PUBLISHED THE FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT ONLY ONCE IN JANUARY, JULY, AND AUGUST

News for the people, by the people

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City Council Considers Charter City Amid Public Opposition

by Kristen Read

Fullerton City Council held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, May 13 to discuss the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Proposed Operating Budget Study Session and Charter City. Residents gathered outside (pictured at right) to voice their concern on the latter.

Outside the front entrance, Helen Higgins identified herself as a resident and voter in Fullerton. She held a sign that read "No Charter, Yes Union Trail" and demonstrated with a group of five women holding signs at the front entrance. Higgins said that she attended this special meeting because the discussion about the proposition to change the city to a charter city was on the agenda, and "I oppose that".

Inside chambers, Council Members Mayor Fred Jung, Mayor Pro Tem Shana Charles, Nick Dunlap, Jamie Valencia, and Ahmad Zahra were all in attendance in person.

See Charter City Discussion on pg 13



Protesters outside Fullerton City Hall say they will continue to protest on every Tuesday before each city council meeting to advocate for the Union Pacific Trail, oppose the banning of newspapers, censoring of council members, and the proposal to change Fullerton into a charter city.

Union Pacific Trail Project Delayed to May 20 for Final Vote

by Saskia Kennedy

The Union Pacific Trail project is facing delays after a recent vote by the City Council. In a 3 to 2 decision, council members opted to postpone the initiative, which was originally set to break ground in June.

The project, part of the much-anticipated Union Pacific Trail - Phase II, has been under scrutiny since its inception. In 2020, the Parks and Recreation Department secured a \$1.78 million grant from the Urban Greening Program, intended for essential enhancements including irrigation, lighting, and the planting of 176 trees. The formal agreement with the city was finalized in May 2022.

The contract for the construction, valued at \$1,845,775.95, was awarded to KASA Construction, Inc. The project aims to develop a new recreational trail along a section of a former railroad spur track, recently acquired by

See UP Trail Delayed page 7

RESIDENT Monday of every month OR CURRENT PUBLISHED THE F **EXCEPT ONI**

AND AUGUST JANUARY, JULY

Council Majority Approves Landmark Designation for Ku Klux Klan **Collaborator Residence**

by Saskia Kennedy

At the city council meeting on May 6, Associate Planner Andrew Kusch presented a proposal to designate three local properties, including the Louis E. Plummer residence, as historic landmarks. The council ultimately approved the designation in a 3 to 2 (Charles and Zahra NO vote despite significant public concern regarding Plummer's controversial past as an alleged collaborator with the Ku Klux

Kusch outlined the criteria for the proposed designations, emphasizing that the homes qualify for inclusion in the local historic register due to their architectural significance and historical contributions to the city's development. "The Landmarks Planning Commission reviewed these requests during publicly noticed hearings and



Above is the first Fullerton house attributed to local KKK collaborator Louis E Plummer by the Heritage Foundation.

www.fullertonheritage.org/2023surveypdfs/07.02LouisPlummerHouse.pdf

recommends their approval," Kusch stated. He noted that the properties reflect outstanding architectural design and craftsmanship, and all property owners have consented to the designa-

Jose Trinidad Casteneda joined the meeting via Zoom, expressing concern about the implications of memorializing the Plummer name. "Could someone clarify if this ordinance is based solely on the architectural features and design of the house? As some may know, Louis Plummer was a notable figure in Fullerton but also an active member of the KKK. We should be cautious about memorializing that name," Casteneda stated.

See Controversial Landmark pg 12

Thank you to Our Generous Readers!

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our wonderful readers for the donations you have sent to support our print issue and general operations. Your support and encouragement mean a lot to us.

A special thank you goes to former Fullertonians Parks and Paula Adams for their generous gift.

(Paula's father, Dr. Lynn Sheller, served as president of Fullerton College from 1950 to 1969 and founded the Fullerton College Foundation in 1959 to help support the college.)



Mr. Gander and Mother Goose by Fred Braddock

Mr. Gander and Mother Goose are recent Morningside residents who flew from Canada to establish residence. They saw many Continuing Care Retirement Communities along the way, but decided that Morningside was the best. They took up residence at the side of the lake.

This was a stroke of genius since marketing could not establish any entry fee or monthly fee for this location after reviewing their price lists. It is understood that some residents are now planning to move to the lakeside.

I asked Mr. Gander what he liked best about Morningside. He tends to be short with his answers, bobbing his head up and down, but like most of us, he replied that it was the fine dining. He said he had never seen so many insects and appreciated the variety. He was envious that we were able to enjoy eating these year-round.

Mother Goose was a little more chatty. She loved the location but wondered why no other women were out at the side of the lake sitting on their eggs. She presumed they were all sitting on eggs in their apartments and thought that to be a little weird.

Mother Goose gave birth to six children. Although Morningside rules do not allow children to enter as residents, it turns out that there are no rules about residents giving birth. This should be a great relief to all ladies currently residing here. The geese were delighted with the births since this conferred birthright citizenship and all the children are now U.S. citizens.

Mother Goose commented that having a large audience in the delivery room was unusual, but she presumed it was the practice that all the ladies here enjoyed.

The geese appreciated the friends they made while they were here. They heard a lot of names while they were here and thought it would be a hoot to give their children people names. Other geese would think this to be hilarious. So, they named the boys Chris, Sal, and Walter; the girls were named Liz, Tania, and Richelle. What greater honor can our respected department heads have than to know that somewhere there is a goose named after them spreading great mirth throughout Canada?

Mr. Gander confessed that he thought this egg thing was for the birds. Like any true male, Mr. Gander wanted to return to what he liked best, i.e., golfing. So, Mr. Gander shepherded the family past Park Vista and up to Brea Blvd.

With the help of Morningside resident Vivian Carroll, a Park Vista employee, and a kindly motorist who stopped all of the traffic on Brea Blvd., the family waddled across to the Golf Course. Three rows of backed-up traffic enjoyed the whole process, although Mr. Gander said there were some words of support he had not heard before.

We usually end these reviews with "Welcome to Morningside", but in this case it is: "Farewell to Morningside — See you next year."

First they came for the journalists, then we don't know what happened.





PHOTOS BY PAT ZIMA



Fullerton School District Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

Background

On January 14, 2025, the Fullerton School District Board of Education adopted a resolution establishing a Citizens' Oversight Committee to inform the public concerning the District's expenditure bond proceeds, review Measure N bond expenditures and present an annual report to the Board of Education as set forth in Proposition 39, chaptered at Section 15264 et seq. of the California Education Code.

Composition of the Committee

In accordance with Proposition 39 and the CBOC Bylaws, the composition of the committee is as follows: Seven members to serve for a term of two years without compensation and for no more than three consecutive terms. One (1) member shall be the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District. One (1) member shall be both a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District and active in a parent-teacher organization, such as the P.T.A or a school site council. One (1) member active in a business organization representing the business community located in the District. One (1) member active in a senior citizens organization. One (1) member active in a bona fide taxpayers' organization. Two (2) members of the community at-large.

Qualification Standards

To be a qualified person, he or she must be at least 18 years of age. The Committee may not include any employee, Governing Board member or official of the District or any vendor, contractor or consultant of the District.

Apply to Become a Member

The District is currently seeking new applicants for the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC). Please scan the QR code to be redirected to our online application or contact us by phone at (714) 447-7412 or email at *yajaira ramirez@myfsd.org*



Mothers Day Celebration at CSUF Center for Healthy Neighborhoods

The CSUF Center for Healthy Neighborhoods played host to a heartfelt Mother's Day celebration, bringing together families and community members to honor mothers in the area. The event featured a special breakfast designed to celebrate and appreciate the contributions mothers make every day.

Held at the Center's location on 320 W. Elm Ave. in Fullerton, the gathering provided a warm and inviting atmosphere for attendees. Moms enjoyed delicious food and shared special moments building community and making connections. The event served as a delightful morning meal and brought people together in recognition of maternal love and dedication.

The CSUF Center for Healthy Neighborhoods aim to alleviate education and health disparities, revitalize neighborhoods, and reduce the cycle of poverty. For more information visit the center, Monday through Thursday 10am to 5:30pm.



From left to right are some of the many mothers who attended: FSDProgram Specialist Jenny Saul, FSD Board Member Vanessa Estrella, the Center's Community Coordinator Egleth Nuncci, Alma Mata, and the Center's Director Iris Aguilar.

PROTEGER EL SENDERO DE UNION PACIFIC

Martes 20 de Mayo

4:30 PM
Reunión pacífica en el ayuntamiento
Commonwealth & Highland

5:30 PM Reunión del Concilio

DÍGALE AL COCILIO DE FULLERTON: CONSTRUYA EL SENDERO

Enviar un correo a council@cityoffullerton.com



PROTECT THE UNION PACIFIC TRAIL

Tuesday, May 20

4:30 PM
Peaceful gathering at City Hall
Commonwealth & Highland

5:30 PM City Council Meeting

TELL FULLERTON CITY COUNCIL: BUILD THE TRAIL

Send an email to council@cityoffullerton.com

Budget Community Meeting

The City of Fullerton invites residents, business owners, and community members to attend an upcoming Community Budget Meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 5pm at the Fullerton Community Center, located at 340 W. Commonwealth Avenue.

This meeting is an opportunity for the public to learn more about the City's proposed budget for the upcoming 25/26 fiscal year, ask questions, and share feedback on funding priorities that matter most to the community. City staff will provide an overview of the budget process, highlight key initiatives, and be available to answer questions.

Community input plays a vital role in shaping Fullerton's budget and ensuring resources are aligned with residents' needs. We encourage all community members to attend and participate in this important discussion.

Senior Care 102 Class

Care Options: Home vs. Community Care

Presenters from the North Orange County Senior Collaborative

- Mark McKibbin, Licensed Professional Fiduciary
- Linda Armas, President of Clear Choice Senior Services
- Stephen Huber, President of Home Care Providers
- Pros and Cons of each choice
- Finding and Choosing Care
- Cost of Care
- · Paying for Care

June 6, 2025 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Assistance League of Fullerton, Meeting Room 233 W. Amerige Ave Fullerton, CA 92832











RSVP to Sharon Nelson at 714-871-2200 or caseworker@mowfullerton

Mental Health Awareness Month by Taliha, 10th grade

Can you believe it, we are five months through 2025 already! This year was filled with ups and downs, but one thing we can look forward to every year is Mental Health Awareness Month. From May 1-31, the United States of America celebrates and raises awareness for this important cause. This month-long tradition was started by Mental Health America in 1949 and has since spread throughout the country, inspiring others to partake.

This month is so important to those involved in the mental health community, whether as an advocate or a supporter, because it truly allows others to see the impact that mental health has.

It also allows people to reduce the stigma around mental health issues and educate those who are

unaware of mental illnesses. Mental health is equally as important as physical health, and they should both be treated with the same value.

In Orange County, there are so many ways to get involved with mental health advocacy, especially during May. Every year, the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) in Orange County hosts a mental health awareness community fair, called "NAMI Orange County's Fun in the Sun

Festival," which allows visitors to meet vendors and organizations and educate themselves on resources related to mental health.

There is also another mental health awareness community fair, hosted by OC Animal Care, and this is another fair that offers a chance to meet with organizations and learn about mental health resources directly in Orange County. It is a great way to get involved, and they also offer games, raffles, music and a full day of fun!

For high school students, Troy High School and Fullerton Joint Union High School are both hosting mental health fairs, and this offers a chance for students and faculty to explore different ways to manage stress and to relax a bit before finals.

This is only open to students who attend these schools, though, but it is a great opportunity to break the stigma around mental health for the next generation

These are just a few events happening in our area, but there are many more happening throughout the month. Anyone can get involved and participate in Mental Health Awareness Month!

Whether it is supporting friends and family, or educating yourself on the importance of mental health, these are just a few ways to get into the mental health spirit.

I hope everyone has a great Mental Health Awareness Month this year and, hopefully, you can take full advantage of these resources!

The Importance of Alone Time

by Alicia, 9th grade

Sometimes it may feel like one can never escape the endless activities and interactions. School, work, social life and family often drive away one's second vote regarding the importance of time alone.

Yet, alone time is crucial for growth, mental health and one's general state of well-being. Understanding alone time and learning to embrace it will result in a more balanced and meaningful life.

There are many mental and physical benefits to alone time. The first on the list is an opportunity to recharge. Social activities and interactions with other people usually wear you down. At the same time, mere time by yourself recharges and restores your energies. Alone time can be much better for

focus and productivity because the chances of any distractions are greatly lowered, thus

fostering better task concentration, be it on studying, reading, or pursuing some personal project.

Separating oneself should also be regarded as a period for mental reflection. Alone time allows a person to contemplate their thoughts and emotions so that they can get a sense of what they want or fear and what their goals are.

This self-reflection is tremendously important, facilitating informed decision-making and living authentically by your values. It takes away so much stress since, without any outside

demands, people can feel free, relax and have good times, and so relieve any pressure that has been building over time. Self-reflection thus becomes a powerful tool for personal growth. It allows you to gain in-depth knowledge and understand yourself and your needs. You can focus on your thoughts, ideas and aspirations without too much unwarranted input from others.

It is in this way that one can become more independent through alone time. By learning to enjoy your own company, you build a strong sense of self that does not rely on external validation. Such a self positively impacts relationships with others, for issues such as seeking approval and a constant need for reassurance fade away. Instead, one becomes self-comfortable, and in the end, experiences deep and rich connections with others.

Your precious time spent alone does wonders, but make sure you do it wise-

ly. Don't waste time frivolously on distractions while you're by yourself; instead, put that time to good use relaxing and growing. Spending time reading, practicing, journaling, walking and meditating are all supercharging and nourishing activities for both mind and soul while on your own.

Equally important is finding a balance. While alone time is necessary, too much time spent alone can potentially lead to loneliness. The solution is to discover the time that best suits you to recharge and maintain healthy relationships with others.

Alone time is vital to maintaining balance and healthiness, especially in this world where busyness perpetrates the belief of being worthy. It grants introspection, rest and self-nourishment. In learning the practice of alone time, one builds a stronger relationship with oneself, releases stress and ultimately creates a fuller life.

National Mental Health Provider Appreciation Day by Mateo, 11th grade

The month of May brings both immense joy and intolerable stress to teens and parents alike; while it marks the last full month before the summer season, the numerous grueling class finals and national exams make the end of the school year exhausting.

As students prepare to endure their tests and finish the year strong, and as parents prepare to endure their children all day and night for the next two and a half months, it is more important than ever to check up on and take care of your mental health.

National Mental Health Provider Appreciation Day, recognized annually on May 12, gives us the opportunity to show our gratitude towards those who keep us mindful of our wellbeing and give us the

necessary guidance to stay afloat during a stressful time of year.

National Mental Health Provider Appreciation Day began in 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic that threw the entire world into a period of stress, anxiety and hardship. Author, therapist and mentor Anne C. Totero was one of many who were negatively impacted by this unforeseen event, and she sought out ways to support her community in this time of need; in her own words, "I felt I myself was in a fog yet

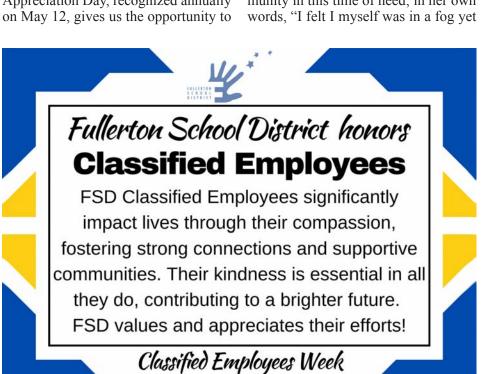
had to navigate quickly how to support first responders, families, teenagers, my family and myself. I had to grieve with people and also felt a need to be strong for others in a time of adversity."

After a good amount of thinking, Totero realized that mental health providers such as herself did great work keeping people mentally and emotionally strong during the demanding times of the pandemic, and yet their efforts often went unnoticed by the public. With that in mind, she decided to raise funds to recognize and honor the "peer support specialists, administrative staff, practitioners, caregivers and more" who work tirelessly to "help the world be a bit of a better place every day."

The best way you can celebrate and

honor National Mental Health Provider Appreciation Day is by taking some time to recognize the people in your life who have provided you with mental and emotional support. From therapists to school counselors to your parents, there is a wide variety of people in the community who offer great advice and guidance when it comes to managing your mental health.

Then, give them the acknowledgement and gratitude they deserve. Although they are typically the ones helping you, mental health providers are humans just like you, and it can be difficult to discern what they have to deal with in their own lives. Even a small gesture of gratitude and appreciation will let them know that their influence makes a difference in the lives of those around them.



May 18 - 24, 2025



SCHO

SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTES by Vivien Moreno

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

FJUHSD Board Meeting

On May 13, FJUHSD Trustees honored the high school district's 2024/25 Employees of the Year. Retiring Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Ed Atkinson presented.

Classified Employees:

Buena Park High School
Paulina Luga,
Activities Office Senor Records Clerk

Fullerton Union High School
David Bock,
Aquatics Coach/Campus Supervisor

<u>La Habra High School</u> Aleksandre Litovchenko, Site Technician

La Sierra High School
Francisco Melara,
Adult Transition Program
Paraprofessional

La Vista High School
Isaias Ramirez,
Campus Supervisor
and ABC Program Support

Sunny Hills High School Randall Avalos, Campus Supervision Liaison

Troy High School
Kati Flores,
Special Education Instructional Aide

Administrative Offices
Marlene Godinez,
Business Services
Administrative Secretary

<u>Facilities</u>
Manuel Olivares,
Maintenance Yard Districtwide

Sonora High School Teresa Zambrano, Principal's Secretary

Certificated Employees:

<u>Fullerton Union High School</u> David McIntosh, Counselor

<u>La Sierra High School</u> Stephen Flores, ATP Coordinator

<u>La Vista High School</u> Kathryn Gibson, Geophysical Science Teacher

Sonora High School
Nicholas Barron,
Special Education Teacher

Sunny Hills High School
Alexander Hua,
Chemistry Teacher
and Science Department Chair

Troy High School
Glenn Madrid,
Social Science Teacher
Districtwide

Buena Park High School
Maroun Nehme,
Director of Advanced Robotics

<u>La Habra High School</u> Carolynn Cardenas, Special Education Coordinator

Administrator of the Year

Dr. Ed Atkinson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Bond Measure L Update

Facilities and Construction Director, Vince Madsen, explained the familiar hard bid and the newer lease/leaseback construction delivery methods to the board. He listed the first \$143 million dollars of facilities bond projects, which will all breaking ground by spring and summer of 2026.

Sonora High will modernize science classrooms with the last of the 2014 Bond Measure I money using the hard bid delivery method, where the district finds a contractor after state design approval.

For facilities projects over \$10 million, the district utilizes a "lease/leaseback" method, hiring the main contractor and architect before design approval. After plans receive state permits, the district bids out union-based subcontractors and the main contractor assumes all security and liability inside the construction fence, basically leasing the project site from the district. After completion, the district makes final contractor payments over 12 months to iron out any issues. It generates fewer change orders and allows simultaneous work on large building projects districtwide. Trustee Joanne Fawley said, "(she) loves the acceleration of the bond projects" made possible by the system. Mr. Madsen answered Trustee Chester Jeng's question concerning material cost spikes, stating signed facilities contracts include a locked 50% markup clause range for all contractors. Trustee Lauren Klatzker supports using licensed union labor to complete the

Large projects include a two-story, Spanish architecture style athletic building at Fullerton High. Trustee Fawley requested tennis court location clarification. Mr. Madsen admitted that the FJUHSD Master Facilities Plan includes a proposed FUHS parking structure with rooftop tennis courts, but that the \$245 million dollar bond will "most likely" not cover the parking structure, so the tennis courts will be inserted elsewhere.

All Troy High classrooms, administrative offices, and library will receive seismic mitigation. This giant project requires over 35 portable classrooms and will take almost 3 years to complete.

Sonora, Sunny Hills, and Troy will receive field upgrades including artificial turf, track, restrooms, bleachers, and storage. There was no comment on project longevity. Although not legally binding, the FJUHSD board has historically promised that all bond facilities projects last more than 20 years (longer than it takes tax payers to pay back the bond), but that is not the case for Bond L.

FULLERTON OBSERVER Page 5

Student Board Member Compensation Proposal

Outgoing Student Board Member (SBM), Noelle Lidyoff, presented trustees with a SBM handbook and compensation proposal. Utilizing their unique position, former Student Board Members advocated for one-to-one chrome book access and created a more student-focused dress code. This year, Ms. Lidyoff, a graduating FUHS senior attending Lipscomb University in Nashville this fall, created a handbook outlining SBM requirements and requested compensation for future SBMs.

Noelle stated it was a great honor to represent FJUHSD student voices, and she enjoyed attending a state conference with other district SBMs. She listed the various administrative meetings student board members attend, their duties, and events they coordinate with the student advisory committee totaling over 136 hours of time in a year filled with academics, applying to colleges, and senior activities. Noelle asked the board to compensate students for this worthwhile use of time in the future.

FJUHSD student compensation pays \$16.50/hr., allowing SBMs to earn \$2,244 a year. As Ms. Lidyoff said, "No one should work for free." Board Policy and education code allows for student compensation and over 36% of California school districts compensate SBMs. Trustee Jeng and Trustee Marilyn Buchi asked clarifying questions, but all trustees seemed positive about the change.

Next FJUHSD board meeting is June 10 at 6pm.

Fullerton School District Educational Services - Preschool Program

Free Part Day & **Full Day/Full Year California State Preschool
Tuition-Base - Part Day & Full Day Preschool

Offered to children ages 3 to 5 years old who meet the following criteria:

- Children who turn 3 years old on or before December 1 of the current school year, or upon their 3rd birthday.
- Children who turn 4 years old by December 1 of the current school year.
- Children who turn 5 years old on or after September 1 of the current school year.

**Monthly charges may apply to families in the (CSPP) full-day/full-year program.







CALIFORNIA STATE
PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
(CSPP)

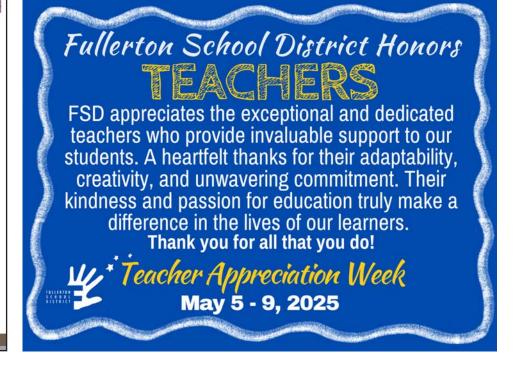




TUITION-BASED PRESCHOOL



- · Provides assistance with toileting
- · Low staff-to-child ratio with 1 adult for every 8 children
- Class size is 24 students





• FULLERTON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT - 4011 WEST COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, FULLERTON



Road Trip

Let's begin with A, as in Azusa, which claims everything from A to Z in the USA, hence the name. Pretty sure Anaheim has more of almost everything than they do. Next, it's all the way to Zzyzx, so named to be the last word in the English language. Zzyzx apparently has something at the end of that infamous road, or maybe just past the end of the road.

Santa Ana almost has a smidge of a view of upper Newport Bay, plus they do have an airport, so they win? Wait a second, Fullerton has it all, it has you of course, plus a train station, complete with two historic depots and of course, our railroad museum. We have another course of course, Coyote Hills Golf Course. Oh yea, we have the Fullerton Museum Center, the Muckenthaler Cultural Center, the Arboretum, Laguna Lake, and yes, we also have an airport. How many of you have been to all of these locations in Fullerton? We don't see many hands, so here is the solution...

Airport Day is coming up on Saturday, May 31, from 10am to 3pm. It's FREE and everyone will love it, young, old, and even the in-between, once you tell them they can take to the sky and get some amazing photos with their cellphone. Come early and have breakfast, or take an early hike in Coyote Hills, or a nice stroll around the Arboretum, then head over to the event for refreshments.





Official City Tree

Having grown up on a street lined with Jacarandas that bloomed simultaneously, it's puzzling to see that our official trees seem to be on very different schedules. You may notice some that are just developing some greenery, like many on their namesake street, Jacaranda Place. A few are just beginning to show, while others are nearly in full bloom, and a couple are even already dropping the purple devils on unsuspecting parked cars. We brought this up last May, having



noticed that one of the largest downtown Jacarandas was not blooming, when at the same time the year before, it was in full glory. Chalk it all up to our evolving, wacky weather? We just had three days of summer temperatures, then a quick U-Turn and it's like early spring again, so all of our flora may be confused. We miss good old Dr. Fischbeck, who always had the answers.

Brief note: Thanks to all of you for your support, subscribing to and encouraging us to continue the printed version of *The Observer*.



Blocking Out Hate

What a fun event it was, and a very profitable one for the aforementioned Museum Center, as 88 works of art on 6" by 6" wooden blocks took in an amazing total of \$12,000, and perhaps a bit more when we get the final tally. The variety of works was astonishing, quite a few were three-dimensional, all were crafted with great inspiration by local artists who wanted to help fund the upcoming Pride Fest, which will be on June 7. We will keep you posted.

We are also keeping you posted about Day of Music, which boasts 60-plus locations as of this writing, with more being added every day. Interested? Sign up at https://dayofmusicfullerton.com/venues and even if you are not a musician you can participate in Circle Singing, something made popular by Bobby McFerrin.

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



2025 Summer Arts Adventure Camp



Week 1: June 2 - 6 Week 2: June 9 -13 8:30am to 12 Noon

Continue your Artistic Adventure with us! Follow on Social Media: www.allthearts.org



This time

From what we could tell, this was taken from the top of Coyote Hills, which is what that entire area was called at the time. Can anyone name the road that stretches out ahead, through La Habra, our neighbor to the north, and beyond? Is that La Mirada Creek next to Hacienda Road? Inquiring minds need to know.



Last time:

We published this photo of something familiar to many but explained by none. We did get some captions and awful puns, as well as curious comments from various sources. Here are the biggest offenders.

"I couldn't bear it. Carney bears. Bearazona. A beary long time. Bear-ly there? Grin and "Bear" it. Bear-ly getting started. Ursally ridiculous (Disney reference? Don't see an octopus). It's a grizzly corner, but they always have something bruin. What, no Cubs? Go Dodgers. The ad said that a bear was needed to round out their band for Hibernation. Bear-ly getting started. Greedy bears are held captive on Woods. Bears got benched for the summer."

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2025

"1966" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 19)

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ACROSS

- 1. 1966 ride debut
- 7. 1966 prez
- 10. Rink surface
- 13. "Zack and Miri Make (2008 Seth Rogen film)
- 14. Garage
- 15. Quarterback Newton
- 16. 1966 TV debut
- 17. The E in DOE: Abbr.
- 18. " live and breathe!"
- 19. Phil who sang "I Ain't Marching Anymore"
- 20. 1966 winner of the highest-scoring NFL game
- 22. Cool, in 1966
- 23. Some "Rocky" dialogue
- 24. Fr. holy woman
- 25. Historic time
- 26. Letters seen at 14-Across
- 28. Brewery kilns
- 30. 1966 fashion fads
- 34. Summer coolers, for short

- 37. "Sense and Sensibility" director
- 38. Surgery sites, for short
- 39. Suffix with auction or pamphlet
- 40. 1966 governor-elect
- 44. Latina friend
- 45. Hostess ___ Balls
- 46. Fingers in a lineup
- 49. Not right?
- 50. Pinnacle
- 52. Ticket issuer
- 53. 1966 ride debut
- 58. Pacific Coast Highway's route number
- 59. Extended family
- 60. Taking the place (of)
- 61. Shaq, e.g.
- 62. Hostess snack cake
- 63. Tapered off
- 64. Lean-___ (sheds)
- 65. List-ending abbr.
- 66. Stoneworkers

Down

- San Lucas
- 2. Geronimo, for one
- 3. May honoree
- 4. Fingertip-to-fingertip measurement
- 5. Genetic inits.
- 6. Suffix with ball or bass
- 7. "Star Wars" smuggler Calrissian
- 8. " her heart"
- 9. Steve Martin 1979 film, with "The"
- 10. "Down in front!"
- 11. The C of VCR
- 12. U.K. record label
- 14. "Bye now"
- 21. "Out of Africa" writer Dinesen
- 26. Exclaimed with mild surprise
- Rabbit (former Splash Mountain character)
- 28. Santa Ana charter often called "OH-sha"
- 29. Ukr., once
- 31. Scat queen Fitzgerald
- 32. "Play It as It Lays" author Didion
- 33. Mythological ship
- 34. Asia's shrinking Sea
- 35. Acquire, as inheritance
- 36. Brandy glasses

- 41. Sports or talent reps. 42. Spanish, in Spanish
- 43. "National Treasure" star Cage
- 47. Snack chip
- 48. Organ that may be removed
- 50. Letter-shaped workbench groove
- 51. Manning audible
- 54. Joint problem
- 55. Neeson of "Rob Roy" 56. Caitlin Clark's org.
- 57. Milk
- 58. Halloween mo.



Union Pacific Trail Project Delayed

continued from front page

During the May 6 council meeting, Council Member Dunlap proposed the postponement of item six from the council consent calendar, pushing the matter to the next meeting scheduled for May 20. Dunlap expressed his concerns over the financial commitments associated with the trail project, which includes \$330,000 from park dwelling fees and an additional \$300,000 drawn from the general fund.

"Given the financial challenges facing our city, I think it's critical to understand where this money is coming from," he remarked.

He emphasized the importance of transparency regarding how the new funding affects other projects within the community. Council Member Jamie Valencia supported Dunlap's request for further clarity. Council Member Ahmad Zahra questioned whether the council was currently debating the item, to which Mayor Fred Jung clarified that Dunlap was not engaging in a debate but rather voicing his concerns. Public comments reflected the community's frustration with the ongoing delays.

Resident Diane urged the council to act swiftly, stating, "The trail has been postponed time and again. This is important to our community, and we need a decision tonight."

Todd Harrison raised an issue regarding the mixing of two significant financial items on the agenda, suggesting that the council should reconsider treating them as separate line items to better reflect their individual impacts.

Josh Ferguson called for detailed information regarding funding changes and project adjustments, emphasizing the need for transparency. "We should have clarity on what has changed and why," he insisted, reflecting a broader sentiment among residents for more comprehensive communication regarding the project.

In a passionate address to city officials, Egleth Nuncci expressed her frustration over the ongoing challenges faced in advocating for the development of the Union Pacific Trail in Fullerton. Nuncci highlighted years of dedication, attending meetings and working with various agencies to secure funding for improvements, particularly for the planting of new trees in an area she described as integral to the city's identity as "the City of Trees."

"There's a lot of misinformation circulating about this project," Nuncci stated, referencing her discussions representatives with state Sacramento.

She emphasized that the grant obtained for the trail's enhancement is vital for both the community's environmental health and overall aesthetic. Nuncci's emotional appeal reflected the fatigue and health struggles endured by advocates fighting for the trail's approval. She underscored the

frustrating delays that have turned a straightforward project into a contentious issue, particularly as it involves potential land development interests.

"This should not be a huge issue just because someone owns the [adjacent] land and wants to develop it," she asserted, urging officials to remember their responsibility to serve the community rather than cater to financial interests.

"There's a legacy at stake here," she added, emphasizing the importance of integrity over monetary influence in decision-making.

Asserting that the community has demonstrated its commitment through volunteer efforts, Nuncci called on city officials to show respect for the residents who tirelessly work for the betterment of Fullerton.

"We're here because we love our city, and it's time our voices are heard equally, regardless of the size of our bank accounts," she concluded. She rallied support from the audience and vowed to bring more advocates to future meetings.

Dunlap expressed concerns regarding the funding commitment for a specific city project, highlighting issues with transparency and communication. Dunlap pointed out that while the initial commitment from the city was stated to be \$330,000, new revelations indicate that an additional \$300,000 from the general fund would also be allocated. This brings the total city commitment to \$660,000.

"People want to complain about delays," Dunlap said, attributing the pacing of decision-making to "the speed of government," which can often be sluggish.

He further emphasized the importance of clarity in financial commitments and the impact of reallocating funds from other essential projects. Dunlap questioned whether the revised funding proposal, which nearly doubled the city's initial commitment, should have been placed on the consent calendar for quick approval in the first place. He stated, "There should have been an item presented for us to consider with the cost increase."

The future of the Union Pacific Trail will be decided on May 20. The delay raises questions regarding the timeline and future of the Trail project, which has generated significant interest and anticipation within the community.

The details can be found at: www.cityoffullerton.com/agendas

The next City Council meeting will be held on May 20 at 5:30 pm. Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting to voice their opinions. It is important to document all voices and questions. City Hall is located at 303 West Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton, and can be attended in person, via Zoom, or by phone. See meetings and agendas on City of Fullerton website.

How to contact your District Representative

• District 1: **Mayor Fred Jung** (714) 738-6311 fred.jung

• District 3:Mayor Pro Tem Dr, Shana Charles (714) 738-6311 shana.charles

@cityoffullerton.com

(a)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



VIDEO *Observer*

by Emerson Little © 2025

See videos on YouTube @emersonlittle1901

Free Fullerton College Art Gallery **Showcases Student Work**

Around this time every spring, parents and students alike gather inside the Fullerton College Art Department's gallery to see a showcase of student artwork ranging from drawing and painting, illustration, printmaking, graphic design, 3D modeling, sculpture and ceramics to art disciplines new and old. Free and open to the public, the Fullerton College Art Gallery, located in the 1000 building on the community college campus, is currently exhibiting student-made work in the college's 2025 Student Art Exhibition, which runs until Wednesday, May 21.

Before the show opened, I had a chance to interview Seija Rohkea, Art Gallery Technician, and Jasmine McNeal, Adjunct Professor in the Fullerton College Art Department's Fine Arts Division, about what it's like working at the gallery, how they plan for the show, and how they've collaborated with student artists and gallery assistants on this exhibition.

"My favorite part about working with the students and Seija is the community that we've built," said Jasmine via email. "I think we have a unique advantage since we're one of the few Museum Studies programs [at the community college level] California, and I honestly feel like we do great work. I love to see the students get excited about a show and see how their minds work when they are installing and curating. And I love that Seija advocates for all of us and puts in the extra work to make sure that things run so smoothly."

Seija explained, "I work as a gallery lab tech, and what that means is that I make sure that the gallery is stocked at all times and ready to go for exhibitions with our students. And then I get to work with the students putting the exhibits up on the walls. Jasmine, she curates the exhibit and themes, and helps the students figure out placement on the walls, and how artworks speak to each other...So we all work together."

Throughout the academic school year, the Gallery features both student and faculty artwork. "We do feature faculty who actively work in the industry while teaching our students their special techniques," said Seija. "We have a permanent collection here that is largely based on our artist-in-residency program that's been going on since 1973. And every fall, we feature some artworks from that collection that the students curate...They put a theme together; they pick out the artwork, we get things framed, and they get to do it from beginning to end. So it's a wonderful experience."

"We also intern with other public

entities like Fullerton Museum Center, Brea Gallery, all the way down to the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, so we have these wonderful internship programs that our students who go through our program get to tap into, and some land into careers. It's just a great way to teach the people who are actively in the museum studies program that you can do it too," said Seija.

Jasmine explained that the Museum Studies program at the community college has been collaborating with the Gallery since its inception. "Working in a gallery setting keeps you on your toes. It teaches you that things can change, but that you can overcome anything, and at the end of the day, you have collaborated with wonderful people around you to make something bigger than yourself," said Jasmine. "Art is healing, art is teaching and art saves us from ourselves sometimes. And I get to learn every single day how the people around me contribute to a message so much bigger than we can imagine."

Seija explained that a student art exhibit means not knowing what you're getting into. The gallery received a total of 316 submissions, but the jury ended up selecting 210 from them to be in the show. So, in preparation for receiving artwork, they had to create space, which meant having blankets down on the floor and having everything painted in advance, including every pedestal and every

"Everything has to be painted in advance, whether we're going to use it or not, because you may need it," said Seija. "So, we'll end up with some extra materials, which will be fine. But at least we're not painting last minute because a lot of the pedestals need at least three days to what we call 'off gas,' so you could put a heavy object on top, otherwise it could stick. So that's the most challenging: not knowing what we're getting.'

The Fullerton College Art Gallery got a laser level this year, which they say has been a game changer. Seija explained that it helped them lay out whole sections of the gallery when planning and preparing for this year's spring student art show.

Jasmine loves being a curator at the Fullerton College Art Gallery because it allows her the opportunity to teach the Fullerton community how important education and art truly is. "One of my biggest joys is being able to teach the Museum Studies class," she said. "I think about them when I'm away from them. I look forward to showing up and teaching every Tuesday and



Opening reception of the Student Art Show at the Fullerton College Art Gallery on May 8.



Above: Seija and Jasmine with student gallery workers. Below: Seija Rohkea, Art Gallery Technician, preparing for the 2025 Fullerton College Student Art Show. Photo courtesy of logan martinez (museum studies grad)



Thursday, and on some level, I feel like it saved my life. This program gives me hope and joy and I'm just so grateful to be a part of anything that we create together."

To both Seija and Jasmine, the most fulfilling part of seeing this end of the school year art show is watching how much work that goes into it behind the scenes. Finally seeing the show at the end always brings them joy.

"It starts out a little chaotic and big and energetic, and then as the opening happens, you get to see the students be so proud of the work that they've been working on all year," said Jasmine. "I like to see their excited faces get awards. I like to see their excited faces support their fellow students. And I like to see them hopeful about being able to submit something the next year. I think this is the beginning of them building their confidence as artists, and the student art exhibition is a little taste into what their futures might look

I got to attend the Fullerton College Art Gallery's opening reception for the show on May 8, and it was great seeing all the student art pieces on display for Fullerton community members to view and potentially buy. This year, the gallery is allowing students to sell their artwork. The student gallery assistants were very helpful, and I couldn't help admiring how excited the college students were showing off their pieces of artwork on display to family members.

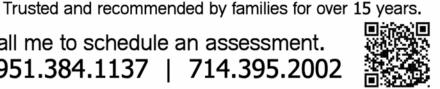
The Fullerton College Art Gallery is free to access and open to the public during regular campus hours. Gallery Hours are Monday through Thursday from 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm. For further gallery information, contact fcartgallery@gmail.com or visit their social media instagram.com/fcartgallery. To learn more about the Fullerton College Art Department, visit their website at art.fullcoll.edu.



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HITS & MISSES

by Pamela Mason Wagner © 2025



SINNERS: Two Hit

If you haven't yet seen Sinners, Ryan Coogler's latest hit film, maybe it's because vampire films—or bloodsoaked cinematic violence—aren't your thing. That was my excuse, until the flood of critical acclaim and positive word-of-mouth finally pulled me in. I'm glad it did.

Coogler, known for Fruitvale Station, Creed, and Black Panther, has once again pushed boundaries. With Sinners, he delivers a bold blend of history, horror, music, and mythology—and audiences are responding. It's currently the highest-grossing original (non-franchise) film since 2017.

Set in post—World War I Mississippi, twin brothers Smoke and Stack—deft-ly portrayed by Michael B. Jordan—return home from the horrors of European trenches and Chicago's gangland underworld.

Home is Clarksdale, where bluesman Robert Johnson made his legendary deal with the devil. The twins buy a mill (or is it a slaughterhouse?) and pour suitcases full of cash into opening a juke joint on the edge of this Jim Crow town.

The film's first act is full of swagger and momentum as the brothers recruit their crew: Annie (a compelling Wunmi Mosaku) cooks and runs the bar; a field hand becomes their bouncer; and their cousin Sammie Moore, aka Preacher Boy (a breakout performance by first-timer Miles Caton), brings the music.

When Sammie sings, we hear a consummate bluesman; Smoke sees dollar signs. The addition of Delta Slim, a washed-up harmonica player (Delroy Lindo), completes the team and sets the stage for something extraordinary.

This section crackles with joy and hope. But history—and the film's omi-

nous first scene—warns us that joy in Black communities of this era is often fleeting. "You keep dancin' with the devil, one day he's gonna follow you home," Sammie's preacher father warns.

The devil does arrive—or something very much like him—in the form of Remmick, a magnetic Irish singer (Jack O'Connell), and yes, a vampire. What follows is a descent into darkness, betrayal, and spiritual theft. His most sought-after prey, however, is Sammie—he wants to possess him, to steal his music, his gift, his soul.

It's a razor-sharp metaphor for cultural appropriation: how Black artistry has been repeatedly stolen and commodified. However, Coogler complicates the narrative by showing how appropriation can go both ways—in some of the musical numbers, we hear Black musicians playing what sounds a lot like bluegrass music.

The heart of Sinners is its music. A musical climax pierces the veil between past and future, visually and aurally, in a set piece too spectacular and original to spoil here.

The film also finds richness in its cultural layers: Chinese-American grocers, Hoodoo priestesses, and the fierce, clear-eyed women who see the truth long before the men do.

Even the end credits are worth the wait, offering one final, unforgettable performance. And if you're wondering about Coogler's mentors—look no further than the "special thanks" list, where Rhiannon Giddens shares space with Christopher Nolan. That's the level he's operating on.

If Sinners is the future of Hollywood storytelling—bold, inclusive, original—then the future can't come fast enough.

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



Book Release & Panel Event at the Fullerton Museum with authors Nate Jackson and Daniel Kohn "Tearing Down the Orange Curtain: How Punk Rock Brought Orange County to the World"

Tuesday May 20, 2025 at 5 to 9pm

Fullerton Museum is located at 301 N. Pomona Ave, Fullerton Tickets are \$60 and include a book, one beer garden drink ticket, access to the panel discussion with Nate Jackson and Daniel Kohn with special guest appearances, and admission to the gallery. Noodles from The Offspring will be joining as a special guest.



Jamie, Miles, Shube, Spencer, Austin, Drew | Host: Nate

Shmimprov Show

at the Maverick Theater

May 23 from 11 to 11:55 pm 110 B E. Walnut Ave, Fullerton mavericktheater.com | 714-526-7070

If you've never been to Improv Shmimprov, here's the low-down details. It's a completely improvised show, made up on the spot based purely on your suggestion. If you've seen "Whose Line Is It Anyways", it's kinda like that, but faster, funnier and without rules or boundaries (or corporate sponsorship). Get ready to laugh your friggin pants off because you are about to find out why Improv Shmimprov has been Orange County's most popular improv comedy show since 2003!

Word to the wise: our shows sell out so you would be wise to buy your tickets now. You can PROBABLY purchase tickets at the door, but there's no guarantee. We sell out shows all the time so don't get left out in the cold.



A one-woman play in Fullerton to raise funds for Planned Parenthood.

Saturday, May 31 at 5 PM

nitarian Universalist Congregation in Fullerton (First Christian Church in Fullerton) 109 E. Wilshire, Fullerton (corner of Wilshire and Harbor)



\$20 - All proceeds to Planned Parenthood
May not be suitable for children/ young teens.



Reserve Tickets https://bit.ly/uucftickets



PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED

by Rachel Zhao, Pre-planning advisor at Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary, in collaboration with Troy Preparedness Club

Rachel Zhao

No one expects the unexpected. Yet, through Rachel Zhao's work, she has witnessed countless families suddenly confronted with tragedy-accidents, natural disasters, and sudden illness.

Each time, grief is compounded by confusion, stress, and an overwhelming sense of being unprepared. It is a painful reality that few want to think about, yet none of us can guarantee that we won't one day face it.

In February 2025, Rachel assisted a family whose loved one perished in the recent Malibu wildfire.

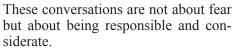
Despite two mandatory evacuation notices from the authorities, he refused to leave his home. He was not ready to face the possibility of losing everything, nor had he prepared to evacuate. In the end, tragedy struck. His family, living out of state, was suddenly faced with the painful reality of arranging his cremation from afar, with no clear instructions on his final wishes. Their loss was already devastating, but now they also had to make urgent decisions in the midst of shock and sorrow.

As a Pre-Planning Advisor at Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary, Rachel has seen firsthand how unpreparedness can add to the burden of loss. In contrast, she has also worked with families who took the time to plan, ensuring their loved ones would not be left with uncertainty. The difference is profound—those who pre-plan spare their families from difficult decisions and unexpected financial burdens, allowing them to focus on healing and remembrance instead.

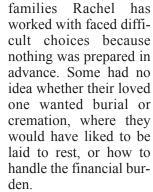
Moments like this remind us why being prepared for the unexpected is essential—not because we expect tragedy, but because we acknowledge that life is uncertain. So, how can we prepare emotionally and practically for something we hope will never happen?

1. Mental Preparedness: Accepting Life's Uncertainty. While no one likes to dwell on loss, it is important to acknowledge that life is fragile. Understanding that uncertainty is part of life helps us approach difficult conversations with more openness. Instead of avoiding discussions about what might happen, we can talk with our loved ones about our wishes and theirs.

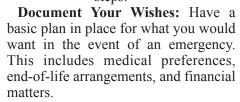
Have you experienced a situation where disaster preparedness was useful or could have been beneficial? Please share your story with us! Use this QR code to answer a few questions.



2. Practical Preparation: Reducing Burden on Loved Ones. Many of the



To avoid such distress, consider taking these steps:



Discuss with Family: Share your thoughts with those closest to you, so they are not left guessing.

Organize Important Documents: Store legal documents, insurance information, and emergency contacts in an easily accessible place.

Financial Readiness: Unexpected events can create emotional turmoil and financial hardship. Having life insurance or savings specifically designated for emergencies can ease the burden on your family.

3. Emotional Readiness: Living Without Regrets. Many families I've met regret not having one last conversation, not expressing their love, and not making peace with past conflicts. While we cannot predict the future, we can choose to live each day with more intention. Take time to cherish loved ones, express appreciation, and resolve misunderstandings while you can.

The family who lost their loved one in the Malibu fire had no warning. They didn't expect to be making these decisions so suddenly. But their story is not unique—situations like this occur all too often. Preparing for the unexpected is not about being pessimistic; it's about being kind to the people we care about. It is a gift of clarity, security, and peace of mind, even in life's most difficult moments.

We cannot control the future, but we can prepare for it. And in doing so, we ease the path for those we love.





2025 FAST Summer Swim League A fun, introductory swimming

experience for ages 7-14!

TRYOUTS: APRIL 26, MAY 3, OR MAY 10 (PICK ONE) -10AM AT THE JANET EVANS SWIM COMPLEX Must be deep water safe and able to complete 25 yards of Freestyle without assistance.

Complete details and registration at www.fullertonaquatics.org.



City Council Implements New Decorum Rules for Council Communications by David Spargur

The Fullerton City Council voted 3 to 2 to change decorum rules for the "Council Communications" meeting section. Council Members Nicholas Dunlap, Jamie Valencia, and Mayor Fred Jung voted in favor of the change. Mayor Pro Tem Shana Charles and Member Ahmad Zahra voted against it.

Jung said he asked for the rule change to be brought forward. He said the rule change proposed an allowable scope of comments for this meeting section. Jung continued, to say that this part of council meetings was not the time to have a "stream of conscious-

What happens during the "Council Communications" section of the meeting? According to the new decorum documents, during this meeting section council members are now restricted to:

- Providing mandatory reporting on meetings attended at public expense in compliance with AB1234
- Reporting regional board, commission and committee information and activities to which City Council appointed the council member
- Report, query and/or update the City Council and/or the public on any matter within the City Council subject matter jurisdiction.

Besides restricting the comments to the above scope, the proposal set a five-minute maximum per council member to report on all of the above during this section of council meetings. Previously there was no time limit. The five-minute maximum can only be extended at the discretion of the mayor or a majority of the council.

Also, the rule change stated "Council Members may not debate or act on issues arising during this section of the agenda. Council Members may agendize an item for discussion at a future meeting"

Finally, the new rule added that "Council Members shall not engage in negative commentary regarding fellow Council Members, staff or members of the public during Council Communications."

Jung and an audience member noted that it is not clear who gets to define what "negative" is.

Audience member Vanessa Estrella was concerned about the limitation to five minutes and the censoring of "any statements that may be deemed negative." She said this would hamper the council members from "disagreeing respectfully" and properly debating issues.

Zahra and Charles said restricting the report to five minutes impaired the council members' legal responsibility to report to the council and the public. Zahra noted that, "Five minutes was not enough to report on boards," judging from his experience reporting on Water District meetings.

Dunlap said that he had no problem with a five-minute limit.

Valencia said she is for restricting the scope of this section of the meeting.

Many of the public commentators complained that the public was not able to easily see the actual rule change, calling this out as a lack of transparency.

The actual changes to this rules and decorum document can be seen by going to the cityofFullerton.com, click on the Government tab, then (at left) City Council Meeting Agenda, then City Council/Planning Commission Archive, then click on May 6 meeting Agenda link. Note that the meeting video link is also on this page. Scroll down to item 14, click on the title, then click on attachment 3 pdf: "050625 CLK Rules of Procedure Draft Resolution Redline"



Tell Us What You Think of Transportation in Orange County!

Measure (M2) is a voter-approved sales tax that funds transportation improvements across Orange County. OCTA is conducting a Ten-Year Review to ensure M2 meets community needs and we want to hear from you!

Virtual Community Webinar: Thursday, June 5, 2025 5:30 p.m.

Webinar ID: 853 3473 5270 Call-in Number: (213) 338-8477 bit.ly/M2ReviewWebinar

Take our Survey: Take our survey by

June 30, 2025, for a chance to win one of four \$50 gift cards!

bit.ly/M2ReviewSurvey



Spanish and Vietnamese interpretation will be provided during the webinar. For additional accommodations, email M2Review@octa.net at least 72 hours in advance. Visit octa.net/M2Review for updates and more information.

GENERAL FUND FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL FORECAST	FY 25-26 Proposed Budget	FY 26-27 Forecast	FY 27-28 Forecast	FY 28-29 Forecast	FY 29-30 Forecast	
Beginning Fund Balance	\$30,816,295	\$26,870,278	\$17,957,402	\$8,440,521	\$19,692	
Revenues	137,542,452	142,451,152	147,867,494	152,473,977	153,919,471	
Transfers In	778,087	678,087	678,087	678,087	300,000	
Transfers In from Traffic Safety Fund	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	
Transfers In from IT Fund - Server Repl. Loan	378,087	378,087	378,087	378,087		
Transfers In from CIP - Boys/Girls Club Lease (One-Time)	100,000	-	-	14	-	
Revenues & Transfers In Total	138,320,539	143,129,239	148,545,581	153,152,064	154,219,471	
Expenditures	(137,781,505)	(147,316,999)	(152,944,830)	(156,271,355)	(158,805,815)	
Transfers Out	(4,485,051)	(4,725,116)	(5,117,633)	(5,301,538)	(5,493,077	
Transfers Out to Infrastructure Fund	(2,599,777)	(2,718,210)	(3,306,527)	(3,490,432)	(3,681,971	
Transfers Out to CIP Fund - Residential Streets	(500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	
Transfers Out to IT Fund - IT Projects & Other	(1,385,274)	(506,906)	(311,106)	(311,106)	(311,106)	
Expenditures & Transfers Out Total	(142,266,556)	(152,042,115)	(158,062,463)	(161,572,892)	(164,298,892)	
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$3,946,017)	(\$8,912,876)	(\$9,516,882)	(\$8,420,828)	(\$10,079,420)	
Ending Fund Balance	\$26,870,278	\$17,957,402	\$8,440,521	\$19,692	(\$10,059,728	
10% Contingency Reserve (Minimum per Financial Policy)	\$13,778,151	\$14,731,700	\$15,294,483	\$15,627,135	\$15,880,581	
17% Contingency Reserve (Goal)	\$23,422,856	\$25,043,890	\$26,000,621	\$26,566,130	\$26,996,989	
Over/(Under) 10% Contingency Reserve	13,092,127	3,225,702	(6,853,962)	(15,607,443)	(25,940,309	
Over/(Under) 17% Contingency Reserve	3,447,422	(7,086,488)	(17,560,100)	(26,546,438)	(37,056,717	

5-year General Fund Fiscal Forecast
https://fullerton.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1289735&
GUID=D254ED27-6967-40CD-85DA-9E8E97A926D5&Search=

Fullerton's Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 by Kristen Read

The first order of business at the city council meeting on May 13 was a presentation of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Proposed Operating Budget by city staff, who outlined the highlights of the \$137.5M plans for the approaching fiscal year. Council members provided commentary and then opened comments to the public. Staff described a challenging budget situation.

On the revenue side, property tax revenue is raising only marginally and sales tax revenue has flatlined. Sales tax will be discussed at the next City Council Meeting currently scheduled for Tuesday, May 20.

Reporting on expenditures staff stated that \$2M is available to maintain streets and \$0.5M is allocated for street improvement. City Engineer David Grantham said it would take over \$200M to fix all the streets, which could not be done all at once. He calculated that it would be approximately \$15M per year factoring in grants. Among those in attendance, there were scoffs and sighs heard in learning about the meek allocation to street improvements. Many speakers mentioned later that this is a priority for them.

\$1.4M for IT infrastructure with hardware replacements and software

upgrades was highlighted. The largest cost reduction (\$7.2M) is to beachieved by delaying to fill open positions.

Under expenditures, it was noted that no operating budget increases will be added to any department budgets as a cost containment measure. While reducing and containing costs with these measures, current service levels will be maintained and there is a recommendation to focus on public safety and infrastructure.

Continuing on, to the topic of deficit was probably the grimmest portion of the presentation. A projection to FY29-30 was presented in the event that Fullerton continues to carry the net operating deficit we currently face.

There were two alternative budgets presented, one was a scenario that would eliminate the \$3.9M operating deficit. In that scenario, there would need to be three cuts:

- 1. Defund IT initiatives such as the Fire FD Network, PC Refresh, and Versaterm vCloud projects;
- 2. Reduce expenditure by 2% across all departments; and
- departments; and 3. Remove Community Events such as

4th of July and First Night.

Dunlap adding, "a lot of times these cuts are presented and it's always the

FY 2025-26 General Fund Revenues of \$137.5 Million FY 25-26 General Fund Revenues by Type Budget Major Revenue Category Budget Increase / FY 24-25 FY 25-26 (Decrease) Property Tax \$58,044,816 30,512,105 31,308,118 2.6% Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) 3,400,000 3,450,000 1.5% Proper Tax 46% All Other Taxes 3,426,110 2.5% 3,510,566 Licenses & Permits 2,485,484 -0.6% \$137.5 M Charges for Services 14,344,359 17,784,725 Other Revenues * 13,134,192 13,894,807 Human & Leisure Services 2,448,775 2,369,475 3.3% (Library & Parks & Re \$127,716,541 \$137,542,452 **Total General Fund Revenue** Sales Tax 23%

Budget Study Session- FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget: https://fullerton.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7379315&GUID=E98 B4C11-731C-4C67-86C58B65476E7241&Options=&Search=



resident-facing events; it's never something behind the scenes ... my hope is that we can get some good feedback from the committee with respect to recurring expenses and large contracts that could potentially be adjusted."

Council members agreed that keeping key community events like 4th of July was something they support. There was an exchange in commentary around community meetings about the budget.

Councilmember Zahra was concerned that there was only a week to translate and analyze the content.

Councilmember Valencia later said that the expense of holding community meetings might not be a good allocation of funds, especially considering the shortfalls council had just digested and that community members are welcome to attend ad hoc committee meetings

Mayor Pro Tem Charles said "I can

put off buying a new computer for another year" in reaction to learning about the alternative budget option to lower IT spending.

Fullerton is facing significant fiscal challenges. These include employee retention, an uncertain economy, the growing cost of conducting business and aging city infrastructure.

The City's largest expenditures are on essential services such as the police and fire departments. Like many communities, Fullerton is prioritizing public safety and community preservation while still finding ways to deliver event highlights like its 4th of July celebration.

This is being solved through understaffing and maintaining departmental budgets that do not grow with inflation.

See related story Fiscal Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee budget recommendations on page 13.





I **PBS**

Support the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) by contacting your members of Congress. Approximately 20% of PBS's funding comes from the federal government, and it has served as a vital voice in Southern California for over 60 years. Help PBS continue its important mission to serve our communities.

Here are some representatives you can call:

- Derek Tran 202-225-2415
- Adam Schiff 202-224-3841
- Alex Padilla 202-224-3553
- Lou Correa 46 202-225-2965
- You can call these representatives even if you do not live in their district.

City Meetings

May 20 at 5:30pm City Council

May 21 at 5:30pm Active Transporation

May 22 at 6pm Library Board of Trustees

May 28 at 6:30pm Planning Commission

June 2 at 4pm
Transportation & Circulation

June 3 at 5:30pm City Council

June 9 at 6:30pm
Parks and Recreation

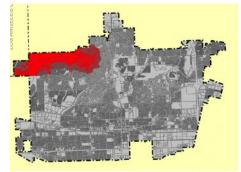
June 11 at 6:30pm Planning Commission

June 16 at 5pm
Infrastructure and Resources

June 17 at 5:30pm City Council



Comparison: 2011 vs 2025





Fullerton Adopted Updated Fire Hazard Severity Zones: What Residents Needed to Know

by Saskia Kennedy

The Fullerton City Council officially adopted updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps on May 6, 2025, which have implications for residents regarding fireworks use and building regulations. Fire Marshal Chief Jon Fugitt confirmed that while professionally-permitted public fireworks displays remain unaffected, all personal fireworks, including safe and sane options, are now prohibited within designated hazard zones.

The revisions, which were incorporated into the Fullerton Municipal Code 13.19, follow an extensive update from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The state agency released its revised FHSZ maps for Local Responsibility Areas on March 24, 2025. City Manager Eric Levitt noted that the new designations will significantly impact properties within these revised zones.

Although the city will not incur direct costs from adopting the updated maps, officials highlight that expanding designated hazard areas in the future may require additional resources, particularly for the Fire Prevention Division's inspection and enforcement efforts. City staff will assess these resource needs and provide updates to the City Council as

necessary. It is anticipated that adherence to fire hazard mitigation requirements will reduce wildfire risks and mitigate future damages and costs associated with fires.

The updated CAL FIRE maps significantly expand upon the previous designations from 2011, which classified hazard zones solely as "Very High." The 2025 update categorizes approximately 4.6 million acres in Southern California into three levels of risk: "Moderate" (MFHSZ), "High" (HFHSZ), and "Very High" (VHFH-SZ). In Fullerton, the area classified as VHFHSZ has increased by 28%, rising from 1,186 acres to 1,516 acres, which aligns with a 26% increase observed regionally. The new designations include 426 acres classified as MFHSZ and 419 acres as HFHSZ, particularly focusing on expansions in areas like the West and East Coyote Hills, where risks are heightened due to flammable vegetation.

Properties within the HFHSZ and VHFHSZ will now be subject to enhanced state-mandated building requirements. Under California Building Code Chapter 7A, new construction or major renovations in these zones must adhere to fire-resistant building standards, such as emberproof venting and ignition-resistant materials. Homeowners in VHFHSZ areas must also comply with new vegetation management regulations and defensible space measures established

under Assembly Bill 38 (2021) and Assembly Bill 3074 (2020). These legislative measures include requirements for brush clearance inspections and the maintenance of an "Ember Resistant Zone" extending five feet from structures to minimize fire risks.

Adopting the updated FHSZ maps does not directly affect residents' ability to secure insurance coverage. California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara emphasized that insurance providers do not base their rates or underwriting decisions solely on these maps. Instead, insurers rely on comprehensive models that evaluate various factors, including local Fire Department resources and historical claims.

As the city moves forward, Fire Department staff will collaborate with other city departments to ensure cohesive public messaging regarding the updated fire hazard maps to educate residents and improve community safety amidst increasing wildfire risks.

Updated City Fire Hazard Mitigation Webpage https://www.cityoffullerton.com/ Government/Departments/ Fire/Prevention/ Fire-Hazard-Mitigation New FHSZ maps posted Protect your home tips: https://readyforwildfire.org/ prepare-for-wildfire/ Email:

FireMapComments@FullertonFire.org

Controversial Landmark continued from front page

In response, Kusch reiterated that the designation focuses strictly on the home's architectural significance. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shana Charles voiced additional concerns, recalling a previous petition that successfully removed the Plummer name from a local high school amid growing scrutiny of the historical figure's associa-

"I would like to propose a motion to approve this petition but suggest that we do not include the name 'Louis Plummer' on the plaque," she said. "I feel that would not be appropriate for what we should represent for Fullerton moving forward."

Ernie Kelsey, representing Fullerton Heritage, offered insight into the complexities surrounding Plummer's historical reputation. He stated that while the Ku Klux Klan had a presence in Fullerton, determining Plummer's involvement has proven challenging.

"There are no sources that indicate he espoused Klan doctrine or engaged in marginalized targeting groups," Kelsey noted.

He emphasized that Plummer was actively involved in organizations like the Fullerton Chamber of Commerce and the Fullerton Kiwanis Club, which denounced the Klan, and that he was consistently praised for his contributions to the community.

Kelsey pointed out that much of the surrounding negative attention Plummer stems from a dissertation written in 1978, which linked him to broader Klan activities in Orange County but failed to provide concrete evidence of his personal involvement.

"While the Klan was indeed influential during the 1920s, it faded in prominence by the early 1930s," Kelsey con-

Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra raised questions about the house's history, asking, "Did Plummer historically live in this house? Is it his residence?" He further inquired about the proposed wording for a plaque that would accompany the house, suggesting that calling it either the "Plummer House" or the "Former Residence of Mr. Plummer" could be a way to address concerns surrounding its name.

Kelsey, a supporter of the designation, affirmed, "It would be called the Louis E. Plummer House. That's what the plaque would say. He was the first notable person that lived there." Zahra pointed out, however, that Plummer did not build the house, but rather was its first resident.

The discussion drew in varied opinions, with Charles expressing her disagreement with naming the house after Plummer given the potentially controversial context. "I side with the alumni and students. I just don't think it's appropriate for Fullerton at this point to be doing that," he argued. "I don't see why we need to have such a controversial name attached to it."

Kelsey countered, referencing his alumni status and asserting that the name had been associated with the house during his time at the institution.

The following excerpts are from the meeting that led to the decision to remove Louis E. Plummer's name from the Fullerton Union High School.

On June 16, 2020, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to remove Plummer's name from the Plummer Auditorium in Fullerton due to evidence of his association with the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in the 1920s. This information came to light through an online petition started by Fullerton resident Jacqueline Logwood, which gathered over 27,000 signatures.

The agenda item for the Board read

"The historical record indicates that Louis Plummer was associated with the Ku Klux Klan. The KKK is known for engaging in acts of violence and terrorism against minority populations. Louis Plummer's association was

noted in a 1979 doctoral dissertation by Christopher Cocoltchos from titled UCLA, *The Invisible Government the Viable and Community: The Ku Klux Klan in Orange County, California During the 1920s*. Cocoltchos wrote, 'Plummer was... a leader in the Myers-led Klan' (page 288)."

Having a facility named after someone with ties to the KKK contradicts both Board Policy 0100 (a) Philosophy and Goals and Board Policy 0145: Nondiscrimination (Educational Programs or Activities). The policy states, "The Fullerton Joint Union High School District shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious background, national origin or ancestry, ethnic group identification, marital or parental status, gender, sex, age, physical or mental disability, gender preference or sexual orientation, or the perception of any of these characteristics, or economic status in the educational programs or activities that it operates for its students."

The author of *The History of Fullerton Union High School: 1893-2011* opposed the name change, stat- Dunlap motioned to approve the designation of the school from Louis Plummer's

excellent work, *A History of Fullerton Union High School and Fullerton Junior College: 1893-1943*."

During the Board's discussion on the name change, Trustee Joanne Fawley, who introduced the item, mentioned that she not only read Cocoltchos' dissertation but also contacted him. He is now a retired history professor. "I thought it was important since we are relying on that as part of our decisionmaking, to hear from him," Fawley

"I believe that the research and analysis from my dissertation speaks amply for me," Cocoltchos stated. Regarding the name change, Fawley expressed, "No one's denying the history that took place with the establishment of Fullerton High School and Fullerton College. It's part of the district's history... I believe it's time to turn the page to a new era in history." Three years after Cocoltchos published his dissertation in 1979, the original membership list, which was part of the research collection, disappeared.

Ultimately, Councilmember Nick ing that she had "acquired a great deal nation of the Plummer House, with the of information about the first 50 years motion passing 3-2, as Charles and Zahra voted against it.



FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY AD HOC BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS by Saskia Kennedy

Fullerton residents face a troubling financial outlook, as projections reveal that the city is on track to deplete its reserves within three years. These reserves, primarily built from one-time federal funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), do not account for the escalating costs associated with repairing the city's crumbling infrastructure.

In light of these challenges, the Fullerton City Council established the Ad Hoc Fiscal Sustainability Committee, tasked with exploring strategies to achieve long-term financial balance. The committee, consisting of five members—Anthony Bushala, Jack Dean, Derek Smith, Jennifer Duong, and Bill Brown—has completed its work and presented a series of budget recommendations.

Formed in August 2024, the committee began holding meetings in October of the same year, although only two of these sessions have been recorded for public viewing. During meetings on March 13 and April 10, 2025, the com-

mittee assessed various options for budget balancing, including potential revenue increases, spending cuts, and alternative financial strategies.

Key votes from the March 13 meeting included:

- Pension Obligation Bonds:

Proposed as a means to pay down the city's Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL) and finance related debt. The committee voted 4-1 against this option.

- Suspend Infrastructure Fund:

A suggestion to temporarily halt the allocation of General Fund money to the Infrastructure Fund for improvements was unanimously rejected, with a 5-0 vote.

- Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Increase:

The committee backed the idea of pursuing a ballot measure to raise the TOT tax on hotel occupancies from the current 10%, voting 5-0 in favor, while noting the need for further analysis on its implications.

- Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFD):

Exploring the establishment of an EIFD to promote economic development received a 4-1 endorsement, but members clarified it is not a direct solution for budget balancing.

April 10 meeting, focused on cost-saving measures:

- Expenditure Reductions:

Staff reported ongoing cost containment efforts for the current and upcoming fiscal years. Though no formal vote was taken, the committee expressed a desire to explore additional cost-saving strategies.

- Business Improvement District (BID):

The proposal to establish a BID in Downtown Fullerton garnered support, passing 4-0-1, with the committee directing staff to conduct further analysis and consult experts on feasibility and funding structures.

- Revenue Enhancement Options:

Two distinct add-on sales tax meas-

ures were considered:

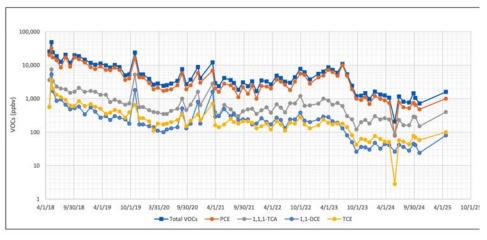
- A split vote was recorded on two dedicated 0.5% sales tax measures, with members Bushala and Dean in support and the option failing 2-2.
- A general 1% add-on sales tax measure also resulted in a 2-2 split, with Chair Smith and Member Duong backing it. Both proposals were recommended for City Council review.
- Re-evaluation of the TOT increase option was deferred, but it remains part of the recommendations alongside the sales tax options.

- Street Financing Option:

A bond issue proposal for \$35 million aimed at financing street improvements saw unanimous support (4-0-1) but was ultimately deemed not recommended.

The Ad Hoc Fiscal Sustainability Committee's recommendations were discussed during a City Council meeting on May 6, with further deliberations scheduled for May 20.

See related story A Committee With Power on page 15.



MONTHLY STATUS REPORT: Soil Vapor Extraction and In Situ Air Sparging Systems at Former Chicago Musical Instruments Site

EKI Environment & Water, Inc. (EKI) has released its Monthly Status Report for April regarding the Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) and In Situ Air Sparging (IAS) systems at the Former Chicago Musical Instruments Site,

located at 350 South Raymond Avenue, Fullerton. This report, submitted on behalf of Pitney Bowes, Inc./Novitex Enterprise Solutions, Inc., outlines the latest developments in environmental remediation efforts at the site.

The SVE system was restarted on April 1, following soil vapor sampling and necessary repairs to the transfer pump and blower. It operated efficiently throughout the month, extracting soil vapor from 37 SVE wells. Routine monitoring took place on April 9 and 23.

On April 23, EKI made adjustments to the SVE conveyance piping, enhancing performance by increasing airflow at wells with elevated volatile organic compound (VOC) levels. Full details of this reconfiguration will be covered in an upcoming SVE System Optimization Work Plan, in response to comments from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received on May 2.

Vapor samples collected from the granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment system on April 23 indicated a total VOC concentration of 1,594 parts per billion by volume (ppbv) in the blower system effluent. The SVE sys-

tem achieved a VOC mass removal rate of approximately 0.79 pounds per day, amounting to roughly 24 pounds over the month. Monitoring results showed that emissions remained within permissible limits set by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). No significant modifications to the SVE system are planned for May.

In contrast, the IAS system was deactivated on April 28, 2023, to conduct routine quarterly groundwater monitoring. It will remain off for rebound testing as previously recommended and supported by DTSC. Following a letter from DTSC on March 27, which urged the resumption of IAS operations due to rising VOC concentrations, repairs to the IAS system are expected to be completed by the end of May, with a restart projected for early June

For more information or inquiries regarding this report, contact John Bennett at (714) 477-3492.

Charter City Discussion continued from front page

It was a different picture as compared to the 2024-25 budget session held on April 23, 2024. *Observer* reporter Karen Lloreda then noted how "low public attendance" had been.

Many community members were attending for the first time. During the public comments on the Charter City issue, Robert Pearson said that he hadbeen a Fullerton resident since 1982 and had never spoken at council before, "but I am speaking today on this topic". He was opposed.

Approximately twenty-four speakers spoke in opposition to exploring Fullerton becoming a charter city. (Twenty-four represents the number of speakers that stated "I am opposed" or "I am against".) There were eight speakers in favor of further exploration of the Charter City idea. There were many passionate and insightful comments from the speakers with many diverse viewpoints and thoughtful, informed ideas.

The comments cannot be fully summarized here. They are documented on the City of Fullerton website: https://fullerton.granicus.com/player/clip/2072?view id=2&redirect=true

Among the speakers who expressed a desire for further engagement on the Charter City topic, Jose Trinidad

Castenada said he wanted to focus on facts when analyzing charter cities.

Mayor Pro Tem Charles commented that she saw a lot of new faces, pointing out Pearson and adding, "people show up when they're upset and when there's a lack of trust."

Mayor Jung clarified that no action was being sought at this meeting and that adopting a charter would include community outreach and ultimately a public vote. He said the community could choose to put their values in a charter and encouraged everyone to stay engaged.

Zahra commented that, while he appreciates dialogue, ultimately a charter would be written by the majority members of the council who control the vote, and that using the broad term "local control" is not useful in the discussion.

Charles made a motion to receive and file the proposed discussion of a charter, which was strengthened to a motion to table the discussion indefinitely by Zahra. This motion was not carried.

Council Member Dunlap responded to a comment from the public. He explained that while it was accurate to state that people are not asking for a charter city, they are explaining to him "issues that could be solved" with a charter city and asking for strengthened "local control". He brought forward a substitute motion to continue the discussion.

Council Member Valencia expressed her desire to focus on facts and her frustration with false statements. She believed that "a charter will give back local control to all of you," and she wished to move forward with discussing charter cities.

There was a motion to proceed with further discussion about Fullerton becoming a charter city and that motion was passed 3 to 2; Charles and Zahra were opposed. Full video of council deliberations:

https://fullerton.granicus.com/player/clip/2072?view_id=2&redirect=true

Points to consider about charter citys:
A charter city will not change or prevent state housing mandates, as

- courts have repeatedly affirmed this.

 While residents may think they are writing the charter, a commission will be appointed or elected. There is no guarantee that this commission will listen to the community, and even its election can be influenced by special interest money.
- Although voters must approve the charter in a general election, these elections can also be manipulated by special interests, leaving residents with limited real choices.
- Charter cities face greater legal risks, not fewer. Vague boundaries concerning state law can lead to costly lawsuits that drain taxpayer resources.
- This process can weaken transparency and state oversight. It may also consolidate power by removing term limits, granting the mayor executive control, and changing contracting and bidding rules, which can open the door to corruption and insider deals.
- •The true costs of establishing a charter city are often hidden. Expenses such as staff time, legal drafting, community outreach, and litigation can far exceed just the costs of a ballot fee, especially while Fullerton is already facing a multimillion-dollar deficit.
- Ultimately, this is not about giving residents more control; rather, it serves to consolidate power in the hands of a few and their special interest donors.

Page 14 Fullerton Observer LETTERS TO EDITOR & OPINION MID-MAY 2025

Re: A Christian Perspective

I read Rebecka Forester's passionate article about more loving treatment of the homeless. Sadly, she made her point by denigrating Judaism. She could have selected a more appropriate and positive quote from the Hebrew Bible like "love your neighbor as yourself."

Sincerely, Sylvia Schmidt, Fullerton

Observer Banned

Dear Fullerton Observer,

Congratulations! You clearly have "poked the bear" by telling the truth. You have gotten under the thin skin of our exquisitely sensitive City Council and Mayor and gotten yourself totally banned in some governmental spaces and pushed to the back in other spaces. You must be doing something very right to provoke such very wrong reactions—which I guess is what to expect from reactionaries.

I trust you will wear this distinction as a badge of courage and use it to keep you encouraged and confident that you are making a difference. We are living through a time where the news is being attacked and threatened. As they try to frighten you, silence you and move you out of sight, you have patriotically chosen not to be afraid, not to be silent and to push your font size from 12 to 24!

Jonathan Dobrer, Former Fullertonian

Charter City Debate

The opposition to Fullerton becoming a charter city isn't rooted in facts or public interest—it's rooted in political bias and a reflexive rejection of anything introduced by Mayor Fred Jung. The arguments against charter status collapse under scrutiny, and publications like the *Fullerton Observer*, which should advocate for local empowerment, have instead chosen to stoke fear and misinformation.

Sacramento is not slowing down. From housing mandates to labor laws, the state continues to erode the power of cities to govern themselves. Charter status is the most effective legal tool we have to protect our autonomy. It doesn't mean we ignore state law—it means we have the power to decide when and how to apply it in local matters.

Fullerton deserves better than to be handcuffed by outdated state mandates. We are a city of educators, entrepreneurs, artists, and families who care deeply about where we live. We have the intelligence, the creativity, and the civic pride to shape our own future—and the charter is the legal framework that lets us do just that.

Claim: Charter cities reduce accountability and invite corruption.

Reality: Charter cities still operate under California's transparency laws, including the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, and the Political Reform Act. Nothing about becoming a charter city removes oversight or ethics

requirements. In fact, a city charter gives residents the power to implement even stricter ethics rules, term limits, or transparency standards than state law requires. Suggesting otherwise ignores both the law and reality.

Claim: Charter cities concentrate power in the hands of a few elected officials.

Reality: This is a talking point, not a truth. Charter cities are governed by documents written with public input and approved by the voters themselves. That's democracy, not consolidation. It's ironic that the people making this argument seem far more concerned with who proposed the idea (Mayor Jung) than with the proposal's content. The fear of power concentration distracts from the real issue: whether Fullerton should control its local or remain bound affairs Sacramento's one-size-fits-all mandates.

Claim: Charter cities face more lawsuits and cost taxpayers more money.

Reality: Any city, charter or general law, can face legal challenges. The legal risks are not higher simply because a city adopts a charter; they only rise if a city writes a sloppy or reckless charter, which Fullerton has every opportunity to avoid through proper public process and expert input. More importantly, charter cities have more flexibility in reducing costs in public contracting, land use, and local services, often saving taxpayers money in the long term.

Claim: It will silence public voices. Reality: This argument couldn't be more backwards. Charter adoption requires public engagement, input, hearings, and a vote. If residents don't support a specific provision, they can vote it down or demand it be changed. The process invites deeper civic participation, far more than passively following distant state mandates.

Claim: Charter cities can raise taxes more easily.

Reality: False. Charter cities are still bound by Prop 13, Prop 218, and Prop 26—meaning no new local taxes can be imposed without voter approval. Charter status only allows greater efficiency in how cities spend public money, not how they raise it.

Claim: It isolates Fullerton from state or county support.

Reality: There is no evidence whatsoever to support this. Charter cities still receive state funding, participate in county programs, and are eligible for grants. Nearly 125 cities in California are charter cities—including Anaheim, Santa Ana, Irvine, and Huntington Beach. None of them has been "cut off" from support. This is fear-based rhetoric, not grounded in fact.

Let's be honest—the real reason groups like the Fullerton Observer are opposing charter status has nothing to do with policy and everything to do with politics. If this proposal had come from anyone other than Mayor Fred Jung, many of these same critics would

likely be praising it as a progressive step toward local empowerment. Instead, they've allowed pettiness to dictate their stance, opposing a good idea simply because of who introduced it.

Fullerton deserves better than performative outrage and knee-jerk contrarianism. This isn't a small town that needs to be told what to do by Sacramento. This is a proud, capable community that can write its own rules, shape its own future, and trust its own residents. Becoming a charter city is a powerful step in that direction—and it's time to stop letting political grudges get in the way of progress.

Fran J, former municipal attorney

In reply to Fran J.

"Sacramento is not slowing down. From housing mandates to labor laws, the state continues to erode the power of cities to govern themselves."

And? We have state-wide problems, so the state makes policy. There is no charter Fullerton could write that would take away the state government's supremacy.

Cities aren't a (federal) constitutionally recognized entity. The state government has every right to set policy and it's fantasy to think that being a "charter city" somehow balances that out.

Clearly the charter concept is for something. You seem to be saying what you feel it is not about. It seems most likely that what it will be about is who gets to write the charter and what it says. Which everyone should assume will be dominated by the current council majority, so the behavior of the current council majority should be evaluated in deciding whether to become a charter city.

John H, Fullerton resident

In reply to Fran J.

Many of these points COULD be right, but you are missing the nuance. This is very much a "this COULD happen" situation.

That said, my main issue with this council's decision to explore charter city status is the way the topic arose, the lack of transparency surrounding that decision, and the questionable motives of those pushing it forward.

I attend council meetings. Charter city status had never been discussed at a city council meeting. The reasoning given in staff reports for such a monumental shift in governance was minimal. It is absolutely unclear why this is being pushed forward now, at this time. What problem do we need to solve in Fullerton?

I agree with state-level housing mandates. Fullerton can't weasel its way out of them via charter city status (see: HB and the hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayer funds it's wasted on lawsuits fighting state housing mandates – which it continues to lose), but even if it could, I wouldn't want that. However, housing mandates were one of the reasons cited by Jung and Dunlap at the meeting where this was announced.

I disagree that this doesn't consolidate power in the hands of the few. It absolutely does. Who gets to write the charter? The council. Meaning Jung, with the backing of Dunlap and Valencia. Jung has made it clear he has no interest in transparency or decorum, and a charter will allow him to do things like uproot the way the mayor is elected and the powers bestowed on that seat. I don't trust Jung and I don't trust him not to abuse this power.

You're absolutely right that much of

this is rooted in politics. Why? Because Jung has completely lost the trust of those who go to city council meetings and watch his actions and attitude in person. He has pushed through unpopular policies, he has steamrolled right over public sentiment, he has dismantled public programs at the behest of his campaign donors despite overwhelming public wishes to the contrary. He demeans his fellow city council members, he has denied an entire district mayoral representation for years, he looks down on public commenters simply for disagreeing with him, he does not explain his decision-making at the dais, he tries to limit public involvement in the political process. These are absolutely not the qualities befitting a good leader.

What if someone you didn't love were to do the same things Jung is doing? What if Jung were on the council minority and Zahra kept him out of the mayoral rotation, and Zahra randomly announced looking into a charter city one day? Would you still defend that proposition?

So then he suddenly, without warning, announces he wants Fullerton to be a charter city. Why? What problem is he trying to solve? He won't say.

This isn't "knee-jerk contrarianism" (which is the empty argument Jung often tries to use to dismiss genuine public sentiment). This is true concern for the city and for our ability to see our city progress, headed by compassion, empathy, and concern for public welfare, not the cronyism, arrogance, and opacity championed by Jung, Dunlap, and Valencia.

I think your arguments are more like excuses to allow Jung to continue to get his way at the expense of everyone else. Jung leads with a disdain toward transparency and decorum and I absolutely do not trust any of his motivations when springing this topic on the public without warning or explanation

Fran J isn't by chance a pseudonym for Fred Jung, is it?

Amy A, Fullerton

In reply to Fran J.

Thank you for your thoughtful response. I will admit that I am biased because I do not think Jung has everybody's best interests in mind, but he will not be on the council forever. We have seen overreach from Sacramento time and time again, and your response gives us even more to chew on. Thank you again.

Tony W, Fullerton

Due to recent decisions by the city council (banning non-government materials displayed at City Hall, limiting council members' comments to five minutes, termination of WOW, Union Pacific Trail & more), I am very suspicious of the current proposal to change the city to a Charter form of government. I'm leery about the motives of the council majority.

Why is this proposed change being brought up at a special council meeting? This is a huge issue and should be brought up at regular council meetings with which community members are more familiar so that they can review and follow every step of the process.

A well-respected academian mentioned that "Trump Proofing" the state has nothing to do with the City or its legal status. For me, it comes down to questioning the intentions of the council majority.

Helen H, Fullerton



Opinion: The Quiet Consolidation of Power by Fullerton's Mayor by Elijah Manassero

Fullerton's Mayor Fred Jung proposed amendments to the City Council rules on May 6 that allowed him as mayor to limit how long council members can speak and prohibit "negative commentary" about other members. While these changes were presented as procedural, they follow a clear pattern: Mayor Jung has incrementally expanded his control over council processes, aided consistently by Council Members Nicholas Dunlap and Jamie Valencia.

Fullerton is a general law city, meaning the mayor holds no additional authority beyond ceremonial duties. Council members are elected by district and select a mayor from among themselves. Under Fullerton's informal rotation policy, Council Member Ahmad Zahra was next in line to serve, yet Jung nominated himself and secured the votes of Dunlap and Valencia to become mayor. At the time, this move seemed disproportionate for a ceremonial post. Subsequent actions suggest it was strategic.

A proposal was brought forward at the March 4 City Council meeting to explore converting Fullerton into a charter city. Of 23 public speakers, only seven supported the idea, yet the measure passed with support from Jung, Dunlap, and Valencia. Unlike general law cities, charter cities can grant broader powers to their officials, including the mayor, through customized governance rules. The proposal raised questions about motive and transparency, particularly as no clear justification was provided.

Just weeks later, on March 27, Jung signed a letter opposing SB 79, a state housing bill. The letter used boilerplate language provided by the League of California Cities and was submitted on official City of Fullerton letterhead, despite no council discussion or vote. While the city's legislative platform permits staff to act on legislation consistent with adopted priorities, Fullerton rarely weighs in on state bills, making this sudden intervention conspicuous.

The mayor acting unilaterally, on a League-aligned position, raises concerns about whether city residents are being represented or bypassed.

Jung's role within the League is central to this pattern. As Chair of the Transportation, Communications, and Public Works Committee, he helps shape state policy positions that the League then disseminates to cities across California.

He is, in effect, using his seat on the council to amplify his League influence and using his League position to justify council-level decisions without local input. The feedback loop allows him to speak for the city without a vote and then claim city consensus where none existed.

The May 6 rule changes now come into focus. The amendments would give Jung procedural levers to mute dissent and shield himself from criticism during council meetings. As the most publicly scrutinized council member, Jung stands to benefit most from restrictions on critical speech.

That Dunlap and Valencia supported these restrictions further illustrates how power is being consolidated in the mayor's chair, despite its supposed limitations.

This is not an isolated incident but a structural shift. Jung's rise to the mayoralty broke with democratic norms. His push for charter city status could expand his formal powers. His unilateral opposition to SB 79 bypassed public input. Now, his proposed rule changes seek to control speech and suppress dissent. Each step builds on the last, enabled by a narrow council majority.

If this continues unchallenged, Fullerton risks becoming a city where one council member, under the title of mayor, makes decisions with minimal transparency or accountability. Residents of District 1, who elected Fred Jung, must decide whether they're comfortable with this trajectory or whether it's time to restore balance through public pressure, council engagement, or a recall.

A Committee With Power, No Oversight, and a Donor at the Table by Elijah Manassero

On May 13, 2025, the Fullerton City Council reviewed a proposed budget shaped in part by input from a political donor to Mayor Fred Jung. Behind the proposal was the Fiscal Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee, a group created by council vote and populated with individuals tied closely to sitting council members. The arrangement has raised serious questions about transparency, legality, and the influence of special interests in city governance.

A Committee Born in Controversy

On August 6, 2024, the Fullerton City Council voted 3–2 to form what they called an "ad hoc" fiscal sustainability committee. Just two weeks later, Mayor Jung nominated Tony Bushala, a prominent real estate developer and major political donor, to the committee. According to Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) campaign filings, Bushala has donated over \$10,000 across multiple election cycles to Jung and his allies.

Despite the clear potential for con-

flicts of interest, Bushala has not filed a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700), as required by California law for individuals involved in public decision-making. This was confirmed through a public records request to the City Clerk and an exhaustive search of the FPPC's database.

Why Form 700s Matter

Under California Government Code § 82019 and § 87300, anyone who participates in governmental decisions or advises on matters involving public funds must disclose their financial interests by filing a Form 700. This rule applies not only to elected officials but also to appointed advisors and committee members who influence public policy, especially when it involves budgets, contracts, or tax measures.

The Fiscal Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee reviewed maintenance funding, capital infrastructure budgets, and possible sales tax measures. Its members were not passive observers; they helped shape recommendations that fed directly into the proposed 2025-2026 city budget.

Brown Act Violations: A Pattern of Secrecy

California's Brown Act requires that standing committees of local governments post agendas publicly, disclose their members, hold meetings open to the public, and make minutes available. A committee must comply if it:

- 1. Was created by formal action of the council
- **2.** Has continuing jurisdiction over a subject area
- **3.** Includes non-council members who advise on policy.

The Fiscal Sustainability Committee meets all three criteria. Yet, as of this writing, no minutes have been released for any of its six meetings since October 30, 2024. Although some agendas have appeared on Legistar, the committee was never listed on the City's Boards and Commissions webpage, and early meetings were held without clear public notice or posted recordings.

Timeline of Key Events

- August 6, 2024: Council votes 3–2 to create the committee
- August 20, 2024: Bushala appointed
- October 30, 2024: First committee meeting
- December 12, 2024 April 2025: Five additional meetings held
- May 13, 2025: Budget incorporating committee input presented to Council

What the Law Says

The City Clerk's office claims the committee members were not required to file Form 700s. But under California

Government Code § 82019(a)(3), a "designated employee" includes anyone involved in making or advising on decisions that can materially affect financial interests. FPPC guidance explicitly includes appointed advisors and committee members in this definition

Likewise, Brown Act case law makes clear that labels do not exempt a committee from transparency requirements. If a body meets the criteria of a standing committee, it must comply, regardless of whether it is called "ad hoc."

Consequences and **Next Steps**

If this committee was unlawfully formed or operated, any budget shaped by its recommendations could be vulnerable to legal challenge. Under the Brown Act, residents can submit a "cure and correct" demand requiring the city to address the violation, potentially including nullifying or redoing the budget actions taken based on improper participation. Meanwhile, the FPPC can fine non-filers of Form 700s up to \$5,000 per violation.

Who Governs Fullerton?

Fullerton residents deserve a budgeting process that is transparent, ethical, and accountable. Yet what we see is a committee created by political allies, filled with their donors, and shielded from public scrutiny.

The City can still fix this by publishing all minutes, requiring financial disclosures, and ensuring future meetings are open to the public. Until then, residents are right to ask: Who really governs our city: the people, or the donors who bankroll its leaders?



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OPINION: Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2025 • Jonathandobrer.substack.com

Chutzpah: Trump's Secret Sauce A Version of Poe's Mystery, The Purloined Letter

How does Trump get away with his many crimes and misdemeanors—not to mention felonies? If he's Superman, no one has found his Kryptonite. If he's a bloodsucking vampire, no one has found the silver spike. If he's Achilles, no one has found his heel although he is clearly has one.

I don't have space to list his various sins, lies and corruption. Such a list is unnecessary because his character isn't being disputed. The voters know (and knew in 2024) that he lies and cheats in business and in relationships. His lies come thick and fast and overwhelm our ability to focus on any particular exaggeration, lie or deception.

Frankly, I'm not clear that we can really accuse him of deception, who is truly deceived? We know his penchant for prevarication, and we seem to be inured to it. It's just another piece of Trump fabulism, an entertainment more than an outrage. We have the kind of moral numbness that comes from being drowned by the accumulation of scandals, scandals that would certainly be politically fatal to amateur liars. We have learned not to take him literally.

We do have to give him credit (although he never pays his creditors) that he is unique and others, though they try, cannot get away with his word salad of non-sequiturs and factless assertions. Former Congressman and convicted liar and embezzler George Santos got an 87-month jail sentence. The American people gave Trump a 48-month second term.

Why? How? WTF?

Chutzpah. Trump's secret sauce is chutzpah. His outrages are mostly in the open. As per Poe's "The Purloined Letter," he hides his transgressions in plain sight. Like a cult leader, he

The Constitution,

that he swore

to protect

and defend,

be happening.

We've got

much bigger

instructs us not to believe our "Lying eyes," and insists that his first inauguration had the highest attendance in history, "No one's ever seen anything like it." A lie? An exaggeration? Both, of course, but forbids accepting more importantly, he's grooming us not to hold him to the standard of literal truth.

He almost lost his first nomination when the tape of him bragging about grabbing women by their privates came out. This time, despite being held liable for sexual assault and what is called rape in most states, he was overwhelmingly nominated in the primaries and elected in the general. We did not lack in information. We ignored it. He was convicted of cheating on his taxes in writing off payments to a porn star. Certainly, every part of that sentence would have disqualified anyone

In his first term, he pretended to separate himself from his business by turning it over to his male children and promising not to participate in business decisions. Did anyone believe him? I don't think so. The public accepted that he didn't play by the rules. We generally don't have a reasonable expectation of truth from most politicians, but we have none from Trump.

He brings in his biggest contributor, Elon Musk, and turns the government over to him to "trim the fat"-read: chainsaw the life out of the administrative state. He has no vetting of Musk, no examination of his plentiful conflicts of interest and just lets him run amok. An FAA commissioner grounds

> SpaceX and Musk has him fired. Then Musk fires the IRS chief for auditing his businesses.

Trump issues a meme coin, of no intrinsic worth other than to lubricate access to him. He puts on such gifts (grifts?) tariffs and takes them off seemingly randomly. However, every change has implication for the

> stock market, and there are opportunities to profit by buying at the dip and shorting at the high. Anyone think that family, friends and insiders can't figure this out?

> He switches sides on Ukraine and openly supports Putin and Russia. Why? Maybe he just likes strong men like Putin, Orban and Xi. He says in public that our intelligence services were wrong about Russian interference in his first election. Why? Because "President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial." So under

the bus goes our FBI and CIA.

The Draft Dodger in Chief wants a military parade like the one he saw in Paris on Bastille Day. Irony free, he schedules one on his birthday! You could call him politically tone-deaf, but that would be wrong. As he's amoral, he's also atonal, not singing on our normal scale. He emits a cacophony of noise. He shouts, threatens, intimidates and, yes, even occasionally tries charm, but it's too hard to main-

Is he truly deceptive? You be the judge (though being a judge giving a ruling unfriendly to Trump could get you arrested). He revokes Temporary Protected Status for Haitians, Venezuelans and Cubans. He grants not only protection but an immediate path to citizenship for white South Africans, who he claims are escaping genocide. Can you, Dear Judge of the Obvious, discern the pattern?

Qatar, a sponsor of Hamas and other dangerous and disruptive movements, offers him a 747, much newer than our 40-year-old Airforce 1. Constitution, that he swore to protect and defend, forbids accepting such gifts (grifts?) from any foreign power. Trump says it would take a "stupid person" to turn down a gift and he compares it to not taking "gimme" on the golf course.

No deception, just brazen confidence that he'll get away with it. What chutzpah and what a shame that this most shameless and yet shameful president of all time (no one has ever seen anything like him) will probably get away with it all. After all, it must be ok because he's not really hiding anything. What chutzpah!

OPINION: AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams ${\Bbb C}$ 2025 https://www.patreon.com/c/theeopinionator

Trump's War on Mental Health isn't a bug. It's a feature

"We are not going to be able to operate our spaceship earth successfully nor for much longer unless we see it as a whole spaceship and our fate as common. It has to be everybody or nobody."--Buckminster Fuller

The Roman poet Juvenal is best remembered for his phrase: "Mens sana in corpore sano." In English: "A sound mind in a sound body." The ancients were wise to put mental stability before physical health; if your thoughts and speech are healthy, so will your actions be.

The Buddhists concur with their eight-fold path to enlightenment, which begins with right view, right intention, right speech and right action. From this, all growth can be accomplished.

I never tire of saying that two of the biggest obstacles to housing the unhoused are mental and physical health. Without these, you cannot even begin to build the foundation of a new and productive life; thus, investing in mental health is key. But our new overlords in Washington DC, apparently unaware that May is Mental Health Awareness Month (even though Orange Julius signed the executive

order the other day), clearly don't agree, because among the programs they are stripping and gutting are mental health supports for vulnerable groups, especially young people and veterans.

As someone who has dealt **problems now.** with depression his entire adult life, I cannot over-

stress the importance of access to lowcost mental and behavioral health treatment. It has saved my life on more occasions than I care to admit. It has repeatedly pulled me out of the Slough of Despond and restored me to at least a minimal level of function. These

budget cuts make it all but impossible not to take Trump's actions in this arena personally.

Just for starters, Dear Leader has ordered the defunding of the National Suicide Hotline. (Fortunately, we have our friends in Canada to thank for taking up the slack here: you can call 877-330-6366 anytime if you need help.) According to CBS News, cuts to the Veterans Administration budget, eliminating 72,000 workers there, could threaten mental health services for countless veterans. And, in the very lat-

est in bad news, the Trump badministration has can-This should not celled \$1 billion in grants for student mental health.

Who exactly is this supposed to help? No one, that's who. And that's exactly the point.

Attacking the mental health resources of those most vulnerable in our population is

worse than petty: it is cruelty of Grand Guignol proportions. And that is the point. Trump and his cabinet are sociopaths to the core: don't kid yourself that a humanist impulse might reside in any of them. In light of RFK Jr.'s proclaimed intention of establishing an autism registry, I would go so far as to call them 21st century eugenicists. Is this hyperbole? I don't think so, based solely on the evidence. And if this be hyperbole, then let us make the most of it.

But honestly, I'm understating the urgency here. Trump has been going full-on authoritarian since January 20, and he's ramping up towards martial law-he's all but authorized the Insurrection Act, which would sidestep the Posse Comitatus Act and allow the use of US troops and material on American soil. As I write this, he's quietly made a big chunk-170 MILES-of the US-Mexico border a political "no man's land" where US troops and materials can swoop in and arrest any citizens who trespass in this territory. And given this administration's affection for sending arrestees off to foreign gulags sans due process... In short, folks, we are in a de facto police state. Anything that happens after this is further entrenchment.

This should not be happening. We've got much bigger problems now. As a nation, we should be working with the leaders and citizens of other countries to find ways to clean the Earth's air, soil, and water. We should be finding ways, as Bucky Fuller said, "to advantage all without disadvantaging any," especially in respect to food and shel-

We should be expanding space exploration, harvesting the wealth of resources that lie waiting in the asteroid belt, and finding ways to travel to the far stars that won't require hundreds of years. We should be ensuring that everyone who wants an education-whether at a university or a trade school and everything in between-can

That's not what's happening. You have to work with the reality you're given, not the one you want. But I urge all of you, as I urge myself, to keep those dreams alive so that we can get back to work on them once we've dealt with the oligarchs and kleptocrats who want to suck us dry to enrich themselves, hurting all humankind just to save their own. Because we will get there. We will prevail. Like the Texas Rangers motto: "Little guy'll whup a big guy, as long as the little guy's right and keeps a-comin'."

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Balance & Change

by Michelle Gottlieb, Psy.D., MFT, LPCC © 2025

The Complexity of Relationship Repair: **Navigating Ruptures and Rebuilding Trust**

It is very easy to get mad at someone and end the relationship. To never want to talk with them or trust them again. It is difficult to have a rupture in a relationship and then be willing to work on rebuilding the relationship, whether it is romantic, friendship, or business!

You may be asking yourself, but why would you want to? Well, if this is someone who will continue to be in your life and with whom you will have to continue to have contact, you will need to do a bit of repair.

Even if the relationship is not completely where it was before the issue, it may be necessary to do some of the uncomfortable work.

So, how do you do this? Ask yourself how much of the rupture was your responsibility.

Be honest when you evaluate this. Own it. Then, apologize for your part.

Ask the person with whom you had the issue what they need to be able to get along again. Be aware of what you need to be more comfortable with this person. See if the two of you can create a plan that allows you to lessen the

This will not be easy. In fact, it will be very uncomfortable. However, the result may be a situation that is much more tolerable for all.

Achieving understanding in the aftermath of discord is not just a goal but a necessity for those committed to coexistence despite past conflicts. It may be scary, but it may be worth it.

If you are depressed you are living in the past. If you are anxious you are living in the future. If you are at peace you are living in the present. -Lao Tzu



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The Dental Corner: Better Oral Health

Ask an Orthodontist! Pt. 2

Today, we continue with part two of a conversation with Dr. Matt Macginnis, a local orthodontist!

What is the most common age for children to begin treatment with braces?

Typically, between the ages of 11 and 15. By this time, most children have all their permanent teeth, making it easier to identify problems with misalignment, gaps, and bite issues. Any present issues at this point in their development will rarely resolve on their own. Moreover, it is common for teens to go through braces at this age, allowing them to feel less self-conscious among their peers.

What are bite issues?

Children with a deep bite (where the upper teeth significantly overlap the lower teeth) or an underbite (where the lower teeth extend forward further than the upper teeth) may be at a long-term

disadvantage when it comes to managing their oral health. Bite issues often promote excessive wearing and chipping of the teeth. And although braces can improve a child's smile appearance, the functional and health benefits of correcting these issues are

Macginnis Orthodontics is located in Fullerton at 333 W Bastanchury Road (Ste 100).

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

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



The Inspiring Journey of Daniel York

Resilience is the ability to recover or adjust to misfortune and change.

I interviewed Daniel York because he is an individual who exemplifies resilience. He is an elder law attorney practicing estate planning, emphasizing people in the latter half of life. How each of us lives the second half of life is very personal. Daniel uses a counseling approach to estate planning. Unsurprisingly, he scored high on counseling skills in pre-college aptitude testing. He enjoys what he does and said, "it is very constructive to help people, and you get to know your clients and their families."

When Daniel was four and a half years old, he contracted polio while living in British Honduras (now Belize) in Central America. No one else in his family contracted the disease. The polio vaccine had been available for four years before Daniel caught the disease, but Daniel does not know if he received it. Belize had one iron lung, which Daniel needed to breathe since he was seriously afflicted with two types of polio. However, no one in the country was professionally familiar with its operation, so it was decided that Daniel would be transferred to the United States for better care. That was a problem since commercial airlines refused to transport him, his mother and siblings due to the infection nature of his disease. The American Consulate in Belize got involved and the U.S. military made the transport to the U.S. for Daniel with his mother and three brothers.

Daniel's father remained in Belize because of his responsibilities as a missionary. The transport happened so quickly that his mother did not have time to pack much of anything, so the only dress she had was the one she wore. Every night during Daniel's stay in the hospital in Florida, she handwashed her dress so that it was fresh for the next day.

I asked him what it was like to be a four-year-old with polio. Daniel replied, "that he was like any kid at that age." He remembered telling his mother that the iron lung "kept him

From the ages of 6 to 16 he underwent one major surgery per year and he credits his orthopedic surgeon for making it possible for him to sit without a brace. However, he remains unable to angry; he just forges ahead.

Daniel went to school from first to seventh grade in San Francisco in a progressive school for disabled students. When it came time to integrate at a regular school in eighth grade, his seventh-grade teacher, Mrs. Duffy, was tough. She would pile on a lot of homework, telling her students, "You are going out in the world, either step up or get run over."

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In addition to his teachers, Daniel credits his parents as his heroes. His parents were both college-educated and expected all their children to go to college, which Daniel sees as being significant in people's lives.

"College exposes you to differences in thought with the variety of courses you take and makes for more critical or evaluative thinking."

Daniel's mother taught him and his siblings to strive for improvement and insisted he be included in everything.

"Why can't we take Danny there?" she often asked.

Even to reach a beach party accessible only by a steep cliff, Daniel was carried in his wheelchair by others. In buildings without elevators, his mother would ask about freight elevators; if there weren't any, she made sure he was carried up. Giving up was never an option. Daniel trusted her decisions and was treated like his siblings, facing the same rules and expectations without excuses.

Before 1990, when the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted, public places were not designed to accommodate people with disabilities. Wheelchair users faced significant physical challenges. At that time, college classrooms, laboratories, dining halls, and dormitories were often inaccessible to wheelchairs, necessitating great effort and determination.

It was the disabled students at the University of California, Berkeley where Daniel later attended—who advocated for accommodations to improve campus accessibility. Daniel credits them as the true pioneers of this important change.

Perseverance and resilience, demonstrated by Daniel York, result from the support of parents and teachers with high expectations and a belief in perseverance. This article honors Daniel's parents, who treated him as an individual with aspirations and instilled in stand or walk and his left arm is not him the confidence needed to pursue functional, but he is thankful. He is not his goals while setting a standard for grit and achievement.

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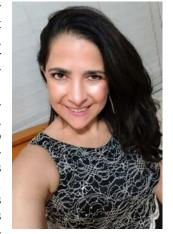
Sindy Alvarez Loya 1969-2025

It is with great sorrow that we announce that Sindy Alvarez Loya, loving wife and mother of two, passed away May 13.

She battled with cancer for over a decade. not standing down to the continuous challenges and hardships that arose over time. Her family and friends will remember her as the most loving, charis-

matic, and strong woman there could

The ceremony will be held at McAulay & Wallace Mortuary on May 19. It hurts to say goodbye, but remembering our shared memories brings us joy. She will forever be in our hearts.



Con gran pesar anunciamos el fallecimiento de Sindy Álvarez Loya, amada esposa y madre de dos hijos, el 13 de Mayo.

Luchó contra el cáncer durante más de una década, sin resignarse a los continuos desafíos y dificultades que surgieron con el tiempo. Su familia y amigos la recordarán como la mujer más

amorosa, carismática y fuerte que jamás haya existido.

La ceremonia se llevará a cabo en la funeraria McAulay & Wallace el 19 de mayo. Duele despedirnos, pero recordar nuestros momentos compartidos nos llena de alegría. Siempre estará en nuestros corazones.

Donna Mae Staggs 1934-2025

Donna Mae Staggs, 90, of Fullerton, California, passed away peacefully on March 29, 2025.

Born and raised in Dayton, Ohio, Donna moved to Fullerton in 1959, where she built a life full of love, adventure, and cherished memories—and never left. Her roots ran deep in her adopted hometown, where she raised her family and pursued her many passions.

Donna had a lifelong love for antique hunting, delighting in discovering hidden treasures and the stories they carried. Alongside her beloved husband, Raymond Harold Staggs, who preceded her in death in September 2022, she traveled the country sharing those treasures with others at antique shows and markets far and wide.

Donna was also preceded in death by her son, George Harshman, who passed away in 2002.

She is survived by her children Mark Harshman (Lan Harshman), Laura Cross (Michael Meyers), and Tom Staggs (Samantha Staggs). She also leaves behind four grandchildren who brought joy to her later years: Gianna Cross, Kathryn Davis, Dustin Staggs, and Tucker Staggs.



Donna's warmth, curiosity, and sharp eye for beauty touched the lives of all who knew her. Her legacy lives on in the stories she told, the treasures she shared, and the family she adored.

The family will hold a private memorial service. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you honor Donna by visiting a local antique shop and maybe bringing home a treasure of your own.

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Susan "Sue" Sherard 1946-2025

Susan "Sue" Sherard, 78, loving wife, mother, grandmother ("Nana"), aunt and friend, passed away peacefully on April 20, 2025.

Sue was born to Walter and Nellie Stafford on June 4, 1946, in Sheffield, England. In 1949, she moved with her parents and older brother to Oakland, California,

Huntington Park. Sue graduated from League, where she spent countless Huntington Park High School in hours working in the thrift shop, 1964, and in 1965, she married her high school sweetheart, Wes Sherard. They made their life together in Fullerton, California, where they shared 60 wonderful years of mar-

Sue was the proud mother of five children—Michelle, Ryan (Jenny), Meredith (Eric), Brady (Erin), and Mandy (Robert)—and dedicated her life to her family. She was also a beloved Grandma to 11 grandchildren: Cody, Riley, Molly, Dylan, Griffin, Eloise, Delaney, Aiden, Eli, Nixin, and Sadie. Her grandchildren were the light of her life, and she cherished every moment spent with

Sue also found immense joy in giv- League of Fullerton in Sue's honor.



ing back to her community. She was deeply involved in organizations including West Fullerton Little League, National Charity League, Damas de Caridad, Meals on Wheels, Sunny Hills High School PTA, Mad Hatter Guild of CHOC, and the Assistance League of Fullerton.

For 25 years, she and the family eventually settled in poured her heart into the Assistance overseeing building renovations, and attending meetings and fundraisers. All who knew her will deeply miss her warmth, generosity, and love.

> Sue is survived by her loving husband Wes, her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews and many other beloved family members and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother and sister, and her daughter Michelle.

> A celebration of life took place on Sunday, May 18 at 3pm at Wilshire Avenue Community Church, followed by a reception at the Assistance League of Fullerton. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Assistance

Through laughter and tears, each moment we trace, the echoes of passion, time can't erase.



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Job Number: 02 - Community Ctr. Department: Parks and Recreation

Director of Administrative Services

Salary: Up to \$217,400 annually Depending on Qualifications Job Type: Regular Full-Time Job Number: 2025-Dir of AS Department: Administrative Services

Sr. Parks & Recreation **Specialist Series**

Salary: \$18.75 - \$21.25 Hourly Job Type: Non-Regular (At Will/Non-

Benefited)

Job Number: 2021-00053 Department: Parks and Recreation

Fire Department **Utility Worker I/II**

Salary: \$16.75 - \$17.75 Hourly Job Type: Non-Regular (At Will/Non-

Benefited)

Job Number: 22 - FD Utility Wkr

(Cont)

Department: Fire

Division: 2222-Operations

Description: Under direct supervision performs a wide variety of fire station non-safety general support and manual tasks for the purpose of exposure to fire service operations and performs related work as required.

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

ANSWER KEY TO "1966" on pg 7:



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



The Fullerton Observer is a community newspaper founded in 1978 by Ralph and Natalie Kennedy, Roy and Irene Kobayashi, and a group of dedicated friends. Local volunteers are responsible for creating, publishing, and distributing the paper across the community. As a not-for-profit organization, all revenue is reinvested to enhance our independent and non-partisan publication.

Our mission is clear: to inform Fullerton residents about the institutions and societal forces that impact their daily lives. We empower citizens to engage actively, ensuring that private and public entities serve the community in lawful, transparent, and socially responsible ways.

We offer local news coverage and a community calendar to strengthen connections and celebrate the diversity that defines our nation. As an all-volunteer newspaper, we rely on the support of our subscribers and advertisers.

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Fox Fullerton Turns 100: A Roaring Celebration That Brings the Past to Life by Brian Newell

This Memorial Day Weekend, step back in time and experience the Roaring Twenties like never before! Celebrate a century of entertainment at the iconic Fox Fullerton Theatre on Saturday, May 24th, from noon to 10 pm—FREE and open to all!

The day kicks off at noon in the Fox parking lot, where the glamour of yesteryear takes center stage. Picture this: vintage automobiles, musicians playing jazz standards of the twenties, and artists dressed to the nines in flapper dresses and pinstripe suits, ready to pose for photos and share the spirit of the 1920s. It's not just an event—it's a time machine.

Food and beverage stands will be on-site. For guests 21 and older, a beer garden adds a festive touch to the afternoon festivities. But the real star of the day? The Fox Theatre itself.

Throughout the day, guests can tour the iconic building and witness a rare treat: a silent movie presentation accompanied by renowned silent film organist David Marsh. His live performance will transport attendees back 100 years to when the theatre first opened its doors and when movies spoke not with words, but with music.

As the sun sets, the celebration heats up. At 7 pm, the doors to the Fox Theatre swing open for a Speakeasy-themed birthday party. A live six-piece band will fill the historic venue with hits from the Jazz Age, featuring both male and female vocalists belting out the era's greatest tunes. Guests are encouraged to dress in their finest vintage attire and to Charleston the night away.

The Fox Fullerton's centennial is more than a

party—it's a tribute. A celebration of entertainment, architecture, and community. It's a reminder that, while a century may have passed, the joy of gathering together is timeless.

Whether you're a history buff, a music lover, or simply looking for an unforgettable day out with friends and family, the Fox Fullerton's 100th Anniversary Celebration promises to be an experience filled with heart, heritage, and a whole lot of razzle-dazzle.

Don't miss your chance to make history.

Join the celebration on Saturday, May 24th, and be part of the next century of memories. 510 N Harbor Blvd., Fullerton

www.foxfullerton.org

