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Union Pacific Trail advocates stand with community leader Egleth Nuncci and officials Fullerton City Mayor Protem Dr Shana Charles, City Council Member Dr Ahmad Zahra, and Fullerton School District Trustee Ruthi Hanchett at ground breaking ceremony. Photo by Mateo Sauceda

Union Pacific Trail Phase II Project Breaks Ground by Saskia Kennedy

A crowd of approximately 30 gathered on a hot July 2 for the groundbreaking ceremony for the Union Pacific Trail Phase II, marking a significant milestone in the five-year effort to revitalize a neglected stretch of land along an old railroad spur in Fullerton.

The project, a long-standing goal for

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local residents, received a major boost in 2020 with a grant of \$1.78 million secured by Council Member Ahmad Zahra and Egleth Nuncci, a community liaison for the CSUF Center for Healthy Neighborhoods, from the California Natural Resource Agency's Urban Greening Program. However, the project experienced multiple delays and multiple no votes, leading to growing frustration among community members eager for progress.

Mayor Protem Dr. Shana Charles trail initiative. welcomed representatives from state Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva, state Senator Tom Umberg, and U.S. Reps. Lou Correa and Derek Tran, all of whom presented certificates of recognition at the ceremony.

Council Member Zahra expressed gratitude to Egleth Nuncci from the **CSUF** Center for Healthy Neighborhoods and the dedicated South district moms who supported the

He also acknowledged Deputy City Manager Daisy Perez for her hard work on the trail's design and thanked Orange County Supervisor Doug Chaffee for his \$100,000 donation aimed at improving Independence Park, and his promises of additional funding for Phase III of the Union Pacific Trail.

See Union Pacific Trail page 7

Report ICE incidents to Rapid Response Network at (714) 881-1558. They are connected with the ACLU and can send someone to help. Also, if you can, videotape or take photos to document the incident.

Farewell to Fullerton's City **Manager Eric Levitt**

City Manager Eric Levitt has announced his decision to leave his role in Fullerton to take on the position of City Manager in San Bernardino.

Levitt will remain in his current position until the end of July to ensure a smooth transition for his successor.

As City Manager, Levitt confronted several challenges, including restoring services impacted by the pandemic, addressing substantial budget deficits and improving long-neglected infrastructure such as roads, sewers, and water systems.

"Thank you, Eric, for your dedication to Fullerton. You will be missed." –from the Fullerton Observers.



The 12th Annual Fourth of July Celebration in Downtown Fullerton

PHOTOS BY GASTON CASTELLANOS AND EDDIE MAYA

The Fourth of July in Fullerton commenced with a Community Bicycle Ride Parade with over a thousand participants with colorful bicycle decorations and outfits. The festivities then took over the Downtown Plaza at 125 East Wilshire Ave, which was transformed into a vibrant carnival atmosphere. Attendees enjoyed watermelon and pie eating contests, a dynamic car show showcasing a variety of classic and modern vehicles all along Harbor Blvd. (which was closed down for the event), alongside an array of interactive games, and tempting food booths offering local delights. The evening featured engaging live entertainment culminating in a professional fireworks display that illuminated the night sky in a dazzling array of colors. See more photos at www.FullertonObserver.com

See 4th of July celebration photos on page 8.

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LETTERS TO EDITOR —

Mo's Music Closed its Doors

To All

I closed Fullerton Music Centers, Inc. on May 31. We closed the doors for the last time. Hard to do. But I had little choice in the matter. My Health and other matters lead me to this. It has been a long run and I have had a lot of fun with all you guys. May God Bless and Keep You, personally I wish you all well.

Roger Palmateer, owner Mo's Music Fullerton

Kidnappings by ICE

Our country is becoming unrecognizable to me.

John H. Fullerton

Kidnappings by ICE

Dear Observer,

I am so afraid of the ICE people. I think it is so cowardly that they use masks. I remember in COVID times that we all wore masks. If we all wear masks again then maybe we will blend in with the bad guys.

Lacey, 2nd grade Fullerton

RE: US Citizen Detained by ICE in Fullerton

Ordinarily if I saw masked men kidnapping someone on the street I would call 911. Now that doesn't seem like it would work. We (those with white privilege) may have to all stand up together and protect our neighbors.

Sharon K. Fullerton

Open Letter to City Council

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express deep concern about the lease agreement approved for Mr. Tony Bushala. The terms are lopsided, irresponsible, and betray the values you claim to uphold: fiscal responsibility, transparency, and local control.

Worse, they come in the context of political donations from the very party benefitting. This is a breach of public trust.

Councilmember Dunlap,

With your background in commercial real estate, you know how bad this deal is.

Section 10 of the agreement allows Bushala to assign or sublease the lease to any entity controlled by George, Tony, or Salma Bushala, including shell companies. This eliminates oversight, obstructs transparency, and gives one political donor unchecked long-term control over public property.

Even more troubling: the lease includes rent credits that discount the already-low rent by up to 75%. That means Bushala can pay pennies on the dollar and then turn around and sublease to a third party at market rate, pocketing the profit with little obligation to improve the property. The City receives nothing from this resale.

You know this isn't standard in municipal leases. Cities typically reserve the right to renegotiate when property is flipped for private gain. That clause is missing. The power to cancel a lease or require public bidding? Gone. That's not fiscal responsibility. It's a giveaway.

This lease is also next to the development, The Tracks at Fullerton Station, which makes the low rent and numerous benefits even more egregious. Mr. Bushala can lock-in a low payment now, before major development takes place, which will raise the value of the surrounding area.

You say you believe in local control. But locking the public out of a city-owned property next to a major transit hub until 2060, while giving control to a donor network, is the opposite of local control. It's donor control.

Councilmember Valencia,

You won your race by a narrow margin, despite Mr. Bushala spending over \$60,000 in attack ads against your opponent. Since taking office, you've shown minimal effort to understand the gravity of your role.

You have been rude and dismissive to the public and your fellow Council Members. You have provided little justification for your controversial votes, votes that often happen to benefit Mr. Bushala. You've said you want to go in

a new direction, yet you've followed Jung's lead on nearly every vote.

Residents gave you the benefit of the doubt, for a time. But six months in, they expect more. They expect preparation. They expect independence. They expect representation.

Instead, you've disregarded constituent concerns and aligned yourself with a single political donor who doesn't even live in your district. While your community struggles with crumbling roads and rising costs, your focus has been on fast-tracking a charter city and pushing through handouts to donors.

This is not sustainable. And your constituents are paying attention.

Mayor Jung,

You have repeatedly shown contempt for the public you were elected to serve.

When residents raise concerns, you cut them off. When they show up week after week to speak, you mock their civic engagement. This is how trust dies.

You proposed a charter city initiative that no one asked for; one that could make it easier to award contracts without oversight. And now, you're ramming through a lease that hands long-term control of public land to a political donor with no council review and no public input.

While Fullerton residents ask for safer streets, cleaner parks, and basic infrastructure repairs, you're too busy consolidating power and paving a path to your next political office.

This is a pattern: silencing critics, bypassing public input, and using your office as a stepping stone while neglecting the basics residents care about.

If you push this lease through, you won't just lose the trust of this city; you'll lose your next campaign before it even begins. Voters will remember. You'll be known as Andrew Do 2.0: disconnected, arrogant, and loyal to one man. Not your constituents.

This lease is more than a bad deal. It's a window into how power is being abused in Fullerton and how far this Council majority has drifted from the people it claims to serve. If you vote for this lease, you're not just risking public funds. You're risking your legitimacy.

City Council,

If you vote for this lease, it will become the defining decision of your term. We'll make sure voters know exactly who benefitted, and exactly who enabled it. Vote no.

Elijah Manassero Fullerton



Above: Arborland's 6th grade students show awards and and medals.

Below: 8th graders sporting their medals.



Arborland's Achievement in the Academic Pentathlon by Curtis Chan

Arborland Montessori Children's Academy recently excelled in the 2025 Orange County Academic Pentathlon, showcasing the school's mission: "Grow with Wonder, Lead with Purpose." In an interview, Dr. Sueling Chen, the Founder and Head of School, explained that their Montessori approach encourages students to explore, ask questions, and engage actively in their learning, promoting critical thinking and independence.

The school's classrooms foster collaboration and personal growth through hands-on learning and individualized attention. Students of varying

ages mentor each other, and assessments focus on portfolios and projects rather than traditional testing.

Seventh grader Ryden Chua and eighth grader Kiaan Iyer highlighted the benefits of personalized teaching, which has helped them thrive academically and build confidence. Iyer, who recently achieved notable successes in competitions, emphasized the supportive environment and tailored experiences at Arborland. Dr. Chen reaffirmed the school's commitment to helping children discover their unique talents and strengths. Read full interview on www.fullertonobserver.com



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.







Above Left: Top 3 finishers in Men's 50 Free, Ian Pickles of Trojan Swim Team, Santo Condorelli and right is Derek Hitchens of Novaquatics. **Above Right:** FAST swimmers. **Below:** From left to right - Olympians John Mykkanen, Jason Lezak, and Janet Evans.

Fullerton Aquatics Swim Team Hosts 3rd Annual Jon Urbanchek Invitational: A Gathering of Olympians and Talented Swimmers

by Leslie Brown

In mid-June, the Fullerton Aquatics Sports Team (FAST) hosted its third annual Jon Urbanchek Invitational at the Janet Evans Swim Complex in Independence Park. The event attracted at least five Olympians, who gathered to watch a talented group of swimmers showcase their skills.

Jon Urbanchek, a legendary swim coach who co-founded FAST in 1964, was celebrated throughout the event. His contributions to the sport earned him induction into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2009. Urbanchek returned to his roots in Fullerton in 2010 after a distinguished 22-year coaching career at the University of Michigan, where he guided over 40 Olympians. Tragically,

he passed away in May 2024.

Among the standout performances was FAST swimmer Santo Condorelli, who clinched the 50-meter freestyle title with an impressive time of 22.13 seconds as part of his training for the upcoming World Championships in Singapore. The meet also featured awards presented by Olympians, including Janet Evans, the namesake of the facility, as well as Gary Hall Jr. and Kristine Quance-Julian.

The competition saw over 250 athletes from more than two dozen teams, resulting in the breaking of seven meet records and one pool record. Many former students and athletes of Urbanchek took part in the event, serving as coaches or volunteers, sharing



stories and memories that highlighted Urbanchek's lasting impact on the swimming community.

For more information about programs at the Janet Evans Swim Complex in Fullerton, including swim lessons, lap swimming and Summer League, contact Lauren Morford at mortord@fastswimming.net or go to www.fullertonaquatics.org. See more photos at www.fullertonabserver.com



Local Art Group Illustrates Scenes at Hillcrest Park by Mateo Sauceda

The North Orange County chapter of Urban Sketchers made a morning visit to the historic Hillcrest Park on June 18 to capture its beautiful scenery and outstanding views. An enthusiastic group of nearly 20 members, all with varying ages and skill levels, gathered under a shady tree in front of the Hillcrest Recreation Center and sketched the surrounding area.

The artists primarily focused on the architecture of the recreation building in their works, with some including intricate details of its front walkway and neighboring greenery. Each member employed a unique medium for their illustrations, ranging from physical styles like watercolor and pencil to digital styles on a tablet. At the end of the meeting, all the members celebrated their hard work by displaying their pieces to one another and taking a

group photo.

The Urban Sketchers of North Orange County are part of a larger nonprofit organization of artists dedicated to telling stories of the places where they live and travel through on-location drawing.

The initiative began in 2007, when journalist and illustrator Gabriel Campanario established an online forum from his home in Seattle, Washington, for artists like him who enjoyed capturing the sights and scenery of the world on-site.

This forum soon blossomed into a sprawling community of sketchers, and within a year of its creation, a dedicated blog sprang up for them to make their work visible to the world. Urban Sketchers officially became a nonprofit the following year, and the organization has expanded to over 300 chapters

worldwide since then, all with a mission to spread awareness of the incredible storytelling capabilities of onlocation art, as well as the social and educational value that comes with it.

This chapter of Urban Sketchers ing I hosts events two to four times a month, each at varying locations within North Orange County, and they are always open to new members. If you would like to be a part of their journey to sketch the world, feel free to join their Facebook group, titled "Urban Sketchers North Orange County." Cour There, you can find all the information you.

for upcoming events, connect with other artists in the area, and view the artworks of talented group members from past events.

ducational value that comes with it.

This chapter of Urban Sketchers osts events two to four times a month, ach at varying locations within North

Additionally, you can join their mailing list at usknorthoc@gmail.com for consistent announcements and meeting information.

If you are interested in encapsulating the beauties and wonders of Orange County's finest offerings, such as the gorgeous Hillcrest Park, then the Urban Sketchers of North Orange County just might be the group for you.



SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTES by Vivien Moreno

Local Control Accountability Plan and Budget Updates 2025

The FSD

Local Control

Accountability

Plan identifies

where

\$142 million is

allocated

to serve about

11,000 students.

Similarly

the high school

district LCAP of

\$183 million

will be

distributed

throughout

FJUHSD.

Every June, school districts finish the

Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) outlining their roadmap to equitable student education environments. The LCAP accounts for all Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) money, a majority of any California public school district's budget, and details actions specifically serving students experiencing economic hardships, learning English as a second language, and Foster Youth. Fullerton School District's Director of Education, Sung Chi, said, "The LCAP tells the story of how they will serve their student's needs."

Each school district has its own per-

spective on this document, which currently monitors the second-year progress of four broad goals to be achieved over a three-year period. The high school district's more exasperated tone concerning the report is reflected in FJUHSD Trustee Marilyn Buchi's questioning of the Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, Dr. Sylvia Kaufman, about the LCAP's value after stating that she prefers the Education Services presentation over reading the

Dr. Kaufman said the LCAP allows FJUHSD departments to align districtwide for a common goal. FJUHSD

Superintendent Dr. Steve McLaughlin stated that the original intent of the LCAP was to simplify communication between the community and the school district, but numerous requests from the Education Department have made it unwieldy and less effective as a communication device.

The reports are lengthy (over 90 pages of relevant material) and can be challenging to follow, but the LCAP highlights a district's current issues, its efforts to meet students' needs, and the metrics used to gauge success in addressing these challenges.

The current LCAP template allows each district to designate four broad goals, but it must cover eight state and any local objectives. The elementary district focused on raising all students' literacy and math scores, strengthening their students' technological abilities and responsibilities, creating a safe and secure educational environment that promotes student and staff well-being, and enriching communication with the district's family community.

The high school district supports stronger career and college preparedness, equitable access to a broad range of coursework for all students, and a safe and secure educational environment. Specifically, this support aims to improve graduation rates, school climate, and test scores for FJUHSD's continuation school, La Vista High School.

The LCAP outlines each broad goal, describes how the district will measure results, compares baseline readings to ultimate achievement goals, outlines actions to address these challenges, and provides yearly updates and changes. The low-income, Foster

Youth, and English language learners identified as special student populations must be specifically addressed in actions taken to meet these goals, but the LCAP outlines the distribution of all LCFF funds, so programs supporting children experiencing housing challenges, students with disabilities, and children requiring enriched educational environments are included in the LCAP.

The more clearly the LCAP states goals and metrics used to gauge success and action outcomes, the easier it is for a district to record institutional knowledge. The measured results, combined with survey input from parents, students, and staff, indicate if the

LCAP is working and what changes to implement for greater student success.

The elementary school district added new basic construction trade courses for junior high students building their second tiny house project, installed "Cool Down benches" as safe mental health areas on campuses to support greater self-control, offered parent and student lessons on AI usage and identification, and refocused on communication to build relationships between teachers, students, and parents.

The high school is replacing their old college finder program, Naviance,

with California's free new California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) college locator (learn more about it at www.californiacolleges.edu), expanded tutoring and library hours, expanded the dual enrollment program for high school student to attend college courses on high school campuses and earn college credit, and introduced concurrence teaching classes that expand class availability for students with disabilities.

The FSD LCAP identifies where \$142 million is allocated out of a total \$149 million budget serving about 11,000 students and the FJUHSD LCAP identifies how \$183 million out of a \$235.5 million budget will be distributed throughout the district. Both districts are still challenged by the issues of chronic absenteeism, providing equitable education for students with disabilities, and articulation between the districts. Parent engagement at the high school level is also an issue.

The importance of LCAP lies in its role as a repository of institutional knowledge about a school district, including how the community it serves evolves over time, the district's challenges in providing equitable education environments for all students, and the successes or failures of the actions taken to positively impact student success.

It is up to the individual districts to create clear paths to success and communicate their vision through this annual document. Although not everyone may want to read it, it will be available for those who wish to gain a clear picture of the district's history and vision for the future.

Update on Fullerton School District Student Liaison Officer Role by Vivien Moreno

Fullerton School District (FSD) Board President Beverly Berryman requested a policy review in April of the Student Liaison Officer (SLO) role in the district. At the June 17 FSD Board meeting, trustees addressed concerns, clearly reacting to an incident that happened in April where a student was transported off campus to a hospital without notifying the parents while still protecting the student and family's privacy, (See article Maple Elementary School Student Removed in Restraints at www.fullertonobserver.com) but providing greater direction to both school administrators and the officers before renewing the SLO contract for the 2025/26 school year.

Before amending the contract, trustees heard from Sergeant Bridges of the Fullerton Police Department (FPD) and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Chad Hammitt, about the SLO program. Dr. Hammitt shared positive responses concerning the program that requested more accessibility to the SLO services.

The trustees did not express the same opinion about the program, but took the school administrator's glowing reports on SLO relationships into account.

Bridges outlined the officers safety training, quick response time, and school district and student familiarity as positive outcomes associated with having a officer dedicated to the district. He shared stories of training programs, keeping outside dangers off school

campuses, and runaway student recovery stories that showed the benefits of employing a district officer.

The school district contracts with the police department to retain one full-time officer for \$85,000 per year. The officer is trained in de-escalation procedures and other student-oriented specialization. The trustees did not ask Sergent Bridges to specify what the specialized training entailed.

Trustees James Cho and Vanesa Estrella requested transparent, written school district administrator protocol for parental notification for any formal officer and student interactions, particularly if the child will be transported off school grounds by the officer.

Trustee Aaruni Thakur acknowledged the roll the police play in ensuring school security while supporting school district.

Free Popcorn!

staff accountability to parents who relinquish responsibility of their children to school administrators and staff during the school day.

Trustee Ruthi Hanchett said the administrator and student relationship with the officer depends on trust. All five trustees agreed the SLO is intended to keep campuses safe from outside threats, however they are not there to police the students or participate in disciplinary behavior or actions.

Board President Berryman said it was good to have both the Fullerton Police Department and Fullerton School District policies in writing so there is awareness on both sides. The school districts appendix of the FPD SLO contract was amended and the board members expressed gratitude for the district relationship with the police department.

The now clearly defined relationship for the police presence on Fullerton's K-8 campuses says that it is to provide safety from outside physical threats to the children, communicate informa-

> tion, and are not to be involved in student disciplinary actions that are actually the responsibility of the administration staff.

> Further board policy changes will be discussed during the August FSD Board Goal and Protocol meeting.

This action is in sharp contrast to the Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHSD) Board members supporting Student Resource Officer (SRO) contracts.

The district retains 6 SROs at the yearly cost of \$872,801 to provide safety and communication services, "work with administration to resolve campus student incidents," investigate student conduct at behest of administration, investigate student actions, and provide dispute mediation.

The trustees never asked any questions publicly to clarify these contracts. The trustees missed a misspelling in the La Habra Police Department contract saying the officer would offer dispute "medication" instead of mediation.

FJUHSD combats chronic absenteeism utilizing their SROs for student home visits. It may confuse students and families on the expanding role SROs play in student life at the high school district.

August 2 @ 7pm

Student Liaison
Officers provide
safety from
outside
physical threats,
communicate
information,
and are not
to be involved
in student
disciplinary
actions





Kidz Korner at Day of Music by Tegan, 7th grade

Located in the heart of Fullerton, Kidz Korner is a community-driven organization that fosters a child's love for music. This past June 21 marked the 10th anniversary of the Day of

The event intertwined families, volunteers and rising local musicians in a pleasant celebration. As a volunteer, I had the opportunity to participate in the festival - first by face-painting young children and then by assisting a group of drummers. Like the phrase "One in Music" sprawled across the shirt of one man I came across, Kidz Korner truly unified everyone through the universal language of music.

Kidz Korner's mission is to provide children with an accessible way to

explore music, and the Day of Music perfectly embodied this very purpose. The celebration

offered a range of activities and performances that harmonized children, like the vocal strings on a harp or the keys on a piano.

One of the highlights of my day was volunteering at the face painting station, where I worked alongside two other talented volunteers. With brushes and vibrant paints, I drew on children's faces, arms, and legs. From blue dragons and pink robots to cute cat whiskers and the Lakers logo, I painted creative designs on eager kids who sat somewhat surprisingly still.

One baby had fidgeted a bit too much









for me to execute clean cat whiskers, so I opted to play Learning with Ms. Rachel on my phone. He responded perfectly—becoming calm and intently watching.

Following the face painting, I joined the drum circle- a dynamic area that brought people together in rhythm. A circle of red buckets and drumsticks were assembled, with participants excitingly sitting around them. The group was led by a drummer who started the beat with passion and precision. Children, teenagers, and adults alike picked up the sounds and created a collective, echoing

So, Fullerton, be sure to join the next annual Kidz Korner Day of Music event!

Legal Insights by Kathryn, 8th grade

Miranda v. Arizona

Today it's standard practice for people in police custody to be told of their right to remain silent. But this wasn't always the case. Until June 13, 1966, when the United States Supreme Court decided Miranda v. Arizona. This case established one of the most well known legal protections in American criminal procedure.

The case involved Ernesto Miranda who was arrested in Phoenix, Arizona for committing a crime. During police questioning he was not told that he had the right to remain silent or the right to an attorney. After hours of questioning he confessed, and that confession was the main evidence used against him at trial and he was convicted.

The legal issue before the Supreme Court was whether using a confession obtained without advising a suspect of their rights, such as the confession taken from Ernesto Miranda, violated the 5th and 6th amendments of the Constitution. The 5th amendment protects against self incrimination and the 6th amendment guarantees the right to counsel in criminal prosecutions.

In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that confessions given during police custody cannot be used in court

unless the suspect was first told of their constitutional rights. Those rights are the right to remain silent,

the right to an attorney and the warning that anything said may be used in court. The court held that without this warning suspects could be coerced into confessing without knowing their legal rights. As a result of this decision, law enforcement agencies across the country were required to start issuing what became known as the "Miranda Warning". This must be done before any custodial interrogation so that everyone is treated fairly under the law regardless of their knowledge of the legal system.

The case was argued on February 28th, 1966 and the decision was handed down just over three months later. While the facts of the case involved one person the impact was felt nation-

The decision ensured that constitutional rights are protected during one of the most critical moments in the legal process when a person is taken into custody and questioned by the government.

Global Forgiveness Day by Mateo, 11th grade

Forgiving someone who has wronged you in the past is one of the most difficult things to do, especially if their actions deeply affected you or your loved ones. After all, it may seem that you are condoning the other's behavior by forgiving them.

As such, it can be hard to believe that anything positive can arise out of forgiveness for one's past actions. However, as it stands, 62% of U.S. adults claim they would benefit from increased forgiveness in their lives, according to a Johns Hopkins Medicine article.

Their beliefs are by no means misguided; in fact, numerous physical and psychological benefits are commonly associated with the act. Global Forgiveness Day, celebrated annually on July 7, aims to encourage those burdened by feelings of anger and grief to release their grudges and forgive those who have caused them harm.

The Christian Embassy of Christ's Ambassadors (CECA) founded Global Forgiveness Day in 1994. It initially began in Canada, but over the years, the event has expanded worldwide.

The people at CECA realized that their peers often held far too much agony in their hearts

from past experiences, agony that could all be resolved simply by expressing a bit of forgiveness. The organization began promoting compassion and kindness through Global Forgiveness Day, aiming to enhance the overall well-being of communities worldwide.

Forgiveness has several benefits for you. First, it helps improve your mental health by reducing anxiety, depression, and stress. It can also lower the risk of serious health issues like heart disease in the future.

Another important benefit is that it encourages empathy. When you forgive someone, you often try to understand their perspective, which helps you better appreciate their situation.

Global Forgiveness Day teaches us that forgiveness is a sign of strength and can lead to better mental health and well-being. With ongoing issues like wars and violence, it's important to change how we react to others' actions.

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

New Fullerton Public Library hours due to Elevator Enhancement

Beginning Monday, June 2nd the library will be operating under adjusted hours while the building's elevators are under construction. We anticipate the noise levels due to the construction to be very disruptive and have adjusted our hours to the following: Sunday - Monday: Closed | Tuesday - Thursday: 2:30pm-7pm | Friday: 2:30pm-5pm | Saturday: 11am-5pm





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Day of Music

Comments, comments, read all about it, direct quotes from eye and ear witnesses, get your comments here: "Everything went smoothly. No drama. The bowl looked great. The skate park went well and was packed. Walk On Wilshire was well attended.

Continental Room hit capacity for the 20th Century Boys. There were many kids this year in all the kids' spaces. Lady Zep killed it at the Fox, and Lady Fox! The Cobblers were a hit on the balcony outside with their Irish folk songs."



4th Of July

How 'bout a parade before lighting the BBQ and fireworks? OK, then it was about time for you to join in. It was the 12th annual Bike Parade, officially sanctioned by the City of Fullerton. Everyone met up at Wilshire and Woods, beginning at 9:45 am, and was ready to bike at 10:30. There was a Car Show too, on Harbor between Wilshire and Amerige from 9-12, and the festival began at 5 pm. Fireworks took place at 9 pm.

There are more photos of this year's event at www.FullertonObserver.com.

Downbeat at Noon

Yet, there they were, worker bees all over Fullerton at 9 am and earlier. That is an ungodly hour if ya had a gig the night before, home at 2 am, then you had to haul all of your equipment to the Big Bowl at Hillcrest Park. Luckily, for Bubba the Big Bowl organizer, who was in that predicament, help was already on the scene to unload and set up. He is seen here in the bird's eye view getting the day started. The smokin' hot blues made it an epic day and the environmentally aware crowd kept it a tidy bowl.

We (OK, it was Brian) made a list, a map, a guide to see a whole lotta performers, and with nearly 70 locations to cover, we had to move and move faster than a middle-class 45. The beats of different drums were in full swing at All The Arts and everyone was having a great time, some who never pounded a drum before and some who seemed to be naturals. Just gotta find your rhythm and they all gave it their best shot. Fun.

The enticing sounds of a duo wafted from the open side windows of High Horse so we were drawn in and got caught up in the country vibe and booths full of friendly music lovers. It was not easy to pry ourselves away but time was already quickly ticking so we headed over to The Eliot to see KC and The Sunshine Band. Luckily, our intel was off, and we were happy to find Casey and friends, local dudes and Fullerton favorites who clearly avoided any disco-like tunes.

To stay on schedule, we made a mad dash to the Bootleggers stage, which is always rocking all Day of Music long. We spotted many friends but had to quietly slip out after a few songs and make our way back to SoCo and the Black Hole Stage. Get In Loser was blasting away with high energy punk that, like every venue, attracted a very specific crowd along with many who were doing exactly what we were doing, taking in as many genres of music possible. All over downtown, here and there, buskers made sure there was no gap in music coverage.

The nearby Continental Room was the logical next stop. Only a few steps away but could have been in another time zone. What a sight, and what a unique atmosphere, as you can plainly see. We ran into some friends on the move, Brian headed north and we only got as far as The Back Alley. It was getting later and the crowds were getting larger and more boisterous.

Getting a bit leg weary, no time to rest, as it was time to check out West Wilshire/AKA Walk on Wilshire, and as many others as we could make it to.

The Fox and the Plaza were busy all day and we could go on and on but as they say, one picture is worth a thousand words and you are in luck. Once again, the uber-talented lensman Bryan Crowe has offered to share oodles of photos of many venues. Just go to: www.FullertonObserver.com and you will feel like you are still there. Day of Music, one of the most looked forward to days of the year. Have a great Summer all.

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Photo Quiz Send answers to: allmedia@sbcglobal.net



This time: Another nature shot, what is the exact name of this butterfly?

Photo last time: Many of you recognized our fine-feathered friend the Egyptian goose, which our readers have spotted in several Fullerton locations. Dana, Suzette, Bob and Gilbert were the first with the correct LD.

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2025

"CHRISTMAS IN JULY" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 19)

1	2	3	4	5			6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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16	T	T	Г	T		17		T	T		18	T		T
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63	t	\vdash	H		64	H	T			65	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash

ACROSS

- 1. Canadian hockey player Brooks ____
- 6. 35mm camera type
- 9. D.C. MLB team
- 13. Strangely
- 14. "Showtime-era" Laker Bob Mc
- 15. Nebraska native
- 16. Caesar or Cobb
- 17. Lots
- 18. "The Bear" Emmy winner Moss-Bachrach
- 19. US Attorney General from 2021-2025
- 22. 007 creator Fleming
- 23. Good times
- 24. Hollywood nickname
- 28. Oxford, but not Cambridge
- 29. Veered off course, nautically
- 30. Revolutionary Guevara
- 33. Bowers Museum locale

- 36. None of the above
- 38. Reason for overtime
- 39. Park, CA
- 41. Is unwell
- 42. ___-K (early learning)
- 43. Proportional
- 46. 1998 N.L. M.V.P.
- 49. "Theme from Mission: Impossible" composer Schifrin
- 50. Extreme fear of small spaces
- 56. Pear variety
- 57. The Crimson Tide, familiarly
- 60. Mideast mogul
- 61. "Frozen" reindeer
- 62. Lakers forward Baylor
- 63. It's given on "The Bachelor"

- 1. The "L" of L.A.
- 2. Sandler ot "The Meyerowitz Stories"
- 3. Inactive
- 4. Its trill opens "Rhapsody in Blue"
- 5. Aquatic invertebrates sharing the name of a many headed monster
- 6. Badlands Natl. Park locale
- 7. Robin Hood's weapon
- 8. Pompous pronoun
- 9. Englishmen Gallagher and Fielding
- 10. Up, in baseball
- 11. Tom and Jerry, for two
- 12. Fax or FedEx
- 14. "We come to this place " theater chain
- 20. Suffix with serpent
- 21. Stranger, slangily
- 24. Pad ___ (noodle dish)
- 25. Skye of "Say Anything"
- 26. Jeff of ELO
- 27. World's smallest active volcano
- 28. Retired flier
- 30. Seed or pet
- 31. "Give 'em
- 32. Limerick language
- 34. Oscars org.
- Lingus
- 37. Crunchwrap Supreme seller
- 40. Crankcase container

- 58. Grammy winner Bryson

- 64. Mont Blanc, e.g.
- 65. Vegas array

Down

- 44. Slangy refusal
- 45. Skiing spots
- 46. Replay feature
- 47. Recently reconcilled band featuring one of 9-Down
- 48. Somme sugar
- 50. "Good buddy"
- 51. Recipe amt.
- 52. Four-star review
- 53. "The " (1971 Gregory Peck film)
- 54. "Othello" villain
- 55. Some
- 59. Add- : extras



Union Pacific Trail Phase II continued from front page

Reflecting on the long history of the project, Mayor Protem Dr. Charles noted that its Phase I began nearly twenty years ago. She invited everyone to a ribbon-cutting ceremony, anticipated by the end of this year, and called on officials to participate in the ceremonial groundbreaking.

In addition to the funding from the Urban Greening, \$330,000 was allocated to the project from Park Dwelling Funds in the City's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Capital Improvement Program Budget. City staff are also working to secure an additional \$300,000 from Park Dwelling Fund resources to expand the project scope.

Originally approved three years ago, the project faced setbacks, including a recent decision by Councilmember Nick Dunlap to halt a construction contract due to concerns over rising contingency costs. City officials clarified that these contingency funds would not increase the project's overall expenses, prompting questions about Dunlap's

At a City Council meeting on May 20, supporters rallied to advance the project's progress, with officials cautioning that further delays could threaten the receipt of the Urban Greening Program grant.

Under community pressure, Dunlap ultimately voted in favor of the construction contract alongside Mayor Protem Charles, Council Members Zahra and Valencia, while Mayor Jung remained opposed.





Love & Laughter Music Group

1007 E North St, Anaheim, CA

The Ron Kobayashi Trio will be performing an intimate concert on July 12 at 7:30 p.m. for the Love and Laughter Summer Music Series. For tickets:

loveandlaughtermusicgroup.com/events/ jazz-series-july-12

4th of July 2025 Celebration continued from front page







Top: Community Bicycle Parade. Below: Car Show down Harbor Blvd. PHOTOS ON LEFT ARE BY EDDIE MAYA AND PHOTOS ON RIGHT ARE BY GASTON CASTELLANOS



HITS & MISSES





F1: THE MOVIE: Two Hits

Even if you're not a Formula One fan, F1: The Movie is well worth seeing—and absolutely demands to be seen on the big screen. Director Joseph Kosinski, hand-picked by Tom Cruise to direct Top Gun: Maverick (2022), brings all his technical prowess and blockbuster instincts to this starpacked, high-octane sports drama.

With degrees in electrical engineering from Stanford and architecture way into filmmaking through 3D mod-Hayes initially refuses the call. eling. His sharp visual storytelling, combined with his ability to handle Hollywood's biggest stars, cements his place as a top-tier action director.

The story may follow a familiar track: a washed-up race car driver, Sonny Hayes (a perfectly cast Brad Pitt), gets one last shot at greatness. When we meet him, he's living out of a beat-up Ford Econoline van. Enter Ruben Cervantes (a terrific Javier Bardem), the owner of a last-place Formula One team, who offers Hayes a last chance at greatness. It also involves mentoring a struggling rookie driver, Joshua Pearce (Damson Idris).

Cervantes needs Hayes to whip the team into shape and help Pearce reach his potential. But first, the lone-wolf racer must learn to be a team player. from Columbia, Kosinski found his Like any good "Hero's Journey,"

> But eventually, despite his age and the breakneck danger of Formula One racing (with average speeds between 150 and 180 mph), Hayes accepts the challenge. Along the way, he confronts personal demons, rebuilds trust, and learns to lean on others. Classic mythic beats, told with horsepower.

There are fresh, modern touches too.



A female pit crew member must find editing ensure you always know exacther footing in a male-dominated ly who's gaining ground and who's space—and when Hayes leaps in to defend her, she privately scolds him for undercutting her authority. In another nice gender reversal, the team's lead car designer, Kate McKenna (Kerry Condon), is female. "My job is wind," she says—and her partnership with Hayes leads to a car redesign and something more romantic.

Themes of old-school grit vs. hightech training run throughout. At one point, Pearce trades his LED sensors and treadmill for Hayes' preferred method: an old-fashioned run around the track, joined by the entire pit crew. Editor Patrick J. Smith (also of Top Gun: Maverick) and composer Hans Zimmer are in peak form — Zimmer's propulsive score and Smith's sharp

falling behind.

Brad Pitt was born to play this role. The supporting cast shines as well, particularly Sarah Niles as Pearce's fierce mother Bernadette. A far cry from her psychiatrist role in Ted Lasso, she's the only character capable of intimidating Hayes.

Tobias Menzies delivers a memorable villain in Peter Banning, the corporate shark angling to take over the team, channeling the menace he brought to *Outlander*,

Banning gets the film's best line, describing Hayes' wild racing style as bringing "a touch of punk rock to the brand." It's clear early on: the people who don't care about the brand are the ones we're rooting for.





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



Downtown Fullerton Farmers' Market Band Lineup

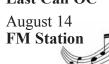
All Band Performances 6:30-8:30pm

July 10 Southland July 17 The Split

July 24 **Showkillers**

August 7 Last Call OC

July 31 **Johnny** Ramos & the Doo **Wop Death Boys**





Saturday, July 19 11 am to 4 pm at 321 East Chapman Ave

Fullerton College Hosts

"Parking Lot Prints!"

A Celebration of Art and Community

Celebrate creativity at "Parking Lot Prints!" Featuring over fifty zine artists and printmakers. A zine fest and artist market with zines, prints, stickers, and more! "Big Prints" Feature:

Watch artists create large-scale woodblock prints! Hands-on "Print Maker" tables to craft your own prints and zines! Bring a t-shirt for the official logo print! Enjoy live music by DJ Alan and tasty bites from Guac n'Roll Tacos!

Parking is FREE!

Join us for a day of art and fun—everyone is welcome! Don't miss out on July 19!

This event is FREE and open to the public

perfect for everyone from seasoned printmakers to curious newcomers. Come celebrate creativity, community, and the art of printmaking with us!

Join the Fullerton College family for a day of inspiration and art! We can't wait to see you there!

The Muckenthaler **Cultural Center**

1201 W. Malvern Ave 714-738-6595 | themuck.org

Vicki Peterson & John Cowsill

Thursday, July 10, 7:30-9:30pm \$40 non-Member; \$25 Member Vicki Peterson, a founding member of The Bangles known for the #1 hit "Walk Like An Egyptian," collaborates with John Cowsill, drummer for The Beach Boys and original member of The Cowsills, to release their debut Americana album.

The Alley Cats

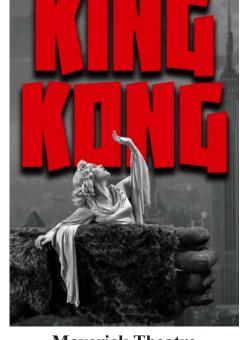
Thursday, July 17, 7:30-9:30pm \$35 non-Member; \$20 Member A musical comedy show, The Alley Cats' Doo Wop performance features the greatest hits of the 50s and 60s, blending beloved music with humor and showmanship that left audiences clamoring for more!

Nic + Desi

Thursday, July 24, 7:30-9:30pm \$35 non-Member; \$20 Member NIC+DESI celebrate their love story through a dynamic blend of classic and contemporary Broadway songs and dance.

LP and The Vinyl

Thursday, July 31, 7:30-9:30pm \$35 non-Member; \$20 Member Leonard Patton, a renowned jazz, blues, and gospel singer, joined forces with the acclaimed Danny Green Trio to create LP And The Vinyl. The band blends influences from jazz, R&B, rock, 80s and 90s hits, Brazilian music, and classical music.



Maverick Theatre

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

King Kong
July 11 through August 10 from \$17 to \$33

Back for its 6th year! An original Maverick Theater stage adaptation of the 1933 film by Merian C. Cooper. The play is based on the Delos W. Lovelace novel, which is the same storyline and dialogue from the original film with only minor changes and additions. The overall show will have a lighthearted tongue-in-cheek feel but all the characters will be played honest and as true to the original; even the man in the monkey suit.

The Maverick Theater's special effects team known as "Maverick Light & Magic" will take on the beauty and the beast adventure using a live compositing* process of multiple video sources. Similar to the process Willis O'Brien used to create the original King Kong. Actors will be interacting with live rear screen projections to create the illusion of Kong. Suitable for ages 6 and up



Ages 5-12 + 100% FREE 9 JULY - 11 JULY 2025

Join us for a fun and educational 3-day camp designed to teach kids (ages 5-12) how to prepare for real-world emergencies! Through games, hands-on projects, creative activities, and interactive lessons. participants will learn important life skills in a supportive environment.

Location:

AT 03.00 PM TO 05.00 PM



Fullerton Public Library 353 W Commonwealth Ave. Fullerton, CA 92832

For More Information:



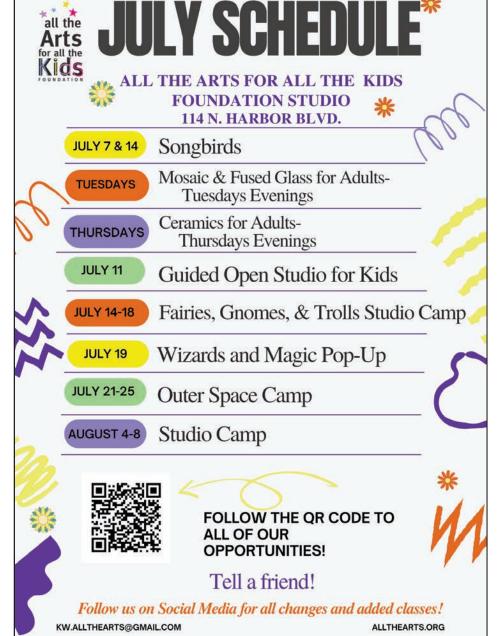
对 @troyprepare@gmail.com

LIMITED! SIGN UP NOW!!!











OC GRAND JURY REPORT: HATE: What is Orange County Doing About it?

by OC Grand Jury

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere...

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Grand Jury conducted a study in Orange County to assess local programs aimed at combating hate crimes and incidents, prompted by concerns about the effectiveness of these efforts amidst a rising trend in hate crimes. In 2023, Orange County reported 95 hate crimes, a decline from 112 in 2022, marking the first decrease since 2016. However, many targeted groups, such as Black, Jewish, and LGBTQ+ individuals, remain disproportionately affected. Activists caution that this decrease might be due to underreporting rather than a true reduction, citing incomplete data from several cities and a notable increase in antisemitic incidents reported by the Anti-Defamation League.

The study identified significant barriers to reporting hate crimes, including fear of retaliation and distrust of law enforcement, as well as inconsistencies in how these incidents are documented. It highlighted the need for better coordination, public awareness, and collaborative frameworks to address hate crimes, recommending twelve actions for improvement.

The report also provided historical context, noting the evolution of hate crime laws spurred by civil rights movements and key legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990, which established standardized definitions and data collection practices. Despite a California, the state has faced challenges in effectively identifying and responding to these incidents.

The main provisions of AB 449: Hate crimes: law enforcement policies are as follows:

1. Standardizes Hate-Crime Policies. These policies must include legal definitions, bias-motivation criteria (including often-overlooked areas like anti-disability bias), reporting proto-

cols, training schedules,

- 2. Enhances accountability and transparency. Every law enforcement agency in California must adopt the Police Officer Standards Training (POST)-compliant hate crimes policy by July 1, 2024.
- 3. Responds to a real rise in hate crimes. The law addresses significant underreporting and uneven recognition of hate crimes as demonstrated by the CA DOJ data showing a 31% increase in hate crime events from 2019 to 2020, with spikes in 2021, especially targeting AAPI, LGBTQ+, Jewish, Muslim, and disabilities communities.
- 4. Prioritizes anti-disability bias. Disability-motivated hate crimes are historically invisible; fewer than 0.4% are reported. This bill explicitly requires policies and training that help officers recognize and document antidisability bias and religious crimes.
- 5. Empowers law enforcement through training. All officers must receive training, including on bias awareness, victim response, and identification of less visible forms of hate (e.g., anti-homeless and anti-disabili-
- **6.** Requires accountability: Southern California law enforcement agencies must submit their POST-compliant hate crime policy to the California Department of Justice by January 1,

AB 449 is expected to transform rise in reported hate crimes in California's hate-crime framework by creating statewide standards for responding to hate crimes. It promotes transparency: the DOJ will publish which agencies are complying, promoting public accountability and addressing underreporting. This bill imposes a state-mandated local program.

Read full the report www.fullertonobserver.com. Enter the article title in the search.



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A STORY OF READINESS AND RESILIENCE

by Alicia Hsieh, contributing writer for Troy Preparedness Club

Disaster preparedness isn't something to think about only during emergencies. It's a mindset and a habit that everyone, including students, families, and educators, can benefit from. For Robin Mundschau, Principal of Parks Junior High School, the importance of being prepared was instilled in her at a young age.

"When I was a young child, I lived

near Mount St. Helens when it erupt-

ed," she recalls. "We had to take pre-

cautions like shoveling ash off our roof

to make sure it didn't collapse under

the weight of the ash." That experience

left a lasting impression and taught her

the significance of readiness. Her fam-

ily kept extra water, snacks, and

canned food both in their home and car

Now living in Southern California,

where earthquakes, wildfires, and other natural hazards are a real possi-

bility, Mundschau continues to take

preparedness seriously. She believes

that simple steps—like having extra

supplies at home—can help people

stay safe and calm when something

unexpected happens. "Whether it's a

natural disaster or an unexpected

event, having water, snacks, and a

basic emergency kit can make a big

difference in your ability to stay safe

At Parks Junior High, safety is a top

priority. Students regularly participate

in emergency drills, and staff are

trained to guide them through evacua-

tions and lockdowns. "When you're

responsible for other people's children,

and self-sufficient," she says.

in case of emergencies.



Robin Mundschau

making emergency procedures familiar and routine, the school helps students and staff respond quickly and confidently if a real crisis occurs.

it's essential to take that

responsibility seriously,"

Mundschau explains. By

Preparedness also starts at home. Mundschau encourages families to sit

down and talk about what to do during different types of emergencies. Everyone in the household should know where to meet if they get separated, where emergency supplies are stored, and how to access important contact information or alerts. "Open conversations about what to do in different types of emergencies help everyone feel more confident and ready to respond," she says.

Knowing about local resources is just as important. From emergency shelters to food distribution centers, communities offer support systems that can be critical during a crisis. Staying informed and connected can make recovery quicker and less stressful.

Being prepared isn't about expecting the worst. It's about building confidence, staying safe, and helping others when it matters most. With the right plans in place, individuals and families can face emergencies with strength and peace of mind.



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.

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.

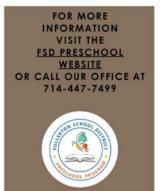






CALIFORNIA STATE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM (CSPP)





TUITION-BASED PRESCHOOL



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



Live music played on the stage at the **Fullerton** Museum Plaza in downtown Fullerton for the Day of Music that brought in thousands of people to revel and dance with over 60 venues all over Fullerton from CSUF's Arboretum to Independence Skate park to Bubba's Blues Bowl at Hillcrest park. РНОТО BY EDDIE MAYA

Local Music Takes Over Fullerton in 10th Annual Day of Music Festival by Mateo Sauceda

The city of Fullerton celebrated a decade of local music on Saturday, June 21, with the tenth rendition of its popular Day of Music Festival. The event was part of the larger Make Music Day, an effort to inspire musicians in over two thousand cities worldwide to share their art freely and passionately throughout their communities.

Fullerton takes great pride in hosting the largest Make Music Day celebration in all of Southern California, and this year proved no different: over 60 venues citywide, ranging from bars and restaurants to libraries and barber shops, presented free, diverse music from more than 200 local artists and bands all day.

Some of the most notable performances of the day occurred at the historic Fox Theatre, which honored the

50th anniversary of renowned rock pop band Queen's hit song "Bohemian Rhapsody," with a roster of cover performances from a diverse selection of groups. Additionally, pop singer/songwriter Bianca Franco held performances at many venues throughout the day, such as the Salon Technique and the Hopscotch Tavern. Indie-folk artist Sanchez by the Sea, who has garnered many listeners on Spotify, also performed on Saturday at The Axe Lair.

While some venues hosted gigs of all sorts of genres, others remained exclusive to just one. For instance, the Big Bowl at Hillcrest Park held a great selection of blues groups throughout much of the afternoon. The venue saw a hefty crowd turnout, with attendance climbing into the hundreds as the day progressed. Performers from the day included the Chris Anderson Group,

who captivated the audience with their rock undertones and elaborate drumming, as well as the Mark Fitchett and Michelle McBride Band, whose unique use of the harmonica paired well with their raspy vocals and twangy guitar to establish more of a country vibe within the Bowl.

One of the highlights of the afternoon came from the LA-based band Saints of Sinners, who brought the house down (both figuratively and literally) with an electrifying combo of original songs and covers from famous performers such as KISS and Black Sabbath. Despite being one of the youngest groups of the event, with each of its members under 20 years of age, they did not disappoint at all. Lead singer and guitarist Joel Soto shocked the crowd by putting a speaker up in smoke and out of commission with his

wide range of vocals and energetic strumming, which were supported well by Jett Bizon's hardcore drumming and Justin Aragon's deep bass.

Fullerton's 10th annual Day of Music Festival gave music lovers all over the city a unique opportunity to support southern California's local musicians from morning to midnight. By offering these performers a platform to present their passion for the community to hear, the event highlights the unmatched music presence that exists right here in Fullerton. Ultimately, it is events like the Day of Music Festival that allow for the survival of Fullerton's rich history of music, keeping our musical spirit alive for years and years to come.

Sources: https://makemusicday.org/ https://dayofmusicfullerton.com/ musicians/



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







READING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CURRENTLY RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

THE NEED: Childhood illiteracy predicts adult poverty. Without proficient reading by fourth grade, graduation rates drop sharply.

THE OPPORTUNITY: Volunteer tutors aged 50+ offer experience, time, and a passion for reading.

1:1 Tutoring

2x's per week after-school

Support kids at the Boys & Girls Club of Fullerton

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY WE PROVIDE ALL TRAINING & MATERIALS



JOIN AN INFORMATION SESSION TO LEARN MORE:

Monday, July 21, 2025 from 3-4pm 340 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton, CA 92832

Friday, July 25, 2025 from 10-11am 340 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton, CA 92832

Register on our website: parentisfoundation.org/volunteer

Program Director: Elizah Siegel (949) 257-2637 elizah.siegel@parentisfoundation.org



Scan the QR code for additional dates and information.

OC Grand Jury Report Busts Myths About Homelessness in Orange County

The Grand Jury sought to determine best practice strategies for both decreasing and preventing homelessness, and what myths and facts are associated with that condition. Dispelling the myths about homelessness is important to understanding the problem.

When communities and policy makers operate on false narratives, they divert valuable resources from proven strategies like prevention, affordable housing, and supportive services. Correcting these misconceptions is not just a matter of public education, it is a necessary step toward real, sustainable progress.

In addition, the Grand Jury looked at the agencies in the County dedicated to addressing homelessness and sought to determine whether Orange County is moving in the right direction towards reducing it.

From its research and investigation, the Grand Jury identified the following myths and facts:

Myth 1: Homeless people do not want to work.

Fact: Many people experiencing homelessness have jobs. However, low wages, high rents, and job instability make it difficult for them to afford housing.

The California Housing Partnership, a non-profit that provides technical assistance and policy leadership at the state and national level to increase the supply of affordable homes in California, noted that in May 2025, renters in Orange County needed to earn \$54.94 per hour, or 3.3 times the State minimum wage, to afford the then-monthly average rent of \$2,857. More recently, it noted that more than three out of four extremely low-income households paid more than 50% of their income on rent.

Additionally, some people experiencing homelessness struggle with a lack of adequate transportation and childcare, and/or vulnerable legal status, which further complicate their ability to maintain stable employment and housing.

Myth 2: Homelessness is a choice.

Fact: The Grand Jury's study revealed that most people want to be housed. Many people experiencing homelessness are forced into it by circumstances such as job loss, sudden medical crises, domestic violence, and/or lack of affordable housing.

Myth 3: Mental illness and/or substance use disorder cause homelessness

Fact: While mental illness and substance use do affect some people expe-

riencing homelessness, these are not necessarily the primary causes. The evidence reveals that many people experiencing homelessness develop drug and alcohol problems as well as worsening mental health after they become homeless.7

Myth 4: Homelessness primarily affects single men.

Fact: Homelessness affects a diverse range of people, including families, single mothers, veterans, and the fastest growing group, elderly individuals, who, at the time of this writing, make up the largest portion of the homeless population.

Myth 5: Providing shelters and comprehensive wraparound services (programs that address multiple needs, including housing, healthcare, mental health support, employment assistance, and social services) encourages people to remain homeless.

Fact: Research and current literature show that access to shelters, food, and mental and physical healthcare helps people stabilize and transition to permanent housing.

The "Housing First" approach, which prioritizes providing housing to people experiencing homelessness without preconditions such as sobriety or employment, has been proven to reduce homelessness rather than increase it.

Myth 6: Homeless people are dangerous and/or criminals.

Fact: Studies show that individuals experiencing homelessness are far more likely to be victims of crime rather than perpetrators. Homeless people, particularly women, face higher risks of violence, theft, rape, and exploitation.

Myth 7: All homeless people live on the streets.

Fact: Many people experiencing homelessness reside in shelters, motels, hotels, or in their vehicles. Others temporarily "couch surf" with friends or family. Despite these arrangements, they still lack stable housing.

Myth 8: Homelessness is a "big city" problem.

Fact: Homelessness exists in every community, including suburbs and rural areas. The issue may be less visible in smaller communities, but it is present everywhere.

Myth 9: If a homeless person needed assistance, they could go to a shelter.

Fact: Many shelters have long waitlists, strict rules, and limited space. Some shelters do not permit pets, couples, families, or individuals with certain health conditions, leaving many

 Table 1: Orange County Homelessness:

Point-in-Time County Summary (2019-2024)

TOTALS	6,721	5,542	7,322
South SPA	763	585	641
Central SPA	3,193	2,538	3,454
North SPA	2,765	2,419	3,227
<u>SPA</u>	<u>2019 Total</u>	<u>2022 Total</u>	<u>2024 Total</u>

without viable options.

Myth 10: Homeless people move to California, drawn by its mild climate and perceived abundance of resources.

Fact: A recent large-scale survey of unhoused Californians conducted by the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, one of the largest reference studies of homelessness in California, found 90% of participants were from California (meaning they lived in California when they became homeless) and 75% lived in the same county where they were last housed. Most people become homeless in the communities where they reside. Most prefer to remain in the communities they are familiar with.

Homelessness in Orange County has been a persistent and growing issue for years. Despite substantial spending, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness continues to rise.

The crisis remains both visible and worsening. The most rapidly expanding homeless and at-risk-of- becoming homeless populations are the elderly and those on fixed incomes, who are vulnerable to rising rents and other economic trends.

Approaches to this issue vary. Advocates for prevention prioritize rental assistance, housing retention, and early intervention. However, in Orange County, the focus is on more costly and reactive responses.

These include expanding shelters, increasing access to temporary and transitional housing, mental health and substance use disorder services, legal support, and employment and vocational training programs to help individuals regain stability.

The reactive approach dominates because it is easier to measure. However, the Grand Jury determined that without a decisive shift toward prevention—addressing root causes before homelessness occurs—lasting progress in this area will remain out of reach. Prevention is not just a strategy; it is the foundation for any sustainable solution. Preventing homelessness before it begins spares individuals and families the trauma of displacement and offers a more humane, cost-effective path forward.

The Grand Jury acknowledges that any program to aid the homeless population is contingent on the ongoing financial support of the federal and State governments. As of the writing of

this report, this funding is at risk of being reduced or eliminated.

To live without a home is to lack the foundation upon which many other opportunities are built, including healthcare, education, employment, and personal safety.

Homelessness does not have a single cause; it stems from complex, interconnected factors, including economic hardship, mental health struggles, domestic violence, systemic inequalities, and the high cost of housing.

The pathways out of homelessness are equally multifaceted, requiring coordinated efforts across housing, healthcare, behavioral health, employment, and community-based services. In the view of this Grand Jury, it is unacceptable that in a region as resource rich as Orange County, thousands of individuals, including children, veterans, and seniors, are forced to tolerate harsh or horrific conditions when they end up homeless.

Even with substantial investment, homelessness remains a constant social challenge for Orange County. The Grand Jury contends that the County must move beyond reactive measures toward sustained, integrated solutions that ensure all people have the same opportunities for a safe and stable place to call home.

A key element of contemporary homelessness response is the Point-in-Time (PIT) count, a nationwide initiative mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The PIT count is usually conducted every other year and counts the number of individuals unsheltered1 and sheltered2 in a single night.

Originating in January 2005 as part of HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) Program, this data collection effort is essential for federal funding and system planning. Prior to its standardization, data on homelessness was sporadic and inconsistent, clearly underestimating the scale of the issue.

Today, the PIT count is a critical tool for tracking trends, planning services, and guiding public investment. Critics of this count have claimed significant undercounting of the homeless population; however, it remains the federally mandated approach in order to receive HUD funding.

Read the full OC Grand Jury report on Homelessness in OC for 2025 at www.fullertonobserver.com



How to contact your District Representative

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

@cityoffullerton.com

• District 3:Mayor Pro Tem

Dr, Shana Charles (714) 738-6311 shana.charles @cityoffullerton.com • District 2: Nicholas Dunlap (714) 738-6311 nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com

• District 4: Jamie Valencia (714) 738-6311 jamie.valencia@cityoffullerton.com

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

Know Your Rights and Be Prepared Press Release from the office of Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva

The information provided is not intended as legal advice.

recent immigration Following enforcement actions in Fullerton and nearby communities. Here is important information to help you and your loved ones stay informed, protected, and prepared.

While these situations can create uncertainty, there are concrete steps you can take now:

Know Your Rights

- You are not required to open the door to immigration agents without a warrant signed by a judge.
- You have the right to remain silent.
- · You have the right to speak to a lawyer.
- You do not have to sign any documents you don't understand.

Below are local and state resources available to assist anyone affected during this time. Please remain alert, stay peaceful, and take care of one another.

State Resources

- California Department of Justice Office of Immigrant Assistance
- Provides guidance on immigration issues, fraud protection, and legal resources. (800) 952-5225
- California Department of Social Services (CDSS) - Immigration Services Unit (916) 651-8017 | email: ImmigrationServices@dss.ca.gov

Regional Organizations

- CHIRLA (Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights) (888) 624-4752
 - ACLU Southern California Legal intake: (213) 977-5253
 - Jails project intake: (213) 977-9543
 - Media inquiries: (213) 977-5252 • Main phone line: (213) 977-9500

- CRLAF California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (916) 446-7904
- ILRC Immigrant Legal Resource Center - Law Help CA - Immigration Assistance *LawHelpCA.org*

Rapid Response Networks (Statewide ICE Activity Reporting & Support)

If you witness ICE activity or need emergency legal assistance, contact the Rapid Response Network nearest you.

- Orange County Rapid Response (714) 881-1558
- Long Beach Community Defense Network (562) 269-1083

Free & Low-Cost Legal **Assistance in California**

These organizations provide legal representation, naturalization assistance, and immigrant rights advocacy.

- Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)- Education, policy advocacy, and legal resources for immigrants. ilrc.org
- Catholic Charities of California Immigration Services- Free and affordable immigration legal services. catholiccharitiesca.org (888) 924-2777

University-Based Legal Clinics

These law schools provide low-cost or pro bono legal services for immigrants in California.

• UC Davis School of Law -Immigrant Legal Services Center (530)752-6942





My Experience as a First-Time Bus Rider

by Mateo Sauceda

Throughout my young life, I have never had a good use for public transportation. My parents have always been able to drive me wherever I needed to go, and I will (hopefully) be able to drive myself in the coming months, so the idea of riding a bus or train regularly became rather obsolete. So, I decided to ride a county bus for the first time last week to give myself a sense of just how efficient and easy it is to take public transportation in Fullerton.

I first purchased my ticket using the OC Bus app on my phone. I had to create an account to do so, but the process was rather quick and simple. The app accepts Apple Pay, but you can also insert a credit card to make purchases. I bought a one-day pass, which for just \$4.50 grants you unlimited rides for a single day.

If you only need to take one ride, however, you can buy a single-use ticket for \$2. Additionally, all youth between the ages of 6 and 18 are eligible for a Youth Ride Free pass, encouraging young ones to utilize public transit more often by enabling them to ride at no cost.

On top of ticket purchases, the OC Bus app offers other features to enhance your bus experience, like a trip planner with Google Maps integration that shows all available bus routes, stops, and departures, and it proved to be a helpful resource during my ride.

Upon entering the bus, I used my virtual pass to scan in and secure a seat. The driver greeted me upon entry, and there were lots of spots available for me to sit. I was impressed by the simplicity and efficiency of the bus: it announced where it would stop next well in advance via an automated voice, and each stop was quick and smooth.

The inside of the vehicle was clean and tidy, and the passengers were respectful and undisruptive for the duration of the ride. What surprised me most about the experience was the diversity of the passengers. There was a healthy mix of younger and older people riding the bus, highlighting its versatility and usefulness for people of all ages.

From this bus ride I have gained both relief from a subtle sense of monotony in my life and a deep respect for the public transportation that the county provides for us. It leaves me wondering why more people don't take advantage of the buses in our city, especially the younger ones who can get rides for

All in all, I enjoyed my experience riding the bus in Fullerton, and I look forward to using its services more in the future.

Mosquitoes Suck! Together We Fight!

Beyond being annoying, mosquitoes can spread diseases such as West Nile Virus, Dengue, Malaria, Chikungunya, St. Louis Encephalitis and Zika.

Mosquitoes can easily fly over fences and across property lines from one house to another throughout Orange County to spread sickness and disease. So taking care of standing water on your own property just isn't enough. Please help spread the word to your friends, neighbors and coworkers to dump and drain standing water wherever they might find it because it takes all of us — united — to defeat the mosquito scourge. Together we fight!

Here are some ways to eliminate mosquito breeding sources on your property:

- Dump and drain any containers filled with water at least once a week.
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet water bowls weekly.
- Dump water from potted plant saucers.
- Don't transport or share plant stems rooted in water.
- Drill a hole or puncture containers to eliminate standing water.
- Use our mosquito source checklist:
- https://www.ocvector.org/the-ultimate-mosquito-source-checklist
- Go here for more do-it-yourself mosquito issue solutions: https://www.ocvector.org/do-it-yourself-solutions-for-mosquito-issues



Public Comments from June 17, 2025 Fullerton City Council Meeting

Elijah Manassero: "Last week, the Planning Commission was scheduled to hear an appeal for a proposed gas station near Provecho Market. The applicant is Ralph Kim, a political donor to Mayor Jung. While the application was denied, I reviewed the staff report and found several serious concerns that need to be addressed publicly.

"According to Fullerton Municipal Code, a gas station may only be built if one of two conditions is met, the location is at the intersection of two arterial highways, or the structure is an accessory use. This project qualifies as neither

"The location is not an arterial intersection and to qualify as an accessory use, the gas station would have to be for the sole use of the occupants of the premises, not the general public. The staff report admits the location fails the arterials intersection test, but then it begins to imply that the gas station might qualify as an accessory use without ever directly stating so. Instead of citing the municipal code, it leans on analogies in previous cases that are legally and factually different.

"This raises a troubling question. Why is staff implying legal compliance without stating it plainly? Why is a recommendation being made that appears inconsistent with city law, especially for a project tied to a political donor? Is staff being pressured to produce certain outcomes? And if staff are aware that this project fails to meet legal requirements, as the language in the report subtly acknowledges, why is no one speaking up? Who signed off on this and why?

"The concern is not limited to one case. Over the past year, we've seen questionable closed session classifications, land use decisions benefiting donors, and a lack of transparency regarding how some projects are prioritized or framed.

"These incidents form a pattern that can't be ignored. If there are individuals in city government who have been asked to sign off, facilitate or remain silent about decisions they know are improper, I urge them to come forward. Speaking out may be difficult, but it is essential to protecting public trust. And if speaking publicly feels unsafe, there are alternative channels available. Those aware of any impropriety, past or present, have a responsibility to act."

Todd Harrison: "I want to revisit a topic I introduced in my earlier remarks regarding the endangered residents of Rancho La Paz, as well as my connection to Fullerton as a resident.

"This is a misguided effort to adopt a city charter that would classify us as a charter city. I recently read the *Observer* and noted that Mayor Jung made some comments and raised questions about the charter city initiative during the State of Fullerton address. It's important to remember that this process isn't free.

"As I often point out during my time on the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, our meetings take up valuable staff time. There are three or four city employees dedicated to supporting our committee, which diverts their attention from other essential responsibilities.

"I anticipate that this initiative will ultimately lead to significant expenditures for the city, particularly in consultant fees. I'm not sure how much these services will cost; city staff might have better insights. However, I doubt that hiring political or legal advisors ever comes at a low price—typically, these costs total tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of dollars. I worry that the city will end up spending a considerable amount of money on this effort, which many residents find to be unnecessary.

"It seems to many in the community that this initiative is more about consolidating and centralizing power within City Hall than about addressing the concerns it claims to tackle. Therefore, it's not surprising that the answers you provide to our questions often seem vague; they may reflect a hesitance to reveal the true motivations behind this push for a charter city."

Yolanda Harrison: "It was great to see Doctor Charles and Council Member Zahra at Pride and the No King's protest, with around 13,000 attendees at La Palma Park.

"However, I want to voice my concerns about the charter city proposal. Fullerton is financially struggling, and our streets need urgent repairs, especially at Lemon and Valencia, where promised improvements haven't been made.

"The area is dark and unsafe for children walking to school due to broken streetlights. Instead of pursuing a charter city, we should focus on these critical repairs. Please reconsider our funding priorities, Mr. Mayor. We have more important needs."

Jensen Hallstrom: "I request that the council consider reviewing an overall update of our Urban Forest Management Plan. It has been nearly two years since it was approved, and there continue to be significant deficiencies in the management of our precious mature street trees, park trees, and even trees on private property. The city could do more to guide the conservation of these mature trees.

"A Chase Bank is being constructed at Pomona and Chapman. Throughout the entire planning and permitting process, there was little concern or awareness of the value of many mature trees that the project would necessitate removing.

"This includes two native California Sycamore trees that are almost 50 feet tall and provide shade to the sidewalk frequently used by students at Fullerton High School. Additionally, some historic Magnolia trees, including one that dates back to the original 1920s planting, are also at risk.

"Although an updated management plan was finalized, numerous deficiencies remain largely unaddressed. I have not seen any interest or initiative from the council to agendize a review of our urban forest management.

"This is a vital natural infrastructure and resource that is still relatively poorly understood. Mature trees are being cut down in our downtown area, which already has a significant shade deficit. Compared to other downtowns that have successfully conserved their mature trees and reaped the benefits, Fullerton continues to lose out each time a mature tree is unnecessarily removed."

Jose Trinidad Castaneda: "I'm here to clarify the direction I would like to see the City Council take for our city. One of the main problems I observe is a lack of public trust in all levels of

government—not just local but also state and federal. I urge the council to exercise restraint and uphold the integrity and public confidence that come with their positions.

"I believe in the principle of "hate the sin, love the sinner." It's important to differentiate between an individual's actions and the individual. I generally agree with the council, particularly as demonstrated in the consent calendar, where they often find consensus in most meetings.

"Therefore, I'm genuinely shocked when I hear comments like, "I don't trust this council," or accusations of a "corrupt majority." Such statements undermine and erode public trust, not just within our city but across the entire region. We all need to do our part at every level of government to enhance public trust and integrity moving forward.

"While we have a guaranteed right to public comment, there are also limits on real-time debate and dialogue between the council and the public. The Brown Act, specifically Government Code 549554.3, guarantees this and stipulates that council members should not engage in extensive back-and-forth discussions with speakers, especially on items that are not on the agenda. Instead, it allows for referrals to staff for future agendas without immediate deliberation.

"I encourage the council to exercise the necessary restraint and avoid responding directly to demands from public comment in the moment. This is a requirement that every City Council and agency must follow under the Brown Act. It's crucial to protect criticism at all costs, as it is fundamental to our democracy. If someone critiques you personally, it's essential to remain silent. This is not just a suggestion; it's a directive.

"Again, public trust depends on adherence to these principles. We can all commit to this, especially during these unprecedented times."

Fullerton Resident: "I recently attended my first Planning Commission meeting, and it was a refreshing experience. Every member of the commission actively listened to each speaker during their presentations, which felt respectful and encouraging. I hope this continues.

"Tonight, I request that everyone on the council and all staff remain transparent and forthcoming when discussing the preparation of charters and all issues with the public and media.

"I would also like feedback and fact-checking following my attendance at the Fullerton Collaborative meeting with Mayor Jung. When asked why we are pursuing a charter that could cost at least \$100,000 while we are facing a budget deficit and considering cuts, Mayor Jung responded that we haven't spent anything yet. He mentioned only the \$8,500 needed to get it on the ballot. However, we have already incurred significant staff time and costs in preparing this initiative.

"We are in the early stages of planning, which means any outside consultant fees or in-house costs are just beginning to accumulate. Mayor Jung mentioned that we haven't made any cuts yet, but we have just passed a budget instructing all departments to make specific percentage cuts.

"While people may or may not be laid off, positions will remain unfilled as part of the required budget reductions. Therefore, saying we are not making cuts was misleading, as departments are figuring out how to imple-

ment these necessary reductions as voted on.

"You indicated that there would be public meetings to solicit input. Still, it is crucial to note that the council will ultimately decide what goes into the charter, regardless of public feedback.

While you mentioned wanting at least six public meetings, the final decision will still rest with the council majority. Without transparent and accurate information during these public meetings, the public will lack the necessary understanding to make informed decisions regarding this matter.

"Additionally, when concerns about legal costs related to the charter were raised, you mentioned that Huntington Beach had won some of its lawsuits against the state. However, this does not negate the legal costs associated with pursuing those lawsuits, regardless of the outcome.

"Many still believe that adopting a charter will prevent certain issues, and I request further clarity on this matter..." [The city clerk turned the microphone off because the three-minute time was up.]

Fullerton Resident: "I'd like to bring attention to an event that took place on June 7th, which was a Ruck March on the Fullerton Loop. The Fullerton Police Department and the California National Guard sponsored this event. What was remarkable about this event was the genuine respect between our wonderful Police Chief, Jon Radus, and the commander of the National Guard. They demonstrated true collaboration in organizing this event

"Not only was it enjoyable, but they also provided food, and everyone had a great time. It was like going to the beach—everyone was happy! This event showcased what a city with humanity can accomplish. Approximately 250 community members attended. The Fire Department was also present, along with others, and it truly was an outstanding event.

"Additionally, I want to mention that City Manager Eric Levitt has distributed his resume and accepted a position in San Bernardino. Previously, Chief Dunn, the former Fullerton Police Chief, secured a raise in his annual compensation but left our city shortly after to seek better opportunities elsewhere.

"This raises a question: Why are we losing such wonderful service providers? I have a theory that the inefficiency of our city operations might be a contributing factor. Often, council meetings seem to rehash the same issues repeatedly, keeping people here until 11 or 11:30pm. I can only imagine how tiresome that must be, and it might lead some to look for positions in places where the work is more efficient and productive.

"We need to focus on issues that directly impact our community, such as improving our sidewalks for the safety of our children..." [The city clerk turned the microphone off because the three-minute time was up.]

Maureen Milton: "I'm an independent advocate for the disabled, handicapped, little people, and the mobility-challenged.

"I have a quick question for Mayor Jung. I called earlier to request that the library furniture item on the consent calendar be pulled. Can it still be pulled? I have an idea that could benefit everyone regarding the furniture and showcase Fullerton's history. I can share more details if you're interested.

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 17

Item #7: Proposed Lease Amendment for City-Owned Real Property – Fullerton Transportation Center

At a recent City Council meeting, Mayor Jung announced the postponement of a lease amendment for cityowned property at 120-140 East Santa Fe Avenue, originally hidden in the consent calendar as item seven. The decision to continue the item to July 15 was made at the request of city staff, who sought further clarification on specific language within the agreement.

The lease amendment raises questions particularly due to Section 10, which allows the landlord to authorize and consent to the assignment of the lease to any entity controlled by Tony, George, or Salma Bushala.

Critics argue that the Bushalas may circumvent these protocols, as they can transfer the lease without council approval. This raises significant concerns about transparency; the potential for creating shell companies might obscure ownership and limit public oversight.

Such arrangements could enable the Bushalas to sell the lease to another entity, charging higher rates without any improvements or maintenance on the property—commonly referred to as speculative flipping. Typically, if a tenant is leasing space at a higher rate, the city would renegotiate terms, especially given that other companies are often willing to pay more. Instead of enhancing the property for the benefit of

Fullerton, there's a risk that the Bushalas could hold onto the lease at a low price while profiting from higher rental rates.

This situation raises significant concerns regarding transparency and accountability, especially considering the Bushalas' status as political donors. With the city facing an ongoing financial deficit, the public sees no financial benefits from this arrangement, raising questions about the long-term implications of relinquishing control over valuable land. In the end, it is the public that may face the repercussions of this lack of oversight.

This item will be on the City Council agenda for July 15. You can speak on the item in person at 303 W Commonwealth Ave or via Zoom at http://www.zoom.us/join.

Meeting ID: 160 256 5242

Telephone Option: 1-669-254-5252

The meeting starts at 5:30 pm. Each speaker has a time limit of 3 minutes, and all comments will be included in the permanent record. You do not need to provide your name to register; you may simply state the district you live in. Please note that speakers cannot yield their time to others.

If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office at cityclerksoffice@cityoffullerton.com or (714) 738-6350.

Item #3: Monthly Committee Activity and Attendance Report

In a recent City Council meeting, Council Member Dr. Ahmad Zahra brought attention to the operations of the Senior Advisory Committee, following a request from Todd Harrison to remove the Monthly Committee Activity and Attendance Report from the consent calendar for further discus-

Harrison, who serves on the Senior Advisory Committee, highlighted significant concerns regarding the committee's infrequent meetings and limited engagement with the broader Council. He noted that the process to advance ideas takes a considerable amount of time, often requiring three meetings just to propose and discuss an agenda item, followed by lengthy preparation by city staff that can extend up to a year before any action is taken.

"The standard report from the clerk fails to provide adequate insight into our activities unless one reviews the supplemental materials," Harrison explained. "I'm advocating for greater transparency and public understanding regarding our committee's work."

Harrison indicated that the committee would be compiling a detailed report by the year's end, which they

will present to the City Council. He committed to ensuring that any significant report would be pulled from the consent calendar to allow for public discussion.

Yolanda Harrison, Todd's wife and a regular attendee of committee meetings, echoed concerns about the slow decision-making process.

"It takes a minimum of six months from topic selection to vote, resulting in significant delays," she said, suggesting that the committee should meet every two months instead of three to improve efficiency.

Dr. Zahra sought clarity from staff regarding potential adjustments to the committee's meeting schedule, suggesting that bimonthly meetings could enhance effectiveness. "We want to ensure that good ideas lead to actionable steps," he stated.

City Clerk Lucinda Williams acknowledged the need to investigate how the committee's meeting frequency was established and noted that any change would require a formal review by the Council.

The Council concluded with plans to explore the suggestion for more frequent meetings and the need for actionable reporting in future discussions.

There was no report by Council Member Dunlap.

City Council Member Reports

Mayor Fred Jung

Mayor Jung stated that his written reports were included in the Supplemental. Jung asked the Deputy City Manager to answer Councilmember Zahra's concerns about the traffic light at Lemon and Valencia. Deputy City Manager Daisy Perez said that Valencia was scheduled to be done in early August; there was a delay due to the long lead time for traffic signal poles.

Mayor Protem Dr. Shana Charles

(Summarized)

In the past two weeks, the Mayor Pro Tem has faced several challenges. She participated in a Cal Cities Policy Committee meeting discussing community services, including the potential cuts to state park passes due to budget deficits.

The Mayor Pro Tem also attended the Pride event with Council Member Zahra, highlighting the importance of supporting the LGBTQ community and expressing excitement for next year's celebration.

Charles said she also attended the discussion about charter cities at Fullerton College.

Additionally, the Mayor Pro Tem participated in two No Kings rallies, one in Fullerton. The events were peaceful, showcasing community support for immigrants. She delivered a speech in Anaheim, incorporating insights from Senator Alex Padilla and citing professional organizations on issues they believe require urgent attention.

"You can find the full speech on my social media pages: I posted it on my Instagram (@ShanaCharlesOfficial) and my Facebook (Shana Charles Council Member). You can also sign up for my newsletter to stay updated,' Charles stated.

The Mayor Pro Tem encouraged community engagement and education on these matters, offering to share articles and inviting constituents to attend open office hours on Thursdays.

"I hold open office hours on Thursdays from 12 to 2pm."

"I hope to see you all at the Day of Music celebration. I am also looking forward to our July 4th event, which our staff is organizing. I'll provide more details during our meeting on July 1st," Charles said.

"Regarding item #5 I just wanted to clarify for the commenter that what we're voting on is to actually continue it to july 1 so we will be talking about it on july 1 that's what was voted on consent tonight."

(July 1 City Council was cancelled).

Council Member Dr. Ahmad Zahra

"I know there is a lot of fear and anxiety in our communities, and these are truly hard times for everyone. I sincerely hope for peace at some point.

"I would like to request a few things. First, if we could have our immigration policy published on our city website, it would provide clarity for our community.

"I know the Fullerton Police Department has done a commendable job communicating with our residents, especially regarding our protest policy, and I appreciate their efforts. However, our city also owes it to our community to clarify our stance on local laws.

"Additionally, I want to address the turmoil affecting our small businesses. It's been years since I first requested a small business strategic plan, and while we've made some progress, we have yet to complete it.

"I believe it is essential that we revisit this and place it on the agenda to these challenging times."

assess where we stand with our bridge strategic plan. We should also explore options to support our small businesses, whether through funding at the state, federal, or county level, as well as reviewing our own policies. I would like us to examine the outdoor dining and sidewalk rental fees to see what we can do to assist our small businesses.

"I'm not sure if I need a second for that request, but I would like it to be addressed at the earliest convenience for our staff. Furthermore, I believe the urban forest plan could use a quick update. Since it was approved two years ago, it would be beneficial to provide the community with a brief progress report. I'd also like to get an update on the traffic lights at Lemon and Valencia to see where we currently

"That's all I have for today. I wish everyone peace and tranquility during

Council Member Jamie Valencia

that I attended the Kaboom Playground project development last night with a bunch of residents in the area. It was super fun, lots of kids' ideas. It's really cute to hear what they have to say for the new playground.

"We should have the project ready to start building September 11 and then complete on September 13 over at Union Park.

"Full disclosure though, the playground will be up but the children

"I just wanted to let everybody know won't be able to play on that until the surrounding area meets code standards. So just so you know, the playground will be there, but until we get the go ahead from the city, it won't be able to be played on at that time.

> "I'm also looking forward to the Day of Music and I'm also very much looking forward to the almost sold out event State of the City next Thursday and see what Fullerton has done in the past couple of years, it'll be exciting to

City Meetings

July 7 at 4 pm Transportation Commission

July 9 at 6:30 pm Planning Commission

July 14 at 6:30 pm Parks and Recreation

July 15 at 5:30 pm City Council

July 16 at 5:30 pm Active Transportation

July 17 at 5:30 pm Investment Advisory

June 21 at 5 pm Infrastructure & Resources

July 24 at 6 pm Library Board of Trustees



In fact,

the very

worst part

for me was

that I failed

to act, to speak,

to protest

when my life

Our balm

is the reform

and strengthening

of our democracy.

And it is the next

step we all must

take as our

national healing



OPINION: Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2025 • Jonathandobrer.substack.com

My Most Embarrassing Moment

umph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Misattributed to Edmund

Having lived some 80 years, four of them in Berkeley in the 60s, there are some personal episodes that I'd just as soon not make it into my biography or eulogy. Yet, I'm going to confess the most personally humiliating thing I've ever done. Or, in this case, the most humiliating thing I didn't do.

I have a well-earned reputation for getting into trouble with my big mouth—a mouth that is often faster than my mind or shaky sense of taste. Still, it's what I didn't say and didn't do that cause me such profound embarrassment today.

About 30 years ago, I was on an Amtrak train coming back to Los Angeles from a meeting in San Diego, when federal immigration agents entered my car and began checking the IDs of some of the passengers. Their checks were not random. They were tightly focused on people with brown skin. After a cursory glance at my pale face, they moved on to people who appeared to be Hispanic. I sat in silence. I froze in the ugly face of this great offense to my values. I, who had always been vocally critical of the silence of so many "Good Germans" during the Holocaust, remained as silent as any "Good German." I said

"The only thing necessary for the tri- nothing when they checked only brown-skinned people. I did nothing when they led some off in cuffs and

> I'm not in favor of open borders. I believe that we need to control our borders and immigration. It wasn't that I believed Immigration agents had no right to check people out and verify their legal status. That would have been ok, and my silence and feigned blindness wouldn't have been so personally upsetting. But they didn't do that.

For them the clear pattern was that brown skin was probable cause to demand ID. My personal view and the law hold that neither ethnicity nor religion should ever constitute probable cause for interrogation or arrest. Yet that was exactly what I was witnessing. My silence and the aversion of my embarrassed eyes from what was taking place put me in my place and wiped away my facile condemnation of some Germans (and Poles, French, Dutch, Croatian and Romanians).

Their silence, while still evidence of moral cowardice, was no worse than my silence. In fact, the very worst part for me was that I failed to act, to speak,

to protest when my life was not on the line. During the Shoah, the heroism of some "Righteous Gentiles" was all the more laudable because they risked everything—their lives and the lives of their children, spouses and parents. Despite these grave risks, some small but precious numbers spoke out and acted to protect Jews from being rounded up and sent away to their deaths.

Had I found it within myself to speak or protest, it wouldn't have been in fear for my life. All I risked was the inconvenience of being delayed. I didn't fear being arrested, jailed, beaten or killed. I tried to mitigate my guilt by rationalizing that these brown-skinned people was not on the line. wouldn't be beaten or killed but "only" deported. Maybe I wasn't the

> most craven coward and hypocrite back then because while my peril wasn't great, neither was theirs-or so I told myself.

> As we're seeing today, tearing families apart and disappearing fathers and mothers from each other and their children can be cruel, humiliating and under Trump can result in being sent to South Sudan, Libya, Djibouti or Rwanda. They would be out of our care and custody and be under the harsh discipline of terrible regimes. Today, it's fair to say that the people on a current version of that train could be facing beatings, violence and cruel indifference to their pain and the pain of their

families.

Were I to encounter that same situation today, with my new sense of their increased peril, would I stand up, speak up and protest? Would I question ICE's right to check people only by race and perceived ethnicity? Would I become brave and risk more than being hassled? Would I risk being beaten and arrested? I would love to believe that time and experience have recalibrated my moral compass. I think it has. However, I'm not completely confident that my moral stand would actually get from my trembling heart to my feet and help me stand, protest and get involved.

The test for me, and for you, is what we see, what we say, what we do when we witness unidentified thugs in skimasks chase, tackle, beat, cuff and shove brown-skinned people into unmarked vehicles and disappear them to remote locations where their families can't find them and legal services are largely unavailable. Today, my silence (and yours) is more understandable but less justifiable.

In the name of "Law and order" (Recht und Ordnung), under the slogan of "Orders are orders," (Befehle sind Befehle), otherwise good people were cowed into silence. What will we learn? What will we do? Whether or not Edmund Burke ever said it, it remains true, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men (and women) to do nothing." Doing something doesn't ensure prevailing. However, doing nothing, saying nothing, risking nothing, assures failure—failure of law, of vision and of our very selves.

OPINION: AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2025

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Loving America with a Broken Heart

We're at war with Iran. Donald Trump, unsurprisingly, has broken yet another promise – to not involve our country in foreign conflicts. As I write this, there is majority disapproval of the bombing, but historically any such opposition tends to be short-lived, as Mark Twain observed in The Mysterious Stranger, another catastrophe of global proportions in the making. Another heartbreak.

What are the most common feelings when the heart is broken? Bitterness. Betrayal. Grief for what was and might have been. And overarching all these deep feelings is the overwhelming sense that one will never be whole again, that spring will never come again, that life is now gray, dingy and drab – devoid of color and passion.

But then, slowly, life returns. New shoots push their way through the concrete cracks. One morning, the sunlight hits you just right in the face, and you smile a smile that is part remembrance, part renewal. And it's in that moment, and moments to come, that you recognize that you are healing, that the long

convalescence of the heart in winter was just that - a rejuvenation.

So as with our lives, so with America. Our collective hearts are broken, and we are just beginning to knit up the unraveled sleeve of care and apply the balm of Gilead.

In this case, our balm is the reform and strengthening of our democracy. And it is the next step we all must take as our national healing progresses.

There will be those who will say it can't be done, it's too late for reform, better save what you can and just hope for the best. That is neither a winning nor a hopeful strategy. It assumes that America is

broken beyond repair and can never be made whole again, that it can only limp into the future as a fragment of what it was and what it could have been. That

Rabbi Nachman of Breslov said. "There is no heart as whole as a broken

heart." That sounds like a paradox on the surface, but when you look inside that broken heart, you find the seeds of its renewal, dormant and needing only light and space to grow. And the engine that drives that growth is knowing that you are not alone.

That is the best thing that the "No Kings" and other anti-Trump groups have given us. Members from all generations from the newest to the great-

est, of all politics, colors and creeds, stand together in resistance to tyranny and commitment to a robust democracy. They believe, as Rebbe Nachman did, that if breaking is possible, fixing is also possible.

So how do we fix America? What must be done?

Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's book "Tyranny of the Minority"

offers a road map. In studying the successes and failures of democracy around the world, they recommend these remedies: remove all semi-loyal politicians (DINOs), make it easier to vote, eliminate gerrymandering (on ALL sides), abolish the Electoral College in place of the popular vote, eliminate the filibuster, end life terms for Supreme Court justices, and make it easier to amend the Constitution. Many democracies (e.g., Germany, Norway, Finland, Sweden) have already eliminated some or all of these, and their democracies are thriving.

A tall order. Especially for the out of power party, dominated by an authoritarian party that is unwilling to accept reform, especially to those democratic vulnerabilities they have exploited to their advantage. But there are millions of Americans who have – and would – support these reforms if put before them for a vote. The party that speaks for those reforms, that shows a way forward – not backward – can win.

For starters, Democrats must form a shadow government, designed to provide true information about the current administration's doings while proposing alternatives such as Levitsky and Ziblatt propose. AOC, Jasmine Crockett, Jamie Raskin, Pete Buttigieg, Tim Walz, Robert Reich, Bernie Sanders, Jim McGovern and Sheldon Whitehouse would all make first-rate members. Representing the loyal opposition, they've already taken the first steps towards establishing a shadow government - now it's time to declare it exists and put it into action.

Support for new candidates is also critical. One name that comes up time and again in the media is Kat Abughazaleh, who has declared for Congress to represent Chicago's Ninth District. She is a terrific speaker, with a deep understanding of the GOP's strategy and the heart and courage ro promote democratic reform and ways to resist tyranny. You can find her at katforillinois.com Also Sen. Joel Ossoff is facing strong MAGA opposition in Georgia: you can donate to his campaign at https://secure.actblue.com.

The gates of Hell, according to Dante Aligheri, are supposed to be adorned with the legend, "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here." But we're not in Hell. It just seems like it. That's what Trump and his sociopathic coterie want us to believe – that we can change nothing, that it is better to abandon all hope and accept the yoke of servitude to the fascist state. To that, all freedom-loving Americans must reply - as General McAuliffe did to his German adversary - "Nuts!"

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



Due to a herniated disk, I returned to physical therapy with Ron Cunningham at Fullerton Physical Therapy, co-owned with Dr. Ryan Hartshorn, DPT. As a retired psychologist and current journalist, I began interviewing Ron about his journey to becoming a physical therapist.

Ron started at Fullerton College in 1977, guided by counselor Mary Shaw. She encouraged him to explore his interests, leading to an internship specializing in physical therapy. Recognizing his potential, Mary suggested he aim for the University of Southern California (USC), renowned for its excellent physical therapy program at the time.

Ron faced personal challenges—his father had passed away, leaving his single mother, working a low-paying job, as his sole support. He was unsure how he could afford USC tuition, even after being accepted there and at

Mary reassured him, securing scholarships for his junior and senior years at USC but cautioning him that graduate school funding was his responsibil-

Thanks to Mary Shaw's support and care, Ron realized his dream career. He also credits Fullerton College for providing a quality education with small classes and dedicated instructors. Later, Ron served on the Fullerton College scholarship committee, giving back to the institution that helped him.

At a recent Philanthropic Educational Organization Chapter Y meeting, seven of ten scholarship recipients from Fullerton College and Fullerton Union High School were honored. They gained admission to prestigious universities including UC Berkeley, UCI, Georgetown, Stanford, CSUF, and UCLA.

I applaud Jodi Balma, professor and director of the honors program at Fullerton College, and Sharon Hollon from Fullerton Union High School, both of whom played pivotal roles in supporting these students' success. Mary Shaw set a powerful example.

Community colleges such as Fullerton College provide vital pathways to four-year universities, where their students tend to succeed at higher rates than incoming freshmen. California State University, Fullerton, recognizes this and prioritizes registration for its local college students.

As a proud Hornet and former professor at Fullerton College—originally Fullerton Community College—I cherish its inclusive mission and community support. An added bonus?

Many students, including Ron's parents, have met their spouses hereshowing that college can be about more than just a degree; it can be about finding a life partner too.

Balance & Change

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

Embracing Community: The Power of Asking for Help

We can't do everything by ourselves. There are too many things happening in the world. We need help. We all do. It is okay to ask for help. It is okay to lean on each other.

There is an ethos, especially in America, that we must "pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps." We must take care of everything by ourselves. We are only strong if we do it by ourselves. That is totally absurd.

An example that speaks to this is, what if you need surgery?

Do you cut yourself open and do it yourself?

Or do you have a surgeon who has

nurses and techs and many other support staff to do surgery on you?

While yes, some things we can, and should, do by ourselves, there are many other things we simply cannot.

What would happen if you allowed yourself to be part of a community where sometimes you lean on others and sometimes they lean on you? Odds are you would actually feel safer, more confident and get more done!

So, find your people, those with whom you feel safe, and create a community that creates safety, love, and mutual help! You will not believe the difference it will make in your life!

Getting Back From an Injury by Alicia, 9th grade

Undoubtedly a frustrating and emotional process, recovery after an injury can be quite taxing. Whether it's a sprained ankle, a pulled muscle or a more serious injury altogether, being forced to stop activities is rather discouraging. But an injury also needs a patient, focused and strong approach toward recovery. The right mindset will permit an even better comeback.

One of the most important aspects of recovering from an injury is listening to your body. In doing so, a certain temptation to hastily return to activity may occur, especially if you have missed an active lifestyle. But pushing yourself early may aggravate the existing injury or set in motion an entirely new one.

Rest is one of the greatest enforcers of recovery; never does letting the injury heal fully ensure the strongest possible comeback and the best chance of long-term well-being.

If you want to be properly healed, just follow what your doctor or physical therapist tell you. Stretching, taking some medications and appearing for therapy sessions are necessary for you to get better.

Even if exercises hardly appear complicated or are not exciting, they are all targeting the muscles and joints that are suffering. Trust them to take you to the point of getting well.

Respect your body's healing process and notice that your strength and proxy confidence may not be what they were. Full mental and physical recovery takes time and is often a one-step-at-a-time process. Start doing light movements or low-impact exercises

before gradually returning to more active pursuits. Progress is progress, even in small steps, and feeling like your normal self is drawing ever nearer by the day.

It is also important to pay attention to your mental health in the course of recovery. Sitting on the sidelines might make you feel left out, especially when you're watching friends or teammates still out there.

Talking with someone you trust could help keep your spirits up; find a supportive coach, parent or friend to talk to. Setting small and achievable goals will also keep your mind focused and motivated through the recovery process.

Once you are cleared to return to your sport, take it easy. Warm up appropriately, be aware of how your body feels and do not ignore the pain. Allow yourself some time to adapt; confidence will return with skill and strength.

Getting from injury to fitness is going to take the healing of body, mind and patience. You get stronger and smarter through the healing process, so listen to your body and take professional advice while keeping a positive attitude. Every setback is a set-up for a comeback, and your recovery is part of your story.

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The Dental Corner: Better Oral Health

Ask an Oral Surgeon! Pt. 2

a conversation about Wisdom Teeth with Dr. Laura Pashkowsky, a local Oral Surgeon!

Are there risks involved with leaving in my Wisdom Teeth?

Yes, if problematic wisdom teeth are left in place, they can lead to issues like decay, soft tissue infections, damage to adjacent teeth, crowding, and cysts or tumors. Even wisdom teeth that aren't causing pain can still contribute to silent problems beneath the surface, which is why regular dental checkups and imaging are important.

Moreover, because we cannot

Today, we share part two of will become problematic in the future, it is often recommended for younger patients to have them removed preventatively before any serious issues might occur.

What should I expect from the procedure?

Wisdom tooth removal is a common outpatient procedure, often completed in an hour with sedation. Recovery usually takes a few days of downtime, and most patients manage well with rest, ice, and postop med-

Your provider will guide you on what to expect before, during, and after the surgery.

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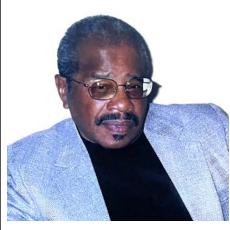


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David James Owens 1937-2025



David James Owens was born with his twin, Lawrence Owens, on March 13, 1937, in Linden, Texas, to the late Alfred Lee Owens Sr. and Roxie Lee Owens. In 1941, the Owens family moved to Orange County, California, in search of a better life. Sonny began his education in 1943 at Maple Elementary School and continued on to Wilshire Junior High School, Fullerton Union High School, and Fullerton Junior College.

David was a gifted athlete who set a national prep record in both the high and low hurdles while attending Fullerton Union High School. In high school, Sonny excelled as a multisport athlete, participating in baseball, basketball, and football. Additionally, he was elected as the Student Body President during his senior year.

David proudly served in the United States Army. After receiving an honorable discharge, he continued his education at Fullerton College.

He went on to work as an Electrical Engineering Designer at Ford Aerospace, where he eventually retired after 30 years.

On June 6, 1964, David married the love of his life, Claudette Arbouet Owens. Together, they raised their three children, Vida, Florence, David, and granddaughter Naomi, with love, laughter, and deep faith. Family was everything to David. He was a humble man and a role model to all who

knew him. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. He and Claudette traveled the world together and were constant fixtures at high school and college sports games, especially those played by their children and grandchildren.

David served as the president of the Leon Owens Foundation for many years. One of his favorite events was Annual Celebrity Golf the Tournament, which supported causes close to his heart, including college scholarships for underrepresented students, the Shoes for Kids Project, and numerous other charities. Giving back to his community was more than a passion—it was a way of life for him.

David passed away on May 29, 2025. His burial took place on Thursday, June 25 at Riverside National Cemetery.

He is survived by his loving wife, Claudette Arbouet Owens; children, Florence Owens-Davis, David Kane Owens, son-in-law, Michael L. Davis and grandchildren, the apples of his eye: Naomi Grant, Simeon Davis, Vida Davis, Seth Davis, Kayia Owens, Drew Owens, and Kayla

He is also survived by, his siblings Dorothy Whitehurst and Theodore Owens, brothers-in-law Remus Arbouet Jr., Jean Arbouet, John McClannahan, and sisters-in-law Florence Arbouet, Patricia Owens, Lowanna Owens, Romell Foster Owens, and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Vida C. Owens Grant, parents, Alfred Lee Owens Sr. and Roxie Lee Love Owens, and siblings Jewell Owens, Leon Owens, Lawrence Owens-Jeffries, Alfred Owens Jr., Brigman Owens, Marvin Owens, Jessie Owens, Shirley Owens-McClannahan, and Audrey Mae Gardner.

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5

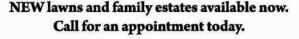
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Daniel Nels (Potto) Duncanson 1952-2025

Daniel Nels (Potto) Duncanson passed peacefully Easter Sunday April 20 at Kindred Care Hospital in Brea after battling kidney disease and heart failure.

Danny was born March 23, 1952 on a farm in Wagner, South Dakota. When Danny was four, his family moved to Fullerton, which became his per-

manent residence. Danny graduated from Sunny Hills High School in 1970 and earned his college degree from Cal State Fullerton.

Danny coached various sports, primarily football, at Sunny Hills High School and coached pony league for many years.

He worked at Lucky's grocery store and local restaurants such as Hero's, Mulberry Street, Club 66, Cask and Cleaver, Roscoes and the Catch. He had a great rapport with workers and customers. Danny retired from La Vista High School in Fullerton butcontinued to work with special needs at Placentia/Yorba Linda District.

Danny's love for working with students showed in his unique gift for



connecting with and motivating all those he coached and taught. Another one of his loves was playing golf where he met and made many friends. Danny was greatly known by all for his great sense of humor.

"We are all stories in the end, remembered by the adventures we had, the achievements we made, and the peo-

ple we loved." -Dr. Who

Danny's story was surely a great one with his unique and caring per-

Danny was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and friend.

He is survived by his wife of thirtyone years Christine, step-children David and Carrie and granddaughter Lo. He is also survived by his four siblings David (Jeanie), Doug (Caren), Dennis (Jan), and sister Debbie (Jim Hill), seven nieces and nephews and seven great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, father Ken and mother Vivian.

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ANSWER KEY TO "CHRISTMAS IN JULY" on pg 7:



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



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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.

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Above: Fullerton Hostel in disrepair in 2023 *Top Right: The location of the now destroyed former Fullerton Hostel (2025)* At Right: Historic Marker on Rock near Former Damkeeper's Home



VIDEO OBSERVER

by Emerson Little © 2025

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Fullerton Hostel Had Historic Past

Fullerton Observer reader named Jeff, I decided to look into the history behind the Fullerton Hostel by Brea Dam Park off Harbor Boulevard. Beyond the park's boundary, at the end of a short curving, uphill driveway (which runs adjacent to a nearby golf course), a two-story Spanish-style house that was a place for international travelers to stay has been torn down.

The land the Fullerton Hostel once sat on is now empty and closed. The area is restricted and fenced in, with multiple no trespassing signs posted by the U.S. Government. Interestingly, when I was hiking in the Brea Dam area back in the summer of 2023, the 1930s-style home was in disrepair but still extant, although it looked as though it hadn't been lived in for quite some time.

Hostels are generally designed to promote an appreciation for travel and are aimed at international students, workers, or travelers who are looking for lodging. Familiar to European travelers, hostels typically offer inexpensive dormitory-style rooms for visitors to stay in. According to Hostelling International USA, the hosteling movement began in 1909 when a German schoolteacher named Richard Schirrmann started taking students on "overnight field trips to the countryside to encourage a healthy lifestyle and an appreciation of the natural world."

This movement arrived in the United States in 1934, when schoolteachers and Scout leaders Isabel and Monroe Smith experienced European hostels on a trip with their students and decided to bring that same experience to people living in the U.S. By 1935, hos-

Following a suggestion from a tels began springing up around New England in farmhouses, where the couple would act as house parents, supported by the townspeople.

> Tourists to the Orange County area could sleep in the Fullerton Hostel, a "former dairy farmhouse perched upon a grassy hill overlooking Fullerton," according to an article covering three different O.C. hostels by Danny Sullivan in the July 4th, 1990 issue of the Los Angeles Times' Orange County Edition.

Sullivan that "Fullerton is the most secluded... Little remains of the former dairy farm; its barn is a pile of wood. But the hostel does have a history -it was once a farmhouse and later home for the dam keeper.

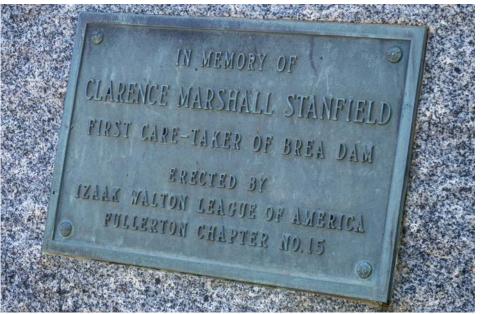
Today, the only evidence of this is a faded plaque set into an oversized rock located slightly downhill from the closed entrance gate into

the hostel property. The plaque was erected by the Fullerton Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, and it reads, "In memory of Clarence Marshall Stanfield, First Care-Taker of Brea Dam."

In 1942, when the Brea Dam was built by the Army Corps of Engineers, the building that became the hostel was a place where some of the work crew lived, according to Walter Clark's Fullerton Walks website. Stanfield, the first dam tender, and his family later moved in to the residence. "It was eventually abandoned because they didn't like to be assigned where to live," wrote Clark.

Visiting the Local History Room at





the Fullerton Public Library, I learned from reading a May 1982 issue of this very newspaper that the Fullerton City Council and Army Corps of Engineers would vote on whether or not to convert the damkeeper's house and barn into a hostel, which was scheduled to open before the 1984 Olympics.

By the time the Observer's October 1982 issue was published, Fullerton College construction technology students had been recruited to help convert the dam keeper's residence into a hostel through an agreement with American Youth Hostels (AYH), a member of the International Youth Hostel Foundation.

The students were able to earn course credit, under the guidance of Technical Education teacher Bob Chapman, as

By 2009,

the Fullerton

Hostel had

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they renovated the historic house at 1700 N. Harbor Boulevard and converted the old barn into a 50-bed dormitory style facility, according to the Fullerton Observer at the time.

the Fullerton Public Library's Local History Room, was very helpful in directing me to articles documenting the hostel's construction. Pape shared via

email a story she had scanned from the January 13, 1983 issue of the Fullerton Daily News Tribune, which reported that construction on the youth hostel was halted because of city building requirements that weren't being met by

Even though it sounds like they intended to open before the 1984 Olympics came to L.A., the hostel wasn't actually available for international visitors until November 18, 1985. In short time, the Fullerton Hostel gained a good reputation, receiving 249 recorded overnight visitors in its first six weeks of operation, according to Kirk Schneider's reporting for an April 1986 issue of the Friday.

Fullerton Observer at the time.

By 2009, the Fullerton Hostel had recorded over 90,000 overnight stays. The only trouble some visitors had, according to comments in the guest registrar, was actually finding the hostel since it was hard to locate on top of the hill off Harbor.

The Fullerton residence was conveniently located for many who wanted to explore what Southern California had to offer. The Los Angeles Council of American Youth Hostels Inc. (AYH) leased the Fullerton hostel from the Army Corps of Engineers for \$100 per year, according to a 2009 issue of the Orange County Register. Back when it opened in 1985, the Fullerton Hostel charged travelers \$6.75 per night. By 2009, the dorm rate was \$22 to \$24 a night from June through September, according to Hostelling International

The hostel was once open yearround, but after 9/11, it closed and reopened with only summer schedules available. According to the Fullerton Cheri Pape, Archivist at Walks website, "in the winter, the Hostel is closed to keep vandals from doing damage."

> the 2010s, By Hostelling International could only take people at the Fullerton location with reservations and had to see everyone's picture identification before they could stay at the former farmhouse and dam keeper's residence. It's not entirely clear when the hostel shut down for good, but the last time I saw the building, it looked abandoned with its windows boarded up and the roof looked like it had experienced a fire of some sort.

While it is disappointing that the historic Spanish-style home is no longer a part of the local and international community, memories of the hostel live on through articles and photos in the Fullerton Public Library's Local History Room, which is open for limited public access hoursfrom Tuesday to