they effectively serve, and how the district assesses succuss. FJUHSD has great goals, but without trustees publicly asking how effective these focus areas support the district's special student populations, it is difficult to assess the board's understanding of what actions work for the district.

Next month's board meeting includes discussion of Student with Disabilities Education plan, possibly a new coteaching program actions, and expanded art classes.

#### **Early Retirement Outcome**

The districtwide early retirement package offered in December was accepted by 80 staff, 46 certificated and administration and 34 classified. This will account for almost 8% of the district workforce, and easily reaches the 24 certificated teachers set by Business Services to achieve the cost savings goal the district set out when offering this early retirement package.

Next FSD Board meeting is

## Fullerton Joint Union High School District Artists at the Muckenthaler by Stepheny Gehrig

Walking through the Muckenthaler Cultural Center doors, visitors were greeted by a life-size handmade costume of a plant creature — a creation by Fullerton Union High School students Isabella Savage and Eadyn Ochoa.

Savage and Ochoa's piece was among multiple pieces on display as the Muckenthaler featured artwork from students in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHSD) from January 23 to February 9.

Spanning three rooms, pieces were sourced from all types of mediums, including textiles, photography, paint, ceramics, and even repurposed products.

The artwork allowed for discourse of strong, hard-hitting issues such as political and societal critiques, identity, and introspection, while also offering pieces that provided an escape into a

whimsical and fantasy realm.

Each piece included a plaque that explained the source of the idea, the materials used, and the creative process — allowing visitors to gain insight into the artists' imagination.

The opportunity to display works at the Muckenthaler not only provides students with a chance to add to their portfolios but also gives these artists a moment to shine in the limelight. It gives local young artists a platform through which their creations can be engaged by others throughout the community.

This annual exhibition features the work of 100 talented high school students from La Habra, Fullerton, Troy, Sunny Hills, Sonora, Buena Park, La Vista, and La Sierra. The collection was judged by the students' own art teachers and is comprised of a variety of mediums.





#### Featured Pet by Jules, 7th grade



#### **Meet Summer**

Though it's still winter, you can find a taste of summer at OC Animal Care with Summer, our delightful

two-year-old Siberian Husky! Currently in a foster home, Summer loves spreading joy and meeting new people with her affectionate kisses.

She is crate-trained, potty-trained, and knows how to "sit." Summer enjoys playing fetch and tug, and she'll happily use your couch as a jungle gym!

Described as well-behaved and obedient, Summer's enthusiastic personality makes her a great fit for a family with older children. Come meet her

Could that be yours? Schedule a visit with Summer (A1896374) by calling (714) 935-6848 or visit their website at ocpetinfo.org.

## Trending by Alicia, 7th grade

#### Should Pennies Be Abolished?

The debate over whether pennies should be abolished has been going on since the 1980s. While some argue that these small coins have outlived their usefulness, others believe they still serve a purpose in everyday transactions. With the U.S. Mint continuing to produce millions of pennies annually, it's worth examining the benefits and drawbacks of eliminating them from circulation.

One of the strongest arguments for abolishing pennies is their lack of practical value. Due to inflation, a penny today buys far less than it did in the past. People often leave pennies in tip jars, on the ground, or in containers at home, rarely using them for purchases. Additionally, the cost of producing pennies exceeds their actual worth. It costs the U.S. Mint more than one cent to manufacture each penny, leading to a financial loss for the government. If production stopped, millions of dollars could be saved each year and redirected toward more beneficial public serv-

Another advantage of getting rid of pennies is the potential increase in efficiency. Transactions involving pennies can be time-consuming, whether at cash registers or during bank exchanges. Many stores have customers who fumble for exact change, slowing down lines and frustrating employees and shoppers. If pennies were eliminated, prices could be rounded to the nearest nickel, making transactions quicker and more straightforward. Some countries, such as Canada and Australia, have already phased out their lowest-value coins without significant negative consequences.

The opponents of abolishing pennies raise valid concerns. One major issue is that businesses might use the change as an excuse to round prices up rather than down, leading to higher costs for consumers. Even if rounding rules are established to balance increases and decreases, some worry that businesses will subtly shift prices in their favor, impacting low-income individuals who rely on exact cash payments. Furthermore, some people argue that pennies hold sentimental and historical value. Abraham Lincoln's portrait of the penny has been a symbol of American history for over a century, and many believe that removing pennies would be an unnecessary loss of tradition.

Another potential downside is the impact on charitable donations. Many fundraising organizations rely on small change donations; without pennies, some charities could see a decline in contributions. While nickels, dimes, and quarters could still be donated, studies suggest that people are less likely to part with higher-value coins as freely as pennies.

Overall, the debate over abolishing pennies comes down to weighing efficiency and cost savings against traditional and economic concerns. While many argue that pennies are outdated and costly, others believe they still have a place in everyday life. Whether or not the U.S. government decides to eliminate pennies, it is clear that this small coin carries a much larger dis-



## It's Girl **Scout Cookie** Season in Fullerton

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led business in the world. They're hard at work with the help of an amazing support system. At left is a father and daughter Girl Scout Cookie team in front of Ralphs on Harbor Blvd., Fullerton.

#### Health by Declan, 9th grade

## California's Extreme "Whiplash Weather"

California has experienced extreme ized cities like Los weather conditions from raging fires, high winds and droughts to immediately experiencing heavy rainstorms and floods, the cycle is otherwise known as "weather whiplash," so that it is only fair to worry about the intense consequences of climate change as global warming increases.

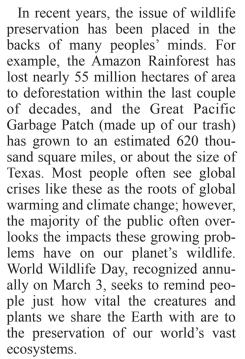
The increase in natural disasters is linked to the increasing consumption of energy but more specifically the increase in the use of fossil fuels. With fossil fuels warming the planet, the intense climate swings will worsen in severity with the recent experience just being the start. CNN reports how the series of winter storms last year "doubled the average amount of vegetation for the region," which fueled the many raging wildfires in January that terrorAngeles.

The frequency of wildfires is expected to increase in California because of the high amounts of grass and brush produced in the rainy seasons, which is then dried and flammable in hot summer months. This sequence paired with windstorms like the ones felt from Santa Ana reaching up to 100 mph, caused devastating destruction with firefighters unable to combat the flames.

"Whiplash Weather" became more acknowledged this year as Californian regions that fell victim to natural disasters question whether they should rebuild destroyed infrastructure. What we once ignored and now experience, now needs to be responded to by both officials and citizens.

## National Observance by Mateo, 11th grade

#### World Wildlife Day – March 3rd



Like many other world observances, World Wildlife Day is the brainchild of the United Nations (UN). The particular date, set in December 2013 during the UN's annual General Assembly, was selected in commemoration of a pivotal document signed 40 years prior that placed strict regulations on the trade of endangered wildlife. The UN's primary goal with the event is to spread awareness throughout the world of the crucial roles that animals and plants alike play in providing humans with food, shelter, medicines and the like. Additionally, the UN aims to highlight the fact that the diverse environments and processes that make our planet beautiful and suitable for humans would likely not be possible without the aid of the wildlife around us. This year, World Wildlife Day's theme is "Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet". As such, the UN is placing a special emphasis this year on how world pow-

ers and organizations can use their money more efficiently towards the development of wildlife conservation programs, with the hope of creating a future that is more sustainable for all organisms on Earth.

There are many ways you can get involved this year during World Wildlife Day. For one, you could go out and spend time enjoying the wildlife that offers us so many benefits. Feel free to grab some friends and visit a zoo, take a stroll through a park or garden (like the Fullerton Arboretum), or swim among the fishes in one of SoCal's many beaches once it gets a bit warmer. Another potential option is to utilize social media to spread the word to others. Share a fun wildlife fact, post a picture of a unique animal or plant in your area, or do anything else that will convince your peers to join in on the

As much as people despise talking about it, the preservation of our Earth's wildlife is in a critical state at the moment, and with an estimated 1 million more species projected to become endangered within the next year, the issue is continuing to trend downwards. World Wildlife Day works to give people a reason to care for the 80% of frog species and 75% of bird species that live in areas threatened by deforestation, as well as the thousands of fish species hurt by plastics and overfishing yearly. World Wildlife Day offers a way for people to get involved in the preservation of our Earth and the development of a stronger and more sustainable future for generations to

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out a leader.

The Fullerton

City Council

is going with

"same old,

same old."



## OPINION: Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2025 • Jonathandobrer.substack.com

## Who Will Lead? Rudderless ships of State in Stormy Seas

There is a clear crisis of leadership in blown up by Vice President Vance the West. When we look around our nation (the USA) and our world (the only one we have), we can easily determine who leads the right-wing and authoritarian movements. Liberal leadership is harder to find.

What nation leads the Free World? Up until a month ago, the answer would have been the United States. We had the power and prestige. We had earned our place by protecting the "Free World," with both military and moral authority.

Since Trump's election, we have not drifted but raced from our support of democratic institutions and nations. In the third week of February, we went all the way and changed sides. We switched from supporting Ukraine to now supporting Putin and Russian expansionism. With our refusal to sign on to the UN resolution marking the sad anniversary of Putin's invasion of Ukraine and then offering our own intentionally vague and morally offensive resolution just decrying the violence, we ceded our position as leader of the Free World. But to whom?

To make a bad situation worse, we followed this up by ambushing Ukrainian President Zelenskyy in public. An already tense meeting was

launching a personal attack on our INVITED guest and then going on to insult the Ukrainian people. He demanded that our guest, a democrati-

cally elected president, grovel and pull his foreattempt to get him to pay back (a gift) by exchangand our legacy leaves his nation for our goodwill. We offered no more than that—no security

agreement of any kind. "Just give it to us to show your appreciation," they seemed to say. When he dared defend his honor and his country and refused to roll over, Trump threw him out of the White House. "Threw him out," was Trump's own characterization.

We picked a truly terrible time to withdraw into a Neo-Fortress America. Our abandonment of our allies, our history and our legacy leaves the Free World without a leader. We have neither a person nor a nation to champion the interests of Western Liberal Democracy.

Germany, with arguably the strongest economy, is going through a crisis of leadership and a re-evaluation of just

who they are and will be. The traditionally strong Social Democrats are in retreat, having been destroyed by Merkel's generous but ruinous acceptance of a million Muslim immigrants. The anti-immigrant right and far right are growing. Prime Minister Olaf Scholz is going out of office. Friedrich Merz is likely to succeed him but without clear moral authority. The far-right Alternative für Deutschland, which garnered 20% of the vote, is frozen out of the government. But what would

happen to Germany Democracy if they one lock in humble apprecia- Our abandonment of day win? Germany is tion of our coercive our allies, our history weak, vulnerable, and confused.

Nor can we look to the ing the mineral wealth of **the Free World with-** UK. Prime Minister Keir Starmer is both new and not particularly strong, heading a shaky coali-

tion. Though he replaced a disgraced Conservative party, his election was not so much an endorsement of a more liberal approach but a visceral rejection of the Conservatives. He is not in position to lead, and, of course, neither is the UK after withdrawing from the European Union.

Do we look to France and Emmanuel Macron? As appealing and popular as he is abroad, he is just as unpopular at home. France too is beset with immigration problems and dealing (or avoiding dealing) with it unassimilated Muslim population—a population not so much of new immigrants as unabsorbed first, second and even third generation Arabs. They neither see themselves nor are they seen by most French as being "genuinely French."

We can't look to Giorgia Meloni in Italy, or, God helps us, Viktor Orban in Hungary as moral leadership. The Scandinavian countries, as attractive as they appear at first blush, are also struggling with immigration, budgets and responding to Russian aggression. What nation is politically, morally and economically ready to lead? I don't know, and this is deeply troubling.

It's troubling here at home that we don't know who leads the Democrats. Not Joe Biden. Not Kamala Harris. Not Hakeem Jeffries. Not Chuck Schumer. Not Gavin Newson. Not Hillary nor Bill Clinton. Not yet one of the rising stars such as Wes Moore, Raphael Warnock, Pete Buttigieg, AOC nor Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker. They are a talented bunch but one awaiting a commanding leader to emerge.

Our nation and the world quake in anticipation of leadership emerging, real leadership with vision, passion and a moral compass. Where is our Gandhi or his opponent Winston Churchill? Where is today's Martin Luther King or Nelson Mandela? Hell, where is our Volodymyr Zelenskyy?

During the Holocaust, Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto on Yom Kippur sang, "I believe in the coming of the Messiah, and though he tarry, still, I believe." Well, I believe, if not in a messiah, a leader, a morally persuasive leader, will emerge out of the chaos, and though this leader tarry, still, deep in my heart, I do believe.

### **OPINION: AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS**

by Andrew Williams © 2025

#### Fullerton is going along to get along

I love college towns. There's always a positive vibe there, one that you feel just walking through town or on campus, that is inclusive and flowing with experimentation and innovation, an atmosphere where the passion of learning from great teachers surrounds you, where enthusiasm is welcomed-not

In Irvine, you have the legacies of Gregory Benford (Professor Emeritus, Physics and Astronomy) and Stanley van den Noort (Dean of Medicine).

In Fullerton, you can find the apartment where Philip K. Dick and his wife Tessa lived while he was writing VALIS and A Scanner Darkly, within walking distance from the California State University-Fullerton campus. His papers are also available to view in the CSUF Library's University Archives.

It's not surprising, then, to learn that California is ranked sixth in the United States for quality of higher education. With this caliber of teaching talent on tap at UCI, CSUF, USC, UCLA, Pomona College, UC Berkeley, San Francisco State and Stanford, we have an embarrassment of riches when it comes to collegiate opportunities.

All the more disappointing, then, when the city councils and other ruling bodies of such cities resort to conventional thinking and action. Last month, Fullerton cancelled its experiment in city planning-the Walk on Wilshire or WoW–and announced plans, like every city in California, to remove the home-

less from residents's sight, without any improvements in temporary or long-term shelter–as laid out in the Housing First initiative passed by the California Senate in 2016. In a time where experimentation and innovation is most needed, the Fullerton City Council is going with "same old, same old."

At the last hearing regarding WoW, over two thousand citizens stated their support for it, as well as sixty seven businesses. What did the opposition have? A handful of detractors, and one business-the 888 Cigar Lounge and Mercantile. All the same, Mayor Fred Jung and council member Jamie Valencia voted against WoW, effectively killing it. (Mayor Pro Tem Shana Charles and council member Ahmad Zahra-Zooming in from the UK-voted in favor. Nicholas Dunlap recused himself due to conflict of interest; his father owns a building on Wilshire Ave.).

It is a matter of record that Tony Bushala, the impetus behind the anti-WoW campaign, contributed thousands of dollars to Jung's and Valencia's campaign-in spite of the latter's unbelievably clumsy attempt to return said donation, which was announced the night of the WoW vote, taking it neatly

> out of the realm of coincidence. (Hopefully, Valencia has learned how to better handle such obvious conflicts of interest).

> Another megabucks guycurrently on the world's center stage, and relishing every iota of attention he's garnering-is Elon Musk, a classic authoritarian, anti-govern-

ment, pro-big business mogul who is taking an axe to the federal budget, whereas a scalpel would be more appropriate.

Even more egregious is his harvesting of American citizens' personal data-for he only knows what nefarious purposes. The only thing standing in his way at the moment is the judiciary, who apparently didn't get the memo from Trump's White House that their presence as a check and balance on the executive would no longer be required. (As my brother David once observed. guys like Musk want all the power, all the money and all the women–and they want it now).

The main problem that big money guys like Bushula and Elon Musk have with democracy is what they regard with contempt as wasteful, annoying things—judges who block their attempts to run roughshod over federal agencies, or annoying liberals and their sug-

gestions about regulating traffic flow in city centers in order to balance the needs of businesses, consumers and pedestrians.

From their libertarian perspective, they declare that the commonwealth should just get out of their way and let capitalism solve everything. To that estimable demand, I would pose the same question Dr. Phil asks:

"How's that working for you?" Clearly it's working just peachy-keen for the Gilded Class, via tax cuts and virtually unlimited access to power, while the rest of us are praying to keep our jobs and homes while desperately trying to figure out how to save our safety nets.

Who amongst us is more vulnerable, in more need of a durable safety net. than the homeless? And who would benefit more from actual housing, instead of sleeping rough or being shuttled from shelter to shelter, constantly avoiding fights, and simply trying to get a good night's sleep-something average folks take for granted? (though with Trump in office, that's no longer a given). MAGA is aiming its sights at Housing First, claiming it costs more than shelters and incarceration (it doesn't), that it creates more problems for law enforcement (it doesn't, shouldn't and needn't) and encourages addiction by not requiring sobriety as a condition of housing (again, wrong).

Dammit, I'm out of space to yet again explain how Housing First works, so I'll refer you to these documents. Further, deponent sayeth not.

- https://endhomelessness.org/blog/ housing-first-is-a-matter-of-health/,
- https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/docs/housing-firstfact-sheet.pdf,
- https://files.hudexchange.info/ resources/documents/Housing-First-Permanent-Supportive-Housing-

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#### Health by Taliha, 10th grade

#### **Self Harm Awareness Month**

Can you believe it is already March? March is one of those months that is often overlooked, but it is one of the most important months of the year. March is truly one of the busiest months, particularly with the mental health campaign going on in our world today, as it is self-harm awareness month.

Self-harm is defined as "deliberate injury to oneself, typically as a manifestation of a mental condition." It can happen with people of all ages but is most common among teens. It is a symptom of emotional distress or mental illness and can be fatal if not discussed. While it may be "taboo" to discuss mental health, it is crucial to break the cycle of self-harm for our future generation and inform them of this unhealthy behavior.

Reasons that people self-harm vary, but some of the most common include poor coping skills, difficulty managing emotions, or an undiagnosed mental illness. Through selfharm, a person may be trying to express feel-

ings in an unhealthy way, provide a distraction from painful emotions, or communicate depression. It is essential to protect yourself and loved ones from self-harm by discussing your feelings, no matter how hard it may seem.

Having open conversations with your friends and family is crucial to understanding what every person is going through, and it is essential to remember that no emotion should be ignored. If you're worried a friend or loved one might be hurting themself, ask them how they're doing and be prepared to listen to the answer, even if it makes you uncomfortable. Getting an adult or a licensed professional is also a good idea, so they can intervene and make it easier for whoever is self-harming.

This month, we can reflect on our emotions and be there for our loved ones, no matter what!

# Balance & Change by Michelle Gottlieb, Psy.D., MFT, LPCC © 2025



## Cordiality, Kindness, and Tact:

#### The Essentials of Constructive Communication

Be cordial. Be kind. Be tactful. None of these are difficult concepts. We are taught them when we are young. Our pre-school teachers made sure that we followed these rules when we were but two or three. And yet, many people appear to have forgotten these very simple rules.

It is possible when we disagree with another person to keep these rules in mind. We can express what we are feeling and needing without resorting to name-calling, being degrading or being just plain mean. These same rules need to apply if we are talking to our partners, our children, our co-

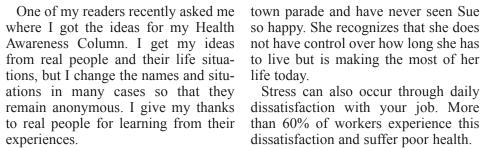
workers or political foes.

Communication simply stops when we begin to yell and say hurtful things. If your goal is for your "opponent" to listen to you, then follow my rules. If your goal is to create an atmosphere of hurt, distrust and non-cooperation, then do the opposite of these rules.

However, if we create an environment where it is safe to express our opinions, where we can discuss our differences and perhaps even honor them, then we can perhaps move towards a compromise that works for both sides. But only if we are cordial, kind and tactful.

# Healthy Awareness by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2025

## Sue's Journey After Breast Cancer



In this column, I want to talk about Sue and how she took charge of her life at the age of 43 when breast cancer came to call. Understandably, on receiving the news, she became depressed, but she pulled herself up by her bootstraps and took a hard look at

She has a very successful career as a lawyer in a big city. But her job is very stressful, which probably played a role in her having cancer. After much thought and with an awareness of her mortality, she moved to a small town in the Midwest and conducted her business there. Sue only came to the city when she had to appear in court.

Something she always wanted to do was to own a horse. After she moved, she adopted a rescue horse named Hope. She was taking charge of and making the most of her fulfilling a wish. I saw a video of her riding her horse on the 4th of July in her home-

One of my readers recently asked me town parade and have never seen Sue so happy. She recognizes that she does to live but is making the most of her life today.

> Stress can also occur through daily dissatisfaction with your job. More than 60% of workers experience this dissatisfaction and suffer poor health.

> Here are several reasons from http://www.alhr.com/blog/job dissatisfaction why people become unhappy about their jobs:

- 1) Lack of appreciation of one's work
- 2) Being or feeling underpaid
- 3) Experiencing inadequate manage-
- 4) Having limited career growth prospects
- 5) Lack of training and developmental options
- 6) Relationship difficulties in the workplace
- 7) Balancing home with work
- 8) An uninteresting or meaningless job If any of these factors resonate with you, it might be time to make changes to enhance your life and reduce stress. Consider your choices and the direction you want to take. Remember not to quit your job until you've secured a new one, unless you can afford it.

#### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR** EMPOWERING YOU TO LIVE YOUR HEALTHIEST LIFE! SUNDAY, MARCH 30 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM YOU'LL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO: ✓ Nutrition & Fitness Trends Scan to ( Interactive Health & Wellness Booths Register! Free Health Screenings Health Insurance Information (714) 738 - 6575 www.cityoffullerton.com/cityevents Raffle Prizes and more! 340 W Commonwealth Ave. Fullerton CA 92832 (1) fullerton

"Ask yourself if what you are doing today is getting you closer to where you want to be tomorrow." - Radma Verix



## The Dental Corner: Better Oral Health

#### **Dental Veneers**

In woodworking, veneers are a thin, decorative material that is applied to a wood surface in order to change the appearance of the underlying wood grain.

In dentistry, it is very much the same. A thin layer of material is applied to the facing of a tooth in order to change the color and shape of the underlying tooth. The material can be a lab-made ceramic, or it can be a filling material that the dentist applies and shapes by hand.

In most cases, it is necessary to remove some tooth structure before applying a veneer. The amount of tooth removal needed depends on the changes one is seeking. Darkened

teeth typically require a little more tooth removal, because the veneer must be thick enough to mask the underlying darkness. On the other hand, smaller teeth that simply need to be enlarged usually require minimal drilling.

Remember, veneers are just a thin layer placed over your tooth, and they can break! The longevity of veneers is highly dependent on the way YOUR teeth bite together, as well as your ability to maintain them properly. Always make an informed decision!

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## Ronald Steve Rajcic 1934-2025

It was with great sadness and heavy hearts that we announced the passing of Ronald Steve Rajcic on Thursday, February 27, at the age of 91.

He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend who left behind a legacy of love, strength, and kindness.

His wisdom, generosity, and unwavering support shaped the lives of those he loved. He had a sharp mind, a warm heart, and a deep appreciation for the simple joys of lifewhether it was sharing stories, lending a helping hand, or simply spend-



ing time with his loved ones.

He will be remembered for his dedication to his family and the integrity and passion he brought to everything he did. He was the owner of CM School Supply in Fullerton. His impact will be felt for generations, and his spirit will live on in the

hearts of all who have had the privilege of knowing him.

Rest in peace, Ronald. You will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

A memorial service for Steve will be held Saturday, March 15 at 12pm at Memory Garden Memorial Park, 455 W Central Ave, Brea, Ca.

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" "... Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matthew



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## Neusa Sani Marilo 1938-2025

Neusa Sani Marilo, age 86, of La Mirada, California, passed away peacefully at her home on February 11, 2025, with her son and daughter-in-law at her side.

Born September 21, 1938, in São Paulo, Brazil, to the late Angelo João Sani and Christina de Leone Ortoni, Neusa grew up in a close-knit Italian-Brazilian

family within the vibrant metropolis of São Paulo. Although an only child, she was surrounded by a large and loving extended family of cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Her mother, an accomplished seamstress, instilled in Neusa a love of beauty, even crafting many of her Carnival costumes. Neusa's faith, nurtured by her parents and in Catholic grade school, became a cornerstone of her life. Her lifelong passion for music blossomed early, encouraged by a beloved aunt.

At the age of 24, Neusa earned a degree in piano and music pedagogy from the Instituto Musical de São Paulo. While her father's health declined, Neusa bravely supported her family, working in various clerical positions.

to the coastal community of Santos, Neusa met Michael, the love of her life. They married in 1964 and, with sponsorship from Michael's brother, emigrated to the United States shortly thereafter, seeking a new beginning. The birth of their son solidified their decision to remain in America. Neusa later brought her mother to the U.S., a bittersweet occasion as her father passed away just before the trip he was to have taken with her.

For nearly 40 years, Neusa shared her love of music as a piano teacher, nurturing the talents of children and young adults in both private and studio settings. She graced events with her musical gifts, including a solo performance at the Nixon Library. Beyond her musical talents, Neusa was also an accomplished artist whose oil paintings earned awards and recognition. She was a true partner to Michael, and her contributions were essential to the success of their



businesses. cooking to bookkeeping to handling the administrative details, she played a vital role. A devout Catholic, prayed the rosary daily, her faith a constant source of comfort and strength. She and Michael enjoyed 54 years of marriage until his passing in 2020. Neusa was known for her gentleness, kindness, generosity,

and unwavering faith. Her playful spirit and silly jokes brought smiles to the faces of everyone she met.

Neusa is survived by her only child, Joe (Christy) Marilo, and many nieces, nephews and cousins both locally and in Brazil, as well as dear family friends of many decades. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Michael Marilo, and her parents, Angelo João Sani and Christina de Leone Ortoni.

Visitation and Vigil will be held on Friday, March 7, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Rose Hills Memorial Park Visitation Center, with a Rosary service beginning at 7:00 PM. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Beatitudes of Our Lord Church, 13013 Santa Gertrudes Ave., La In the late 1950s, during a vacation Mirada, CA 90638. Eulogies will be shared at 10:30 AM and Mass at 11:00 AM. Committal will follow the Funeral Mass at Rose Hills Memorial Park, 3888 Workman Mill Rd., Whittier, CA 90601. In honor of Neusa's lifelong love of music, guests are warmly invited to wear something musical if they wish.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial contributions made to the American Stroke Association or a charity of your choice. The family welcomes memories and messages in their online guestbook at:

> https://www.rosehills.com/ obituaries/whittier-ca/ neusa-marilo-12245335

The Marilo family extends their deepest gratitude to family and friends, who were a constant source of support throughout Neusa's time of need, and to the hospice and palliative care team of Providence St. Jude for their compassionate, thoughtful care. They were truly

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## Paul H. Miller

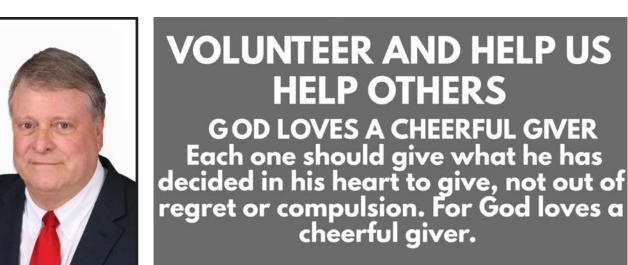
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# Success at the Friends of the Library Used Book Sale by Jere Greene

The Friends of the Library held a successful used book sale on Friday and Saturday, attracting over 600 happy book afficionados. The event is organized three or four times a year to raise funds for library purchases.

On Friday cars circled the parking lot, hoping to grab a space as other buyers left with their purchases. The entrance area was filled with CDs, DVDs, and audiobooks on carts that lined the walls. Upon entering the conference room, I was greeted with a roomful of buyers combing over the tables that filled the area. Each table was covered with books, all grouped by genre.

Nearing the end of Saturday's sale, the area was cleared, and everyone lined up outside, where volunteers offered shopping bags for \$3 each (or two bags for \$5). The doors were reopened, and the crowd stormed the sales area again. At this point, as many books as possible were crammed into the shopping bag(s).

The Friends of the Library consists of volunteers who donate their time all year to receive and sort donations. These are taken to the library's basement, where tables are used, and the donated books are evaluated for being added to the library collection. If not, they are priced and stored by subject on shelves in the Used Book Store, where they are offered to the general public for a low price. Other books are donated to nursing homes or shared with neighboring libraries.

This is a popular and fun event. If you missed it, take the time to check out the Used Book Store inside the Fullerton's Public Library until the next book sale event in a few months.



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ANSWER KEY TO PUZZLE "EDGY" 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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#### NORTHRIDGE EARTHQUAKE

by Alicia Hsieh, contributing writer for Troy Preparedness Club



Selfie of EJ Su

In 1994, EJ Su, a comic book artist passionate about industrial design, experienced the Northridge earthquake firsthand. In the early hours of January 17 of that year, a powerful 6.7-magnitude earthquake struck Southern California, with its epicenter in Reseda, a neighborhood in the San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles. The violent shaking lasted about 10 to 20 seconds but caused widespread destruction across the region, as well as Ventura, Orange, and San Bernardino counties. Buildings crumbled, highways collapsed, and fires broke out due to gas leaks.

EJ felt a deep sense of panic as the ground shook beneath him. Unlike minor tremors he had experienced before, this earthquake did not stop after a few seconds. The relentless shaking made him realize how unprepared he was. His thoughts turned to his hometown in Taiwan, a densely populated area where a disaster of this scale could be catastrophic. The experience was a turning point for EJ, pushing him to prioritize preparedness and take proactive steps to ensure his safety in future emergencies.

The Northridge earthquake resulted in 57 confirmed deaths and left over 9,000 people injured. Thousands of buildings were destroyed or severely

damaged, displacing many residents. With a financial cost of over \$40 billion, it became one of the most expensive earthquakes in U.S. history. The aftermath highlighted the importance of emergency preparedness, a lesson EJ took seriously.

Determined to avoid being caught off guard again, EJ began storing essential supplies like food and water, understanding that access to necessities could be severely limited after a disaster. He also recognized that survival wasn't just about having resources but about knowing how to respond effectively.

Reflecting on the disaster, EJ realized the critical role of first aid in emergencies. In the wake of the Northridge earthquake, emergency responders were overwhelmed, and many injured individuals had to wait for medical help. He understood that knowing how to administer basic first aid—such as treating wounds, performing CPR, and stabilizing injuries—could mean the difference between life and death. This realization led him to educate himself on first aid techniques, ensuring he would be better prepared for future crises.

EJ's advice is simple but essential: take the time to learn the skills and knowledge needed to survive a disaster. Preparedness is not just about storing supplies—it's about understanding your environment, knowing how to react in critical moments, and equipping yourself with the skills to help yourself and others. His experience is a powerful reminder that disasters can strike any time, and being prepared is the key to survival.

Do you have an experience where disaster preparedness came or could have come into use? Tell us your story! Use this



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## Conductor for La Mirada Symphony **Inspires Local Communities**

Mautner, a Los Angeles native who received his Bachelor of Music degree in Cello Performance from Cal State Fullerton (CSUF), has been serving as Music Director and Conductor for the La Mirada Symphony Orchestra since 2014. However, the orchestra itself has been around for over 60 years. Founded in 1961 by Blanche Nissim, a local pianist, the La Mirada Symphony brings free classical music concerts to North Orange County. This month, the orchestra will be presenting a free concert on Sunday, March 30 at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, featuring Beethoven's "Egmont Overture" and Gustav Holst's "The Planets."

"We are beyond thrilled to present this special concert to our wonderful community," said Mautner. "From the powerful emotions of Beethoven to the cosmic grandeur of Holst, this concert promises to be an unforgettable experience."

The orchestra, funded through the City of La Mirada, community sponsors, and donations, has performed many symphonies, concertos, overtures, and popular orchestral pieces over the years, oftentimes featuring guest soloists, instrumentalists and vocalists. I remember attending several of the free concerts as a kid, and going to these events helped spark my interest in learning to play music.

Mautner's passion for music education has grown since his days at CSUF. "I wanted to be a performing cellist, and right after I graduated, I started

As both a cellist and conductor, Alan performing here and there, getting my name out there, eventually reaching contractors and doing studio work and casual work. I was an active cellist," said Mautner. "I think it's sort of a destiny for all of us performing musicians to do some kind of teaching. It's really a good way to kind of subsidize your income when times are a little bit tougher. The performances I get to do. and watching the students grow, that's the reward of it all."

Technically, Mautner first conducted the La Mirada Symphony back in 2010 when they were searching for a new conductor. He had been the principal cello in the orchestra for three or four years prior. According to Mautner, he was asked to submit and audition, and was one of the finalists. He didn't get the job at that time, but they asked him to stay on as principal cello. In the summer of 2014, he received a phone call asking if he would like to be the new music director, and he agreed.

Mautner said, "I tried to put everybody at ease. It's always been kind of my philosophy with La Mirada: I want this to be an enjoyable experience for them. They're part of this orchestra because they want to be. Nobody wants to spend their Tuesday night rehearsals coming in and having someone yell and scream uncontrollably at them. And believe me, I've had my share of those conductors. And it has always been my goal to keep conducting friendly, but making sure that they understand what my goals and intentions are."

One of the pieces he had the orches-



Conductor and Music Director Alan Mautner Leads Rehearsal session for La Mirada Symphony

tra play during his first concert as conductor in 2014 was a Mozart clarinet concerto. In his opinion, the concerto's second movement has one of the most beautiful melodies that Mozart ever wrote. However, on the day of the concert, he explained that, as the orchestra was preparing to play, somebody backstage in the theatre thought it would be an appropriate time to open the loading dock doors, which made an extremely loud rattling sound.

"I was just standing there on the podium waiting for this obtrusive noise to end so that I could begin this beautiful movement," said Mautner. "That was really my big unfortunate takeaway from that first concert, but that hasn't happened since."

The La Mirada Symphony used to be very active in doing outreach to local students in La Mirada and surrounding communities. At least once a year, they would have a children's concert that would line up with one of their regularly scheduled events.

"We would do two concerts, and they filled up that theatre. You know the theatre holds 1,200 people, so we had 2,400 kids over two concerts that we brought in," explained Mautner. "It was wonderful. If we inspire a couple of kids to want to take up a musical instrument, then we did our job. We did this in conjunction with the Norwalk-La Mirada School District, and had a good relationship with them. Since the pandemic, we have not been able to reestablish that. There have just been changes to the way the school district does those things. Plus, the La Mirada Symphony's funds are not what they were, so we're always looking for donations, and we would love to see if we could get some donations that are earmarked for education. We used to go into schools and perform chamber music to let them know that the symphony is here. Sometimes, they don't get to see live musicians play in a very intimate setting. It's very inspiring for the students. I'm hopeful that it's something we can get back to."

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, they rely on tax-deductible donations to continue offering high-quality performances.

The orchestra's March 30 program will highlight young musicians from the Whittier Branch of the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) in student concertos.

The event will kick off at 2:15pm with a pre-concert lecture by Mautner and the main concert will follow at

Admission is free, and no tickets are required. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

