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ICE RAIDS LOCAL CAR WASH, TWO INDIVIDUALS DETAINED

by Saskia Kennedy

In a morning operation that left the community shaken, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents conducted a raid at a local car wash on the corner of Union Avenue and Harbor Boulevard on Sunday, August 24, around 10 AM. Witnesses reported that two individuals were taken into custody during the incident.

A bystander, who shared their account on the Fullerton Buzz Facebook page, described the scene as chaotic, stating, “Eight or nine officers swooped in and arrested several people, including an elderly man whose only wrong move today was showing up for work. People are crying... everyone’s upset about what felt so vile and invasive.” The emotional response from those present underscores the climate of fear and uncertainty fostered by such operations.

In the wake of the raid, the Orange County Rapid Response Network (OCRNR) has urged community members to report any ICE activities they witness by calling (714) 881-1558. The organization encourages onlookers to document incidents safely on video and to request the full names of anyone apprehended for reporting purposes. The OCRNR collaborates with the ACLU to provide legal support and resources for individuals affected by these actions. More information can be found at <https://ocrapidresponse.org>.

As tensions rise in the community, local residents are being urged to remain vigilant and look out for one another amid fears that further raids could target local businesses. The question looms: will ICE’s actions lead to the closure of this car wash and other establishments in the area?

In 4-0 vote, Fullerton supports ACLU lawsuit against illegal ICE raids

All Council Members were present as over 150 residents gathered at the 4 pm closed session at City Hall on Tuesday, August 19. Approximately 40 people spoke in favor of the city supporting an ACLU lawsuit (Perdomo v. Noem) against illegal ICE raids (some of which have occurred in Fullerton). No one spoke against joining the lawsuit.

Among the commenters were representatives of Fullerton’s school districts, colleges, religious communities, and Rapid Response volunteers. Commenters, including neighbors, said that families were afraid to send their children to school, go to church, work, grocery shopping, go to the laundry-mat or even to regular scheduled legal immigration check-ins.

“These are not criminals, they are our neighbors and contribute to the community,” said one neighbor.

USC Professor Jody Vallejo, an immigration expert, presented statistics on what immigrants contribute to the economy. CSUF Center for Healthy

Neighborhoods coordinator Eglith Nuncci repeated the proverb “United We Stand, Divided We Fall” in her comments presented in both Spanish and English.

A Japanese-American resident spoke about her family’s history in living through the period when all was taken from them and they were forced into “internment camps” and how that history continued to impact her family and many others like hers over multiple generations. At the time no one stood and spoke up to say “this is wrong.”

A young woman who came to the U.S. as a toddler said that she had been excited to start college this fall but was now afraid to leave her parents. She asked the council to protect her parents, who were not criminals but hard workers and had only come here to provide a better life for her.

Several speakers pointed out the constitutional violations and the racism involved in the raids primarily target-

Continued on pg 15

Fullerton Risks Losing All Local Control by Ignoring State Housing Law

by Elijah Manassero

Residents submitted a petition on May 6, 2025, to stop the construction of condominiums off Harbor Boulevard and Hermosa Drive. Many neighbors opposed the project, arguing it would disrupt their quality of life in an area dominated by single-family homes. But the City Council had no power to block it.

Why? Because this development was approved under the Builder’s Remedy, a state law that kicks in when cities like Fullerton fail to follow California’s housing requirements.

Continued on page 12

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Tegan Yoon Named Young Observer Editor, Edyn Mai Transitions to UCI



The Fullerton Observer has appointed Tegan Yoon as the new Young Observer Editor, succeeding Edyn Mai, who is pursuing a Literary Journalism major at University California Irvine (UCI).

Tegan Yoon brings nearly six years of writing experience with the Observer and has completed two journalism courses at Fullerton College, which have prepared her for ethical reporting. She is committed to advocating for important issues and aims to convey her passion without bias. Yoon has also gained editorial experience as a yearbook editor and is recognized for her leadership skills.

As Yoon steps into this position, she

will build on the foundation laid by founder Francine Vudoti, with a focus on amplifying the voices of youth in the Fullerton community.

Farewell to Edyn Mai

The Fullerton Observer thanks Edyn Mai for her dedication and service as the editor of the Young Observers for the 2024/2025 school year. During her time as the Young Observer editor, Mai launched the "Observing the Future" student magazine, which has published two issues so far.

"Edyn is a lovely and talented person with a can-do spirit and an attitude that matches her aptitude. We wish her all the success," said Fullerton Observer CEO Saskia Kennedy.



THE LONGEST RUNNING WEEKLY PROTESTS IN BREA CONTINUES

Since March, activists have been gathering every Monday from 5 to 6:30 PM at the corner of State College and Imperial Highway in Brea. The protests have attracted a growing number of participants concerned about local, national, and international issues.

The Indivisible 45 group at the center of these protests opposes the illegal firings of federal workers, cuts to local programs, the deportation of immigrants and U.S. citizens and calling for aid for Gaza and Ukraine.

Indivisible encourages community members to voice their dissent against the Trump administration's actions by joining at indivisibleca45.org, facebook.com/IndivisibleCA45, or bsky.app/profile/indivisibleca45.org.

OCTA Bikeways Connectivity Study

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is preparing the Bikeways Connectivity Study to identify opportunities for improving bicycle safety and connectivity across Orange County.

The study will identify streets on the Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) that could potentially accommodate Class IV bikeways—physically separated bike lanes that enhance riding conditions and overall biking experience.

Building on previous planning efforts, this study aims to support expansion of the regional bikeways network by working closely with community stakeholders and local jurisdictions. It will also include public events to promote cycling and educate residents on the benefits of separated bike-ways.

Save the Date - Join the Community Webinar!

You are invited to a community webinar to learn about the OCTA Bikeways Connectivity Study. Find out how OCTA is working to expand options for bikeways across Orange County. Learn about the study's goals, see what is planned, and share your feedback.

Thursday, September 4, 2025| 6 pm
Webinar ID: 890 8228 2410
Call-in Number: (213) 338-8477

Get Involved and Stay Connected

To learn more and to sign up for study updates, please visit octa.net/BikewaysConnectivity.

Lets work together to connect our communities!

ICE Raids

They're not agents, and not officers. They're braindead thugs and terrorists.
Amy Fullerton

Open Letter: Lawsuit Regarding ICE's Unlawful and Unconstitutional Actions

Dear Mayor Jung, Mayor Pro Tem Charles, Council Member Zahra, Council Member Dunlap, Council Member Valencia, City Manager Manfro, Deputy City Manager Perez, City Attorney Jones and City Clerk Williams,

The consideration of the agenda item to join the lawsuit regarding ICE's unlawful and unconstitutional actions should not be held in a closed council meeting.

In 2018, the Council considered a similar agenda item to consider joining President Trump's first Attorney General Jeff Session's lawsuit against California's Values Act (which protected sanctuary cities and mandated that local law enforcement not assist federal immigration agencies except in certain specific situations). That consideration was held during a regular (not closed) council meeting. The public spoke out against it in such numbers that speakers needed to wait in the library for their turn to speak. Public commenters spoke out against this item well past midnight. I truly believe that it was the clear public outcry against this measure and in support of our community's immigrants that it was voted down. At that time, Mayor Pro Tem Seaborn, who helped put it on the agenda, voted no.

The current agenda item needs to be discussed during a regular council meeting in the open to allow for all members of the community to participate. How each council member discusses the item and votes needs to be on the public record. There is nothing necessitating that this discussion be held behind closed doors. The tactics ICE employs in Fullerton against our immigrant community are discriminatory at best and outright unconstitutional at worst. If it takes all night for everyone who wants to speak on this urgent issue to be heard, then so be it. Holding this session behind closed doors, where council members can hide their votes, is a dereliction of your duty as public servants and an act of moral cowardice.

Robert Wojtkiewicz Fullerton

Thank You Observers

You continue to be a wonderful community resource. You probe where investigation is needed. You bring people together. You provide a platform for talented young people. You support groups throughout our city. I'm glad to support local journalism.

Greta Nagel Fullerton

Paramedic Services

I am a 40-year resident of the city of Fullerton. I just received a paper brochure in the US mail asking me to sign up for paramedic services through the city (which I had been doing for years as auto renewal through auto pay on my water bill).

Today is 7/25/25 and the program began 7/1/25, so I presume residents had no coverage for 3 weeks and were completely unaware of this??

Upon signing up for this annual program there was no option to register for auto renewal so I called the department directly. I was informed that utilizing US mail reached more of the city residents aged 65 and older so that is why they chose to inform ALL city residents of this program via "junk mail."

This is insane. It is 2025 and most residents don't collect their US mail let alone open and read it! At the very least you could use the email addresses which you already have from other city databases (my water bill!). And the paramedic program just captured it when I enrolled.

How is the city expecting to get MORE residents to enroll in this program if they are using junk mail as the ONLY form of direct outreach?!?

This just further erodes confidence in the ability of our city leaders to use our tax dollars in an effective and appropriate manner.

Please address this issue as it is a no cost or very low cost item to remedy.

Robert G. Fullerton

RE: ARTICLE BY SASKIA KENNEDY: "The Vital Role of Local News in Community Engagement"

Our Observer is a treasure.

Tony Wilson Fullerton

Dear Readers,

Thank you for all the support you have given to the paper over the years through kind words and monetary contributions.

All the Observer writers do this for the love of the Fullerton community. You keep us printing.

Editor Saskia Kennedy Fullerton

Fullerton Observer

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

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

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

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BUILDING BLOCKS OF PARTNERSHIP: WOMEN’S CLUB OF FULLERTON AND OCEAN SUBARU SUPPORT CHILDREN’S CENTER

The tiniest Titans at Cal State Fullerton now have a brand-new set of interlocking planks and blocks to spark their creativity, thanks to a generous donation from the Women’s Club of Fullerton (WCOF), supported by Ocean Subaru of Fullerton, to the Associated Students Inc. (ASI) Children’s Center.

The donation on June 30 was made possible by WCOF, an organization founded in 1902 that dedicates itself to community service, supporting charitable organizations and empowering women.

“Our mission is to raise money for deserving organizations within our area,” WCOF Publicity and Yearbook Chair Claudia Miller said. “We’re dedicated to improving and serving our community while making friends along the way.”

Nurturing Creativity Through Play

The donation process was initiated by Dianne Wallace, chair of Helping Hands and Domestic Violence for WCOF. As an active member of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSUF, Wallace has seen the positive impact the Children’s Center has on campus.

“OLLI performed a flash mob performance for the Children’s Center before,” Wallace said. “Seeing all the cute little kids happy about the

performance helped me initiate the proposal.”

At the Children’s Center’s request, WCOF selected building blocks as key tools to support early childhood development.

“These kids love being outside, they love exploring,” said Isabelle Muñoz, a teacher’s assistant at the Children’s Center. “Any new experiences that they get helps them grow and learn new things.”

Staff will begin incorporating the donated blocks into daily routines and encouraging their use during outdoor play, thereby fostering creativity, collaboration and exploration.

Partnerships Rooted in Community Impact

Thanks to a generous donation from Ocean Subaru, WCOF was able to support the Children’s Center—an organization that met WCOF’s criteria for meaningful community impact. Following its core values, WCOF funds tangible items to ensure transparency, accountability and lasting benefit.

“Ocean Subaru of Fullerton has been very kind and generous to us,” WCOF First Vice President Maria Jones said. “They really want to help out the Fullerton community.”

The organization focuses its support on key issues such as homelessness, domestic violence, environmental sustainability and children’s



WCOF members pose for a picture with their donated building blocks at the CSUF Children’s Center. PHOTO BY LAURA PEREZ

development.

Investing in the Next Generation

WCOF has been chosen as the Ocean Subaru Fullerton Hometown Charity for the Share the Love Event for eight consecutive years. The organization selects causes and nonprofits that reflect the dealership’s values and helps distribute donated funds. Past support has included gas cards for underprivileged moms and new games for the Fullerton Family YMCA after-school program.

The Children’s Center has been among the recipients, reflecting its strong alignment with the values of the program. Support from WCOF and Ocean Subaru has played a meaningful role in helping the Children’s Center advance its mission of supporting student-parents and fostering early childhood development.

Golfer Makes Local History with Hole-in-One

Submitted by Jaclynn Brookman



In a remarkable display of skill and luck, local golfer Kari Burke achieved a hole-in-one at the 11th hole of Birch Hills Golf Course on Friday, August 15, 2025. The stunning shot from 90 yards thrilled not only Burke, but also her companions—her father, Gene, and her daughter, Natalie—who were on hand to witness the memorable moment.

As Burke celebrated this incredible achievement with her family, it serves as an inspiring reminder of the joy and excitement that the sport of golf can bring.



Certified Farmers Market Returns to Independence Park

The popular Certified Farmers Market in Fullerton has relocated to Independence Park, located at 801 W Valencia Drive. Organizers are enthusiastic about the move, citing improved space and facilities that will enhance the market experience for both vendors and visitors.

All the vendors are expected to return, bringing a diverse array of local produce and goods. Organizers are hopeful that vendors that did not find it profitable to sell at the Community Center location will return. Residents are encouraged to mark their calendars for this exciting new chapter and join in the community festivities at the new venue every Wednesday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.



Join us for a Virtual Community Meeting

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) continues to advance work to deliver the nation’s first high-speed rail (HSR) system. The Los Angeles to Anaheim (LA-A) Project Section, an approximate 30-mile corridor, connects Los Angeles Union Station (LAUS) to the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) by traveling along the existing Los Angeles to Anaheim rail corridor which serves both freight and passenger service. The LA-A Project Section traverses the cities of Los Angeles, Vernon, Commerce, Bell, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, La Mirada, Buena Park, Fullerton, Anaheim and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County. The statewide high-speed rail program and its LA-A Project Section contribute to economic development, a cleaner environment, and job creation while investing in regional and local rail lines to meet California’s 21st century transportation needs.

The Authority is hosting a virtual community meeting for the LA-A Project Section. The meeting will focus on providing information on the LA-A Preferred Alternative being studied as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS). Project features highlighted at the meeting will include grade separations, stations, Metrolink station relocations, light maintenance facility options, local safety improvements, and more.

The Authority is finalizing technical studies and anticipates releasing the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) in late 2025. This meeting will also provide information to help stakeholders through the public comment process once the document is released.

Join us for a virtual community meeting to learn more about the LA-A Project Section.
Wednesday, September 3, 2025
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
To register, scan the QR code or visit: bit.ly/CAHSR-LA-A-CM
Spanish and Korean interpretation will be provided.



Languages and Other Needs

All requests for reasonable accommodation and/or language services must be made three working days (72 hours) in advance of the scheduled meeting date by calling (877) 669-0494.

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Garden dining, dancing, and many great photo ops with real cars and staged props at the 2025 Great Gatsby Gala. PHOTOS BY SASKIA KENNEDY



The Muckenthaler Celebrates a Century

by Tegan, 9th grade

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center welcomed guests on Saturday, August 23, for its annual gala, which this year marking a century since the estate was built.

The theme, *The Great Gatsby*, invited attendees to step into a time machine, briefly transporting the crowd back to the Roaring Twenties.

Guests arrived in a mix of period attire— from ornate dresses and feathered headpieces to tailored suits— while vintage cars and wagons lined the entrance, setting the stage for the evening.

The event was seated, with a carefully curated menu from Colette’s Catering served at each table. Enchanting dance performances by Janet Klein & Her Parlor Boys spread the delights of popular 1920s songs.

The audience also danced, competed

for best costume and had the chance to bid on auction items supporting the center’s arts programming.

Founded in 1925 and gifted to Fullerton in 1965 by the Muckenthaler family, the center’s mission remains clear: to enrich the community through the arts. CEO Farrell Hirsch maintains the cultural landmark by preserving its history and expanding its role in today’s vibrant arts scene.

The 2025 *Great Gatsby* Gala celebrated the mansion while raising funds to support its mission for the next 100 years. Alongside the gala, other fundraising efforts have been launched, including the 100 x 100 Centennial Challenge— an initiative aiming to raise \$100,000 to sustain the center’s arts and education programs.

As the evening drew to a close, string lights overhead illuminated guests lingering on the lawn. The gala successfully honored the past 100 years to celebrate 100 years today.



Food Review: Pizza Heaven

by Mateo, 12th grade

Ever in the mood for a good local pizza but want a step up from the Dominos or Little Caesars you tend to rely on? If so, Pizza Heaven is your best bet. Located at 1331 East Chapman Avenue, it’s a small, family-oriented hole-in-the-wall with a unique menu combining traditional dishes and flavors you won’t find anywhere else. Just over a month ago, I took a few friends to try this place, and I’m only writing this now as I struggled to put into words how marvelous my Pizza Heaven experience was. So, let’s dive into what I believe makes Pizza Heaven a standout restaurant, not just here in Fullerton, but in the entirety of Orange County.

First, the food is DELICIOUS. It is genuinely some of the best pizza I’ve ever had in Southern California. As a group of five high school-aged boys, it was only fitting that we ordered as much of the menu as we could. We started with classic appetizers: a Greek salad, mozzarella sticks, and BBQ wings. The massive salad portion instantly caught my eye, especially since it came with complimentary garlic bread. I spoke with the owner, Kevin Choi, who explained his generous portions come from understanding

how hard people work for their money. He takes pride in giving customers their money’s worth, which I greatly appreciate. As for the appetizer’s quality, everything was exceptional; the salad was fresh, the sticks had a crunchy layer holding warm, creamy cheese, and the wings were tender and easy to pull apart, pairing perfectly with the sweet and tangy barbecue sauce.

For pizza, we tried four popular offerings. We started with the Meat Lover Special for a more traditional taste, and it did not disappoint. The sausage was some of the best I’ve had, its soft texture balancing the crunch of onion. The Buffalo Chicken Ranch was the most visually appealing; the cool ranch and spicy buffalo sauce spread in a circular pattern created a perfect balance, enhanced by chicken chunks and celery sprinkled throughout. In my friend’s words, this pizza provided him with “a party of flavors in [his] mouth”. The most unique pie we ordered was definitely the Potato Special. Imagine a cross between a baked potato and a pizza— soft, chewy tater tots topped with thick sour cream,



added flavors and textures I never thought would work on pizza. Finally, my personal favorite of Pizza Heaven’s vast roster of pies was their signature Triple H (Hot Honey Heaven) pizza. This one is for heat lovers: jam-packed with jalapeños and drizzled with hot honey, it tastes sweet at first before delivering a late kick of spicy goodness. Overall, the freshness and quality of every ingredient were evident— from fresh dough to high-end Wisconsin cheese.

Pizza Heaven’s homey interior added to the experience. Dim lights, soft music, and sports on TV made Mr. Choi’s focus on family clear. Additionally, the service was exceptional; hand sanitizer and napkins at every table promoted good hygiene, and we were offered a variety of complimentary drinks and treats before we even mentioned our visit.

Is Pizza Heaven the best pizza parlor in Fullerton? It would be a crime not to include it in that conversation. With nearly 10 years of pizza-making experience and a team dedicated to his values, Kevin Choi ensures your Pizza Heaven visit will be one to remember. For more information, visit pizzaheavenoc.com and their Instagram [@pizzaheaven_oc](https://www.instagram.com/pizzaheaven_oc).



Mike Palm and Agent Orange return to Fullerton

Leo Fender Day

Leo was born on August 10, 1909, on his parents' orange grove, which included a house and a barn. It was located in an unincorporated area not far from Downtown Fullerton, and it was annexed by Anaheim.

We visited the site years ago at Phyllis Fender's behest. We discovered that there was not even a marker, let alone a monument, to the man who revo-

lutionized the music industry.

Fullerton certainly continues to honor him, as was obvious on Leo Fender Day on Sunday, August 10. The day was filled with high-energy music and a sold-out, exuberant crowd that filled the Museum Center and the entire Plaza.

No room? No problem, fans without tickets took over the top levels of the parking structure, a scene reminiscent of Mark & Brian fans showing up after the KLOS Halloween parade to see the Tubes in the

Plaza in October of 2000.

As you can see, young and old showed up in droves, proving once again that music unites us all and that it is possible to drown out all of the world's trouble, if only for a day. We will let the photos tell the rest of the story.

Coming up on Saturday, October 11th, the movie "AGNEW: The Story of A California Family" will be shown. Details and tickets available at: www.fullertonmuseum.com



New In Town

Lotteria: Driving by, we spied quite a sight. Rain in mid-August? No, just some sunburn and heat protection being provided by way of shade as eager patrons waited for over two hours at the former KFC location at 150 W Orangethorpe. The draw was to sample some Lotteria fare.

This is the first location in the entire US for one of South Korea's most popular fast food chains, founded in 1979. Apparently, their signature Bulgogi Burger and a shrimp burger are the star items.

Looks like it's already a hit. The drive-through is now open, and the lines have dissipated. Shades of Krispy Kreme madness years ago.

Corazon: Revolution has evolved

into Corazon, A Taste Of Mexico, at 204 N Harbor. Touted as "a refined yet rebellious culinary experience rooted in the spirit of the 1910 Mexican Revolution", they have offerings that many will find of interest. For instance, brunch on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and Happy Hour all day.

Enraku Sushi: Chomp, (sorry, no, it was never "Chomps") opened at the corner of Pomona and Commonwealth back in 2002, but before that, seems like it was called the China Kitchen. Correct us if your memory is better than ours.

It has now become Enraku Sushi, with a large and unusual assortment of Japanese fare in addition to sushi. Eggplant fries? Motsunabe, Uni Pasta, Honey Moon Oysters, and well, you need to go check it out for yourself.



Fullerton Transportation Center

Known to most as "The Train Station", there have been some major improvements taking place, thanks to an \$800,000 grant. Although a recent story in an unnamed publication mentioned painting as one of the projects, fortunately, the exterior of the vintage station retains its multi-colored coat and still looks fantastic. Years ago, the Fullerton Downtown Business Association provided large maps of the area for new kiosks being installed. Now, amazing upgrades to many of the signs make it much easier to navigate schedules, arrivals, and destinations.

Bike racks and many new benches are placed in various locations, and the graphics really make the place look alive and exciting. Hey, Tommy, a red car, a Fender guitar, and even an ostrich appear along with other hallmarks of our town. There will be more going on, and we will certainly follow up in a future issue. Head over there and take in the sights soon. You will be amazed.

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



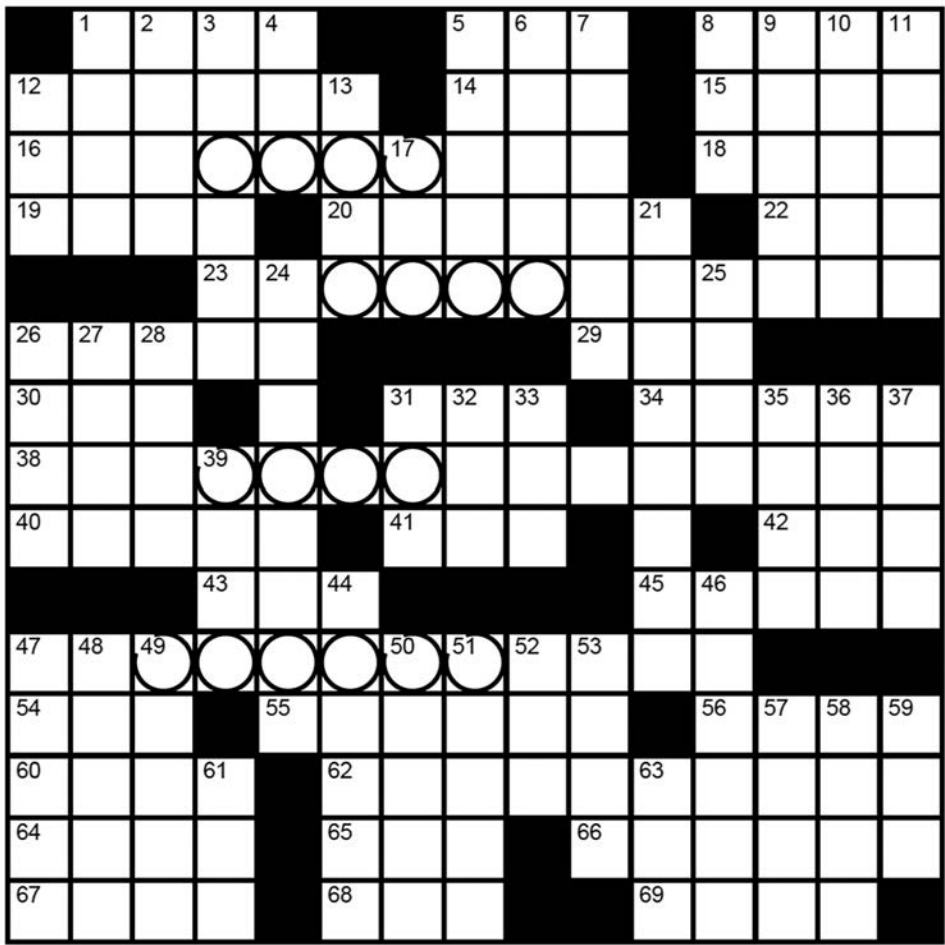
Last time: Cargo 5 ton 6x6



This time: Where is this and what will it be?

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2025

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



ACROSS

1. First name in jazz
5. "Yeah, I dunno ..."
8. Super Bowl XXXIV champs
12. The magic word
14. "Lost" actor Daniel ____ Kim
15. "A line is ____ that went for a walk":
 artist Paul Klee
16. Seraph shout
18. Met star
19. "Your majesty"
20. Option for the inn crowd?
22. Reef dweller
23. Lose loftiness
26. Vietnam's capital
29. Resource in the Settlers of Catan
 board game
30. It may be easily bruised
31. Setting for many a joke
34. Soup scoop
38. Assassin attestation
40. Portmanteau for Disneyland's
 wintery mix
41. Like some martinis
42. 1,055 in Rome
43. Kid's cry
45. Blue book filler
47. Stogie system
54. Hoppy beer
55. Business magnate
56. Nay opposers
60. Follower of Mary
62. Underappreciated items, and a hint
 to the circled answers
64. "Now it's clear!"
65. ____ Pogo (Okanagan lake
 monster)
66. Oklahoma athlete
67. Aide: Abbr.
68. C.I.A. predecessor
69. Dreyer's on the East Coast

DOWN

1. K-12, for short
2. Lecherous look
3. City on the Rio Grande
4. Sun Devils' sch.
5. Swelling, especially in the feet
 and ankles
6. Islamic equivalent of kosher
7. Steadfastly maintained, as one's
 beliefs
8. "Awesome!"
9. Vowel-heavy farewell
10. What the earth did for Carole
 King
11. Past its prime
12. Mac alternatives
13. Longest river in Spain
17. Go on and on
21. Steve Miller Band "Jet ____"
24. Tear to shreds
25. A kid drinks from one
26. Coop group
27. Once more, hillbilly-style
28. Faux pas
31. King or queen
32. Earth Day mo.
33. "The Natural" protagonist Hobbs
35. Lowers, as lights
36. Name spelled out in a Kinks hit
37. It's a sin
39. Magazine for docs
44. Slangy segue
46. Heavenly body?
47. Tiny hairs
48. "None for me"
49. Board and card, e.g.
50. Vaping products, briefly
51. All, in Acapulco
52. CrossFit acronym
53. Small bills
57. Start of a counting-out rhyme
58. Home of Iowa State
59. Pre-1991 atlas initials
61. Wager
63. ____ Valley (San Francisco
 neighborhood)



Michael, Steven, Chris, and Jere hold copies of the July Observer in Oregon

Jere Greene's Birthday Adventure and A Heartfelt Family Reunion

by Jere Greene

After their mother passed in 2023, my daughter Chris and son Michael planned a special birthday gift for me. Chris bought me a personalized train trip to visit her in Oregon, where she sought recommendations for attractions during my week-long stay in Bend.

My neighbor drove me to Fullerton Station, where I took Metrolink to Union Station and then boarded the Amtrak Coast Starlight. My private roomette (sleeping compartment) offered stunning coastal views. After breakfast, I arrived at Chemult, where Chris picked me up, and we headed to Bend, which interestingly has no train station or airport.

I was impressed by Chris's home, filled with personal touches. We took a family photo at Ponderosa Park, and visited the Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery, where kids feed the fish. Driving in Oregon was different, especially with roundabouts.

We enjoyed lunch at Sisters Meat and Smokehouse, then visited the High Desert Museum, where we saw a captivating Raptor show. We ended our day with lunch at Mount Bachelor and ice cream at Handel's.

Later, we toured my grandson Steven's home, where he shared insights on AI programming. A sudden hailstorm caused a power outage, marking a memorable moment of the trip. We also visited Pilot Butte for panoramic views and had a lovely dinner at 1919 Pine Tavern.

On my last evening, we ordered from Axel's Taco Shop before Chris drove me to the airport for my return flight. It was a wonderful week filled with memories.

This is a summary of the full story. Read the detailed story online with the same headline at www.fullertonobserver.com.

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Healthy Awareness

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2025

A SHIFT IN PERSPECTIVE ON HELP AND CONTROL

The “Let Them” approach challenges our long-held belief that helping others means taking control and managing their problems. We tend to do this especially when we feel excluded, frustrated, or afraid.

The “Let Them” approach encourages us to step back and accept what we cannot control (sounds like the Serenity Prayer). Stepping back and letting others take responsibility for both their actions and consequences frees them to grow and releases you from the stress of trying to control them. The popularity of this approach is easy to see why it resonates with so many; for now, you can focus on your boundaries and energy.

Take, for example, a husband who’s concerned about his wife’s drinking. He might try to help by hiding her alcohol or pouring it down the drain in front of her. But in doing so, he’s assuming control over her life. And the result? Often, she resents it. Instead of encouraging change, this type of control tends to backfire—she may go out and buy more alcohol or find new hiding places for the alcohol.

If she ends up in jail for drunk driving, the instinct might be to bail her out immediately. But unless she’s in physical danger, it’s more beneficial to let her spend the night.

Rescuing her from the consequences of her actions only delays healing and prevents her from taking ownership. Making excuses or fixing her problems robs her of the opportunity to face the reality of her choices. True change only comes when she takes responsibility for her behavior.

This applies also to rationalizing why something must be our fault and we feel guilty. I ran into a friend I had not seen in years. During this time, I tried to find a reason, such as what I did to cause this separation. However, in meeting up with her, she said that time went by before she realized she had not spoken to me, and then she was too embarrassed to call me.

When I think about it now, our lives are different, and she has more responsibilities than I do. She is busy with a young child, whereas my children are grown. And I wasted all those years feeling guilty.

When you stop managing others and focus on your own life, you reclaim your energy and peace of mind. It’s a powerful shift. Your relationships also tend to improve—others can no longer blame you for their actions when you’re no longer trying to control them. You allow people to be who they are, and you stop surrendering your emotional well-being to them. And you let go of the guilt.

Eleanor Roosevelt’s saying, “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent” is timeless wisdom. As adults, our happiness, healing, relationships, boundaries, and success are our responsibility—and no one else’s and you do not have to take on that responsibility.

Balance & Change

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

Reflections on Mindfulness and Meaning in Everyday Life

Summer is ending. That is traditionally the time when we put away “the lazy days” and move towards the less fun days of school and getting serious about work again. It is also the time when pumpkin-spiced everything starts coming out!

Seasons continue to pass by. Before we know it, we will be celebrating the winter holidays again. Then New Year’s. Then spring, and back to summer. And so it goes, year after year after year. Time continues on. The important question is: how mindful are you of what is going on in your life?

How often do you stop to look to see what color the leaves are? How often do you truly notice the temperature?

The sounds around you? The days and seasons passing by? Time is going to pass. One day, you will wake up with fewer years ahead of you than behind you. Will you remember how you filled that time? Did you do things that are meaningful to you? Have you made a difference in the world, in others’ lives? Do you have any regrets?

These are important questions to address in your life. It is crucial that you live a life that is meaningful to you, that at the end of your days, you are at peace. And it starts with today. Stop. Look around. Enjoy this moment. Create other moments that you can enjoy. Always, always, enjoy the journey!

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The Dental Corner

Ask an Endodontist! Pt. 2



Today, we share part two of a conversation about Root Canal Treatment with Dr. Jeff Kawilarang, a local Endodontist!

How well do Root Canals work?
Teeth which can be treated to completion have a success rate up to 90%! In order to ensure predictable treatment, we perform thorough diagnostic testing and obtain detailed 3-D imaging beforehand.

Are Root Canals painful?
With the use of local anesthetic, they are painless procedures. Moreover, we seldom prescribe pain medications because they are usually unnecessary. Stories about painful root canals are often related to having waited too long to have treatment, as the highest predictor of pain after a root canal is pain prior to treatment. Regular dental exams are vital to identifying problems before they become an emergency.

Root canals help patients maintain their natural teeth, which has so many benefits. As is the case for any dental treatment, the lifetime of the repair depends on several factors, including the patient’s immune system, overall condition of the tooth before treatment, and of course regular care and maintenance.

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Fullerton Sister City Celebrates Reunion

by Pam Keller

The Fullerton Sister City Association hosted a reunion for its Adult and Junior Ambassador Inaugural Delegations to Tollo, Italy in August 2025. The gathering served as a warm welcome for Marjorie Barrett, the tour designer behind both delegations, who traveled from Italy to reconnect with participants in Fullerton.

Barrett played a pivotal role in planning the trips, which included the adult delegation in October 2024 and the junior ambassador delegation in June 2025. Not only did she design the itineraries, but she also participated as a guide and chaperone, fostering friendships along the way.

The event featured Co-Presidents Pam Keller and Leah Yamamoto, along with Board Member Nancy Karcher, who expressed their gratitude for Barrett's contributions. They took the opportunity to introduce her to the local community, highlighting the



beauty and culture of Fullerton in a reciprocal gesture of hospitality.

Barrett's visit symbolizes the ongoing partnership and cultural exchange between Fullerton and Tollo, reinforcing the importance of global connections in fostering understanding and friendship.

UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF TIMELY MEDICAL INTERVENTION

by Allen Hsieh, founder and president of Troy Preparedness Club



Journalist and business manager David Cai is no stranger to the importance of being prepared. With a strong interest in global news, history, and psychology, David has always appreciated the value of knowledge. However, two personal experiences profoundly reinforced this belief.

One day, while driving his father, David noticed through the rearview mirror that his father's head was tilted to one side, a strange occurrence. He asked his father what was wrong. His father mentioned feeling dizzy and suggested that a nap at home would help.

Despite lacking specific medical knowledge in this area, David insisted on taking his father to the hospital for a check-up. His father had suffered a mild stroke. The doctor said that if they had arrived later, the stroke could have worsened, potentially leading to functional impairments in some parts of the body. They were deeply relieved.

In another incident, David's aunt felt dizzy while walking and had to sit by the roadside. The dizziness persisted and, instead of getting better, she began to feel increasingly nauseous. She didn't know what the problem was and couldn't describe it to passersby to get immediate help. It wasn't until she vomited that she realized the severity of the situation and sought help from passersby. However, seeing her condition, they were reluctant to assist. She immediately called her family, but couldn't reach them.

Feeling disoriented, she asked a passerby to call her workplace, and by the time her colleagues arrived, she had lost consciousness. She was taken to the hospital and diagnosed with a brain hemorrhage, requiring major surgery. The timely hospital transfer saved her life. Any further delay could have led to a disastrous outcome. This experience emphasized the urgent need for elderly individuals to have emergency contacts to ensure a quick response.

David emphasizes that many older adults face similar health issues but often lack the knowledge to self-diagnose or seek help. He stresses the importance of elderly individuals and their families learning to recognize warning signs and knowing how to respond, as this can save lives.

David asserts that being prepared is not only a professional asset but also an essential life skill everyone should possess. By understanding situations and being ready to take action, we can protect our loved ones and ourselves, ensuring a safer community for all.

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.



Women's Club of Fullerton Donates 240 Backpacks to Local Children

The Women's Club of Fullerton (WCOF) donated 240 backpacks, valued at \$1,896, to OC United for its annual Back to School Bash held on July 27, 2025, at the Gilbert Community Center in Gilbert Park. This initiative marked the second consecutive year that WCOF has participated in the event, which is now in its third year.

Each backpack was filled with essential school supplies, including pencils, markers, notebooks, and erasers, organized by Fullerton Free Church. The event also offered free haircuts, provided by OC Barbershop, Four Girls Beauty Shop, and stylist Grace Williams, serving 30 children on-site and issuing vouchers for additional haircuts.

A total of 200 backpacks were distributed to children and teens in grades TK-12, and an additional 40 backpacks were given to community partners for kids in need.

Jay Williams, founder and president of OC United, noted, "One mother

brought her two young boys to the Bash, where they received backpacks, school supplies, and haircuts. They left with the biggest smiles I've ever seen."

Williams expressed gratitude towards WCOF and Ocean Subaru of Fullerton for their support, saying their contributions made the event successful.

OC United is calling on the community to support future back-to-school initiatives through financial contributions and volunteer opportunities.

About the Organizations Involved:

OC United is focused on providing resources for individuals and families experiencing isolation and fostering community support for academic and social success.

The Women's Club of Fullerton has a long-standing commitment to enhancing the lives of children and families through volunteerism and fundraising.

Ocean Subaru of Fullerton supports local charities through its annual Share the Love event, donating a portion of vehicle sale proceeds.

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HITS & MISSES

by Pamela Mason Wagner © 2025

HONEY DON'T: A HIT AND A MISS

Ethan Coen's third solo outing, *Honey Don't*, is a reminder that the Coen brothers were always better together. Classics like *The Big Lebowski*, *Fargo*, and *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* balanced Ethan's irreverent humor with Joel's self-conscious artistry. *Honey Don't* offers the familiar Coen cocktail of murder, sex, and violence—but without the staying power of their best collaborations.

At its center is Honey O'Donahue (a magnetic Margaret Qualley), a well-dressed, hard-boiled private eye investigating a suspicious car crash. Her trail leads to Reverend Drew Devlin (a deliciously sleazy Chris Evans), a corrupt minister whose name alone hints at a pact with the devil. Devlin pushes drugs supplied by shadowy "French" connections, indulges in kinky liaisons with his parishioners, and ranks among the most depraved men of the cloth ever put on screen.

When Honey comes around asking questions, Devlin tries his best to bed her. No luck, Honey's taste runs to women, as she frequently makes clear while exiting a room, high heels clacking. Enter Detective MG Falcone (Aubrey Plaza), who becomes Honey's lover du jour in a no-strings-attached entanglement. The film's lone glimpse of real intimacy comes when the two women, post-sex, share a cigarette and swap stories of abuse and neglect.

Coen's mastery of cinematic craft remains undeniable. The sound design alone deserves Oscar attention, transforming Honey's approach to Falcone's creaking old house into a full-blown nail-biter. Footsteps, wind chimes, a squeaky doorbell, and dripping water build a soundscape straight out of a haunted house. Against better judgment, Honey enters.

The romance combusts in a brutal reversal when beloved becomes predator. Knives, guns, and even a boiling tea kettle are pressed into service in one of the film's most harrowing sequences.

Longtime collaborator Carter Burwell's soundtrack sets the mood and tone perfectly, with Qualley also contributing several haunting vocals. The opening credits may prove iconic: a car's POV drifts through dusty "Bakersfield" (actually Albuquerque) as cast and crew names appear on



liquor stores, diners, and gas station marquees, all to the Animals' song "We Gotta Get Out of This Place." It's a perfect overture to the story's desolate, lost-souls landscape.

Yet for all its bravura craft and wicked humor, *Honey Don't* feels hollow. The off-screen demise of Devlin undercuts the film's own excesses, leaving his story emotionally incomplete. A subplot involving a guileless parishioner, Hector (a striking debut from Puerto Rican actor Jacnier) and his beloved Abuela, gestures at a theme: in a corrupt and violent world,

only family ties endure. Yet even that idea is undercut when Honey's long-estranged and completely narcissistic father suddenly appears on the scene.

"You're going to miss me when I'm dead," he insists when Honey rebuffs his bid to restart their relationship. "You don't get it, you're already dead," she spits back.

Watching beautiful, eccentric actors in handsome costumes spout unexpected lines is undeniably fun—but is that enough? Unlike the Coen brothers at their best, *Honey Don't* struggles to make it all add up.

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

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Bethany Anderson & Jody Vallejo, PhD



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Sept 4 Superlark	Sept 11 The Broughams	Sept 18 Sonic Gold	Sept 25 Baylon Rockers
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SEPT 11 FROM 7:30 TO 9:30PM
Hannah Kim
As a lyric soprano, Hannah Kim embraces a wide variety of musical genres such as opera, musical theater, oratorio, recital, and concert works.

SEPT 18 FROM 7:30 TO 9:30PM
Craic in the Stone
Craic in the Stone has been a unique and shining light in the SoCal Irish folk/rock music scene since 2013.

SEPT 25 FROM 7:30 TO 9:30PM
Stephanie Chou
Stephanie Chou is a composer, saxophonist, and singer based in New York City. She blends Chinese musical influences with Western jazz and pop to create a unique and vibrant musical world.

SEPT 28 FROM 7:30 TO 9:30PM
Dr. James Young Arts Legacy Award
Award 2025 Winner: Gary Krinke
Gary Krinke influenced Fullerton College's Theatre Department since 1979, directing over 200 productions, including bold shows like Hair and Equus. He collaborated with outside theater companies, offering students professional opportunities. Notably, in 1997, he directed the large-scale “85th Anniversary Celebration and Presidential Inauguration.”



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SEPT 6 FROM 9AM TO 12PM Free Event
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Home Depot, 625 S. Placentia Ave
The Fullerton Police and Fire Departments team up with Home Depot for a fun-filled event where kids will: Build a craft, Meet our Police Officers, Chat with Firefighters, Say hello to Police K-9 Nubbin and Fire K-9 Sparky!
Bring the whole family and enjoy the festivities!

FULLERTON MUSEUM CENTER
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SEPT 5 FROM 5 TO 10PM
ARTWALK TAKE OVER The SHOWROOM
This one-night-only immersive event will celebrate local culture through art, music, and performances. Attendees can explore a diverse range of artworks, enjoy live music, visit an artisan market, watch an Art Battle competition, and participate in a silent auction with live artists.

OCT 1 & OCT 2 FROM 6 TO 8:30PM
Haunted Fullerton Walking Tour
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mavericktheater.com
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SEPT 21 FROM 10AM TO 1PM
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The Brownstown Cafe
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The Brownstone Cafe features DJ Ghetto Funk who will spin any vinyl record you bring from your collection while you grab a bite to eat. Enjoy brunch while listening to a unique and eclectic playlist.

SEPT 28 FROM 12 – 4PM Free Event
Hillcrest Park
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Calling all vinyl collectors, 45 enthusiasts and DJs!
Rewild & Gather will be spinning all 45s for a park edition of Open Sessions at Hillcrest Park.

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Fullerton Risks Losing All Local Control by Ignoring State Housing Law

Continued from front page

For decades, California’s population has grown while homebuilding has fallen far short. Since 1970, the population has doubled, but housing production has lagged by more than half.

The result is painfully clear: skyrocketing rents, worsening homelessness, and even less money for basic services like roads and parks. Local officials have long had near-total control over land use, but too often that power has been wielded to block new housing.

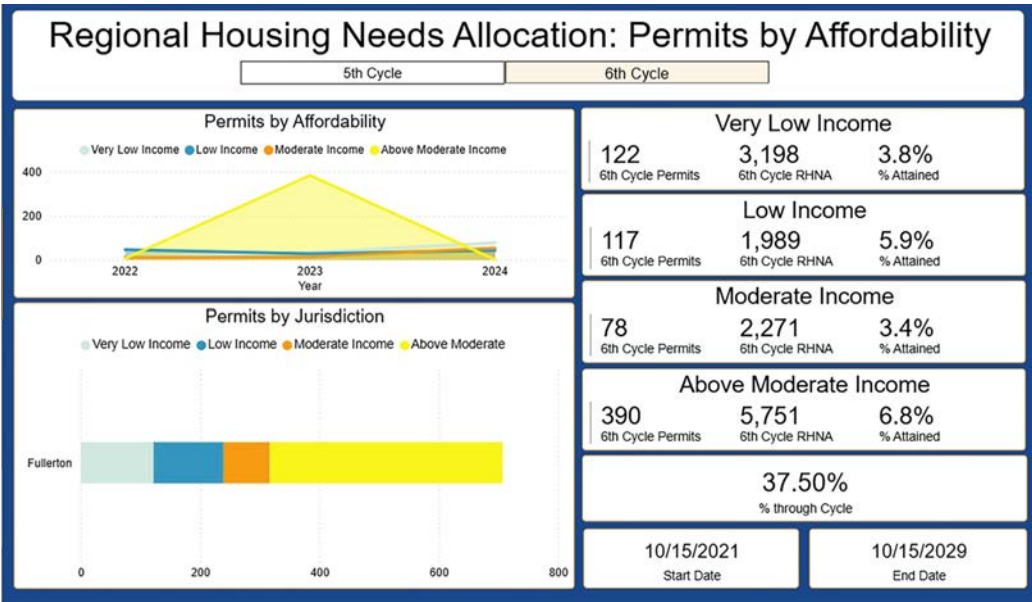
To fix this, the state created “housing element cycles,” which require every city to plan and permit a fair share of housing. Fullerton is in the middle of one of these cycles now. But because cities dragged their feet for decades, lawmakers added teeth: the Builder’s Remedy.

In plain terms, this law says that if a city breaks state housing rules, developers can override local zoning and build housing anyway. That’s exactly what happened with the condos on Harbor and Hermosa.

If residents truly care about local control, compliance with state housing law should be their top priority. Without it, Sacramento will decide where housing gets built, not Fullerton.

And unlike states in the federal system, cities in California have no inherent rights. Local power only exists because the state allows it, and the state has every legal authority to take it away.

Unfortunately, Fullerton is already repeating its mistakes. According to the city’s 2024 progress report, we’re nowhere



close to meeting our housing targets.

So far, Fullerton has permitted just 3.8% of its required Very-Low Income units, 5.9% of Low Income, 3.4% of Moderate Income, and 6.8% of Above Moderate Income. We are more than a third of the way through this housing cycle, yet far behind pace. That means more Builder’s Remedy projects will bypass City Hall in the years ahead.

Unless Fullerton takes action now such as rezoning around the train station, near the university, and in other logical areas, we’ll continue to face rising rents, worsening homelessness, and the complete loss of local authority. The choice is simple: either we plan for housing ourselves, or the state and developers will do it for us.



Lulu Coffee at 805 E Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton

A “Remarkable” Hometown Café with Roots and Heart

by Claudia Miller

When Ophelie (Seul Ki) Kim—better known as Lulu—and her husband, Tim Park, opened Lulu Coffee on Commonwealth, it felt less like a new beginning and more like coming home.

Fullertonians may remember Lulu’s parents, who for years ran the beloved Veronese Café (fondly nicknamed The Garden Café). For Lulu, growing up in that environment sparked a dream to one day carry forward the legacy of creating a gathering place for the community.

So when her parents retired, Lulu and Tim seized the moment. With “a little luck, a few prayers, and a lot of hard work,” Kim said, they discovered a 1913 Craftsman-style house on Commonwealth Avenue. Soon, the charming old home was transformed into a coffee haven. Visitors can sip their drinks on the shaded porch, under the trees, or out on the patio while the pace of the world seems to slow down.

“Opening my own coffee bar feels like a natural way to honor my parents’ legacy,” Lulu says. “They showed me how a café can be more than just coffee—it can be a cultural home.” To keep that spirit alive, Lulu Coffee features artwork created by her parents,

blending past and present in one welcoming space.

What sets Lulu Coffee apart is not only its heartfelt story but also the quality: beans are roasted on-site in a gleaming roaster imported from the Netherlands—a rarity in Fullerton. And while coffee is at the heart of it, the menu delights in other ways. Real East Coast bagels, croffles, crepes, and inventive pairings have quickly become customer favorites.

Lulu’s personal pick? An Americano with an everything bagel spread with peanut butter and four-berry marmalade:

“The mix of savory, nutty, and fruity flavors is perfect for me,” she says with a smile.

As Lulu Coffee celebrates its first anniversary, it has already become what Lulu and Tim hoped for: a gathering spot where neighbors can connect, recharge, and feel at ease. In Korea, Lulu notes, such a place is called a “love room”—and that’s exactly what they’ve created here in Fullerton.

You can find Lulu Coffee at 805 E Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton or order online at lulucoffeefullerton.com.

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This month’s distinguished guest speakers are:

Mr. Eddie Manfro, Interim City Manager,

and Mr. Daniel Valdez, Housing Manager

Residents are encouraged to attend to engage in meaningful discussions, connect with neighbors, and gain insights from the speakers on topics pertinent to the community.

“The prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the sick is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God, — a spiritual understanding of Him, an unselfed love.”

Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy

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Left: DeCamillo describes station Options Right: Bonstead narrates aerial view of track changes PHOTOS BY DAVID SPARGUR

Fullerton gets update on High Speed Rail Plan by David Spargur

California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) representatives held a community meeting on August 21 to outline proposed improvements to the Fullerton Transportation Center and the LA to Anaheim High-Speed Rail (HSR) segment.

Tyler Bonstead, Project Manager for the LA to Anaheim segment, led a walking tour of proposed changes to the Fullerton train station. LaDonna DeCamillo, Southern California Regional Director at CHSRA, presented a community workshop on the project status.

A major question among residents is "Will there be a High Speed Rail station for boarding in Fullerton?" Mr. Bonstead said a Fullerton HSR station is currently possible but not a "preferred" option for reasons of cost, efficiency, and impact on the area.

Fullerton passengers could still hop Metrolink for the 7-minute ride to Anaheim's "ARTIC" station (or the 40-minute ride to LA) and transfer to HSR. Whether or not Fullerton gets a HSR boarding stop, track upgrades still require major improvements to the Fullerton Transportation Center.

The changes are triggered by the addition of a fourth track between Fullerton and LA, as well as the electrification and modification of two of the tracks. (Fullerton currently has three tracks.) The two electrified tracks to the south will be passenger-only, shared between HSR, Metrolink, and Amtrak trains. The two north side tracks will be for freight trains only.

No longer will a train have to wait outside Fullerton until the tracks are clear. A passenger boarding island for

Amtrak and Metrolink will be added between the new passenger tracks. The current overhead pedestrian bridge will be eliminated and replaced with underground tunnels with ramps to the boarding island, similar to those at LA's Union Station.

The one-story ramp means that train-goers will no longer have to choose between climbing three flights of stairs and waiting for the elevator (although an elevator will be available). The ramp entrances will be next to the current station and on the east side of Harbor Boulevard.

The island and added track will eliminate the small 28-car parking lot currently on the south side. It will also affect Walnut Avenue.

During the Q&A, an audience member expressed concern about the noise from 200 mph trains whizzing through Fullerton neighborhoods.

Mr. Bonstead said the train speeds will not increase in populated areas. There is now a 79 mph passenger train speed limit on unimproved tracks, so the noise should not increase. Also, he projected there will be only two HSR trains per hour per direction scheduled.

Another audience member who frequently rode Metrolink was concerned about the increased danger of people being hit while trespassing on the tracks. He pointed out that it happens

periodically now.

Mr. Bonstead said that the added undercrossings planned (vs. a gated crossing) should make it harder for people to get onto the tracks, and that fencing would also be added.

A third audience member asked, "Why are we switching to electric trains in Southern California, where power lines have increased the danger of igniting trees and bushes?"

Mr. Bonstead said that HSR can not be achieved with diesel/electric locomotive technology. HSR requires lightweight trains with power supplied along the track rather than having a heavy diesel engine supply power. Also, he pointed out that the electricity "hook-ins" to the track (and accompanying off-track high voltage lines) are 30 miles apart.

They have redundancy built in, so if one region has a power outage, the electricity source can be switched to another hook-up 30 miles away, and HSR service will continue.

An attendee also asked if defunding threats from the federal government might kill this project.

Joshua Channell, who works on HSR design and environment aspects, said that only 23% of the project's funding depends on federal dollars, so that issue was not a killer. He also mentioned that the project will proceed in

phases. Mr. Bonstead said most of the changes are similar to changes proposed by Metrolink, so the two agencies will benefit from each other's improvements.

Another required change affecting Fullerton is the addition of a track crossover tunnel, switching the passenger tracks to the north side and the freight lines to the south side. This tunnel will be built between Gilbert and Dale Street.

Mr. Bonstead said no disruption of Metrolink or Amtrak services is expected during the construction.

The construction timeline calls for completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Report by November 2025, which will include community outreach. The final report will be submitted in the Summer of 2026. A board meeting will follow in the Fall of 2026.

It is possible, but less likely, that Fullerton will get a HSR station. If so, it would entail a new station and platform because the passenger entry heights are different. The new HSR station would be west of Harbor on the south side of the tracks, across from the existing parking garage.

The HSR passenger loading platforms would extend over Highland Avenue further to the west. The HSR station will also have its own 570-space parking garage whose entrance would be directly from Harbor, south-west of the current train underpass.

The final decision on whether Fullerton will get its own HSR stop will be known by the summer of 2026, when the official "Draft and Intent" document is completed and plans are finalized, according to Mr. Channell.

"Will there be a High Speed Rail station for boarding in Fullerton?"
Mr. Bonstead said a Fullerton HSR station is currently possible but not a "preferred" option for reasons of cost, efficiency, and impact on the area.



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City Council Notes

by Saskia Kennedy

Meetings are on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Upcoming agenda information and streaming video of meetings are available at www.cityoffullerton.com click on meetings and agenda. City Hall is located at 303 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton Contact Council at (714) 738-6311 or council@cityoffullerton.com

August 19 meeting

Summary of Public Comments

Orange County Workforce Innovation High School

• Mercedes Corona: Shared her positive experiences as a graduate of Orange County Workforce Innovation High School, expressing gratitude for the support that helped her achieve personal growth and secure job opportunities through programs like the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act.

Fullerton is Our Home

• Fullerton is my hometown, and I'm proud to be the pastor of First Lutheran Church, which supports the community through the Carrying Hands Pantry and weekly meal services without requiring personal information from guests. In our Lutheran Christian tradition, we advocate for inclusivity at the Holy Communion table, welcoming everyone regardless of their background. As part of the Fullerton as Our Home Collaborative coalition, I would like to give each council member a Fullerton is Our Home T-shirt as a reminder that Fullerton belongs to everyone.

• Elizabeth Martinez: highlighted her lifelong residency in Fullerton, emphasizing the importance of the city as a place of belonging.

Illumination Foundation and Navigation Center

• Joel: Discussed his struggles with homelessness and his need for permanent supportive housing, recounting negative experiences with previous housing programs.

• Alan Mullins: I want to talk about my experience at the Illumination Foundation in Fullerton. I've faced racist comments, called the N word multiple times, and when I brought it to the staff's attention, they did nothing. Some people at the facility make it feel like a prison, and I often feel uncomfortable because I'm from Texas, not California.

Since I had a heart attack in March and have been in this place recovering with only 10% heart function, I've noticed that the environment isn't helping me get healthy. There are ongoing issues with drugs and other activities that staff should be more aware of. Additionally, I'm allergic to certain foods, and the restrictions on what I can bring to eat have made it harder for me to follow my diet.

I want to love California, but my experience hasn't been positive. I believe the staff is great, but there's a disconnect between them and the clients. I came here to focus on my health, leaving my family behind to do so. This facility needs to prioritize the well-being of its clients and address the negative behaviors present. I'm speaking up for future clients who deserve

Sidewalks for School Kids

• Zee: Who moved to Fullerton in 1978, advocated for sidewalks and curbs for children walking to school on West Page Ave and wanted to collaborate with District 4 and the Fullerton School District. He congratulated Golden Hills Little League on their achievements.

Additionally, he expressed concerns about a recent City Council meeting where Fred attempted to reallocate \$10,000 in funds.

He noted a lack of trust regarding Fred's motives, especially after it was revealed that the Boys and Girls Club couldn't receive the funds due to incomplete reporting. He emphasized the inefficiency of the discussion at the meeting and reiterated his advocacy for safe bike paths

better.

• Tony Rios: Just bear with me. I had a stroke maybe five months ago, but I am in this program, the Illumination Foundation. I've been there for almost 3 months, and I'm just going to say. Something I don't even know if it fits in here, but you know, they don't, they don't really get into a prop. I mean, not having showers for 150 people, not having them for three days, that's pretty bad. Not cleaning their filters. You see on the highway, people don't clean those filters for over a couple of years. That's back. There is only one microwave for 150 people. Come on, you're going to get a lot of arguments. Why are you taking my food out there? I mean, you know, little things that they should fix right away. Just seems like that. That's how we knew I had to say that I was inspecting this, but I'm thankful I predicted I'd come up here and just say hi to you all. Hey, God bless you guys all.

• Curtis Gamble: Read article A Potential Solution for Fullerton's Homeless Crisis on page 17.

• Joseph Maldonado: Advocated for funding a park renovation project and suggests improved transportation options for the Illumination Foundation Navigation Center. He also mentions engaging the council to update the parks master plan.

Street Lighting

• Kurt Johnson: Raised concerns about inadequate lighting at the intersection of Pomona and Commonwealth, particularly for pedestrian visibility when buses turn from the terminal. He mentioned that modern headlights and solar-powered intersection lights contribute to the problem, making it difficult to see pedestrians, which has led to incidents in the area. Additionally, he suggested that brighter lighting is also needed at the corner of Orangethorpe and Harbor.

Public Requests New Ordinance Requiring Law Enforcement to Unmask and Identify Themselves

• Harry Langenbacher: I want to thank you for deciding to file an amicus brief. I would like to hear that Fullerton would be a plaintiff in the case. [Harry was interrupted by Mayor Fred Jung, who said that Harry could not speak on the item as it was already voted on.]

The original reason I wanted to make a public comment was on something that was not on the agenda. I ask you to consider. Enacting an ordinance to prevent any police in Fullerton from being unidentifiable, such as by covering their face, refusing to wear, or identifying themselves.

Garages with badge numbers and so on, if you catch my drift. Or driving in and taking people away in unmarked cars, so we don't know where they've been taken. I believe that other cities have done something like this. I think it would be beneficial to hold these police officers accountable; if they can't be identified, the individuals committing these illegal acts should also be held responsible. So please consider doing that.

• Pastor Phillips: Thank you again, Counselor, for signing on to the brief and listening. I encourage everyone at home to watch those comments, if available online, as it was incredibly encouraging to hear from people in our city and those who have felt othered.

They belong here, and Fullerton is their home. I also wanted to ask about two additional points, as Harry mentioned that you would create an ordinance requiring agents to identify themselves, not wear masks, carry body cameras, and drive marked cars to provide proper paperwork. And identify themselves when asked. Some cities are working on this, and I believe LA has passed something similar or is working on something.

Transportation and Bicycle Safety

• Steven Sherry, Transportation and Circulation Commissioner: Stressed the importance of improving transportation to connect people and bridge divides in Fullerton.

He pointed out low attendance and discussions in the Transportation Circulation Commission and urged collaboration with the council and residents for new ideas.

He mentioned Council Member Valencia's idea to use the upcoming Olympics to boost interest in Fullerton through the train station. Sherry encouraged more community involvement by inviting residents to attend the commission's meetings on the first Monday of each month.

• Speaker: Highlighted two main issues: the increasing hostility towards cyclists and pedestrians on Fullerton streets and the need for community protection. She shared stories of violence against cyclists and called for improved infrastructure to ensure their safety. She thanked the council for opposing ICE kidnappings, emphasizing the community's shared responsibility to protect its members and the importance of keeping everyone safe.

• Jensen: Addressed the council con-

I would also like to request that you allocate funds for legal aid. This is a way for us to embody the reality that Fullerton is our home for everyone and that all immigrants belong. I know there is at least one punk rock fan on the council, and I'm not sure what else to say. I believe that the most punk rock thing we could do in a city is to include everyone and support everyone.

I ask you to view the city as a home for everyone and embody that in everything we do. I know we're struggling financially, but I don't want to see our money go to our neighbors. And the need for those who have their backs against the wall, who need support, who have lost their head of household or others who provide income. And I believe you heard from Deacon Tony at the closed session that he was left on the street as his family was gone. And so, how do we care for those who live in our home?

• Speaker: I would like to thank the council for taking the time to listen to public comments tonight. You listen to everybody, and you let it go on for too long. You didn't cut anyone off at the end; you let them finish, and that felt really respectful. Really appreciate it. Thank you for your vote. I don't know how you voted, but it passed. That was really a good thing. I agree with some of the previous commenters about the way things are done in Fullerton.

I agree that some cities have put together financial aid, both for replacing income and legal fees. I know LA has either done it or is working on it. I'd like to see Fullerton do that. I think the state of California has allotted some money for that, and I would like us to do that. And then one last thing when people self-deport. It's our loss. Our true loss.

cerning the Euclid sidewalk gap closure project, expressing disappointment in the narrow vote against it. He emphasize the risks faced by pedestrians and cyclists on Euclid, particularly north of Malvern, due to poor sidewalk maintenance. He highlighted safety concerns, noting issues like soil erosion that obstructs the walkway, which could lead to accidents for cyclists. Overall, he advocated for better awareness and action regarding the safety of the sidewalks in the area.

• Dominic: Discussed the pressing issue of bike lanes and safety for cyclists, sharing his personal experience of being injured while on an e-bike due to a parked car blocking a bike lane.

He highlighted that Commissioner Harrison's wife had a related incident, underscoring the dangers cyclists face. Dominick criticized Mayor Jung's car-first stance, expressing disappointment that public safety for cyclists is not prioritized.

He urged the addition of more bike lanes, particularly on poorly maintained streets like Commonwealth, to prevent accidents and enhance safety for cyclists.

Updated Street Sweeping Schedule

Street sweeping signs for the Monday Zone have been updated. Starting Monday, September 8, 2025, the new schedule will take effect.

- From Sept. 8 – Oct. 12, 2025, only warnings will be issued to allow residents time to adjust.
- Beginning Oct. 13, 2025, regular parking enforcement will resume and citations will be issued.

For the Tuesday Zone, citations will be postponed until signage has been updated.

For more information, please contact: Public Works Street Supervisor Rigo Aceves (714) 738-5344

City Council Member Reports

Mayor Fred Jung said his report was in the back up materials so he did not report. Council Members Jamie Valencia and Nicholas Dunlap had no report.

Mayor Protém Dr Shana Charles

I wrote this tonight, knowing it would be an emotional evening, but I was uplifted by our community despite the heartbreaking stories shared. Thank you to everyone who spoke during the public comments. If anyone wants to discuss longer than three minutes or have a back-and-forth conversation, my office hours are Thursdays from noon to 2 PM at City Hall. I also have office hours at Titan Walk at Cal State Fullerton on the last Thursday of the month, from noon to 2 PM, and everyone is welcome to come by.

August is Transgender History Month, and I'm excited about the upcoming Transgender Pride event in Fullerton on August 23rd. I'll share more details on my social media, and if you'd like to receive my newsletter, please send me your email at shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com, and I'll add you to the list.

I've been following the updates about the Arboretum, which is a vital asset for our community. I know the

search for a new director is ongoing, and there's at least one strong internal candidate. I've heard attendance and events are up, and while the grass is brown right now, it's due to water conservation.

The parking will only be free for one more weekend because of campus-wide changes, as part of aligning with other universities in the Cal State system.

In terms of health updates, we've seen some cases of disease-carrying fleas and mosquitoes in nearby areas. Please use bug spray and eliminate standing water around your homes. We're also under an extreme heat warning, so please stay hydrated and find air conditioning when possible. The splash pads are open for cooling off, and the Library and Community Center serve as cooling centers.

I've asked our staff to ensure this information is shared on the city's website and social media to help keep everyone informed. Thank you!

Council Member Dr Ahmad Zahra

I want to thank everyone for supporting our immigrant community, including myself. When we unite, we can make a difference, so let's keep stepping up and have courage to do what's right.

I have three requests for our staff:

1. I'd like our housing department to visit the Illumination Foundation to address some comments and allegations. If they only have one microwave, let's consider buying them another since microwaves aren't very costly. We should work together to improve their conditions, and it would

be great to have them present to share their activities and positive contributions.

2. I asked for an update on our urban forest plan. I appreciate the email update, but I think it should be made public so that everyone can comment on it.

3. We've been waiting for an update on the bicycle master plan for about two years. I'd like to know where we stand and if we can present this to the council for public discussion.

Thank you again for being here. Staff has direction.



Fullerton Water Quality Report& PFAS Contamination

The 2025 City of Fullerton Water Quality Report showed levels of PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) in the city's water system that exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April 2024.

PFAS, referred to as "forever chemicals" due to their persistent nature, comprise a vast group of thousands of man-made substances that break down very slowly over time. These chemicals can accumulate in humans, animals, and the environment, raising serious health and safety concerns.

Although the use of PFAS has been significantly banned in many consumer products—including waterproofing materials, stain-resistant fabrics, non-stick cookware, and firefighting foams—they persist in drinking water, groundwater, soil, and air across the globe.

Research has linked specific PFAS and PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid) chemicals to a range of health issues. Among the documented concerns are:

- **Kidney and testicular cancer** (PFOA)
- **Increased cholesterol levels** (PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFDA)
- **Changes in liver enzymes** (PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS)
- **Pregnancy-induced hypertension and preeclampsia** (PFOA, PFOS)
- **Small decreases in birth weight** (PFOA, PFOS)
- **Lower antibody response to certain vaccines** (PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFDA)

The Fullerton Water Report tested for eight specific PFAS chemicals, revealing the following results:

- **PFOA** (Fullerton ND-11 ppt)
 - MCL 4 ppt
- **PFOS** (Fullerton ND-14 ppt)
 - MCL 4 ppt
- **PFHxS** (Fullerton ND-7 ppt)
 - MCL 10 ppt
- **PFHxA** (Fullerton ND-12 ppt)
 - No set MCL yet
- **PFPeA** (Fullerton ND-13 ppt)
 - No set MCL yet
- **PFHpA** (Fullerton ND-4.5 ppt)
 - No set MCL yet
- **PFBA** (Fullerton ND-6.3 ppt)
 - No set MCL yet
- **PFBS** (Fullerton ND-6.9 ppt)
 - No set MCL yet

During the August 19 City Council meeting, officials filed the report with minimal discussion.

Some residents expressed disappointment over the lack of an update on the ongoing lawsuit against the companies responsible for the pollution, in the apparent ineffectiveness of the existing PFAS Extraction Plants within the city in removing the contaminants, and the absence of a plan to adequately remove PFAS and VOCs.

The Orange County Water District, which oversees the groundwater aquifer serving approximately 2.5 million people, including Fullerton, estimates that addressing PFAS contamination across the county could cost as much as \$1.8 billion over the next three decades. Questions remain about the potential costs of inaction: what might happen if PFAS contamination is not adequately addressed?

Fullerton supports ACLU lawsuit

continued from front page

ing brown-skinned people.

Every comment was dynamic and heartfelt. Unfortunately those viewing the session in person and those watching from home will notice that the microphone is cut off after the three-minute period allowed each speaker.

After two hours of public comments, the council retreated to a closed session to make a decision.

Later, during the regular session, the result of the closed session vote was revealed. Four of the five council members voted to issue an amicus brief in support of the ACLU lawsuit against illegal ICE actions. District 2 Council Member Dunlap was missing in action during the vote to support the ACLU lawsuit, but was present during the regular session. It is unclear if he was present for the other closed session items.

Fullerton joins the Orange County cities of Santa Ana, Anaheim, Costa Mesa, and Irvine in support of the ACLU lawsuit. Although illegal ICE actions are happening countywide, the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted to take "no action" in its Tuesday, August 12 closed session. LA County and City, along with over 20 California cities, have joined or filed amicus briefs in support of the ACLU lawsuit so far.

The lawsuit challenges the government's Department of Homeland

Security and other federal agencies' policies and actions, including unlawful arrests made without warrants and based on racial profiling, and detentions in inhumane conditions and without access to counsel.

Several such actions have taken place in Fullerton, including the recent arrest of a U.S. veteran and citizen with no criminal record. He was approached by six masked, unidentified "agents" while shopping at a local store with his family. He was pushed into an unmarked vehicle and driven to a neighboring city before being released without charges. In other incidents, supposed ICE agents have attempted warrantless raids at local businesses – including most recently the carwash on Harbor.

The owner repeatedly asked ICE agents in military gear to get off his private property and demanded a warrant.

In contrast, the ICE agents inaccurately argued that the carwash was public property and they didn't need a warrant. The owner said he was calling the police, and they left. Customers filmed the incident and is still available on YouTube.

The next court hearing in the case is scheduled for September 24. The district court previously granted the Plaintiff's request for emergency relief on July 11, 2025, in a Temporary

Restraining Order (TRO) covering seven counties, including Orange County. The TRO applies to all officers conducting immigration enforcement, including DHS, ICE, CBP, HSI, FBI, and others. The TRO prevents targeting individuals based on apparent race or ethnicity, language spoken, accent, presence in a particular location such as a bus stop, car wash, or agricultural site, or the type of work a person does. The order does not prevent agents from stopping a person if they have specific information that indicates they are vio-

lating a federal law or are unlawfully in the U.S.

Also read "Opposition to ICE Raids Grows in Orange County" by Hosam Elattar at [VoiceofOC.org](https://voiceofoc.org)

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND GET HELP:

If you see illegal actions taking place in Orange County contact Rapid Response Network at 714-881-1558.

Also, visit OC Rapid Response at <https://ocrapidresponse.org/>

How to contact your District Representative

- **Mayor District 1: Fred Jung**
(714) 738-6311
fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com
- **Mayor Pro Tem District 3: Dr. Shana Charles**
(714) 738-6311
shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com

- **District 2: Nicholas Dunlap**
(714) 738-6311
nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com
- **District 4: Jamie Valencia**
(714) 738-6311
jamie.valencia@cityoffullerton.com
- **District 5: Dr. Ahmad Zahra**
(714) 738-6311
ahmadz@cityoffullerton.com

City Meetings

- September 1 at 4pm**
Transportation & Circulation
- September 8 at 6:30pm**
Parks and Recreation
- September 10 at 6:30pm**
Planning Commission
- September 15 at 5pm**
Infrastructure and Resources

- September 16 at 5:30pm**
City Council
- September 17 at 5:30pm**
Active Transportation
- September 24 at 6:30pm**
Planning Commission
- September 25 at 6pm**
Library Board



OPINION: **Out of My Mind**

by Jon Dobrer © 2025 • Jonathandobrer.substack.com

When You Follow a Leader

Once upon a time, possibly this very time, Americans believed that lemmings threw themselves off cliffs in a kind of unspoken but intentional suicide pact. We believed this because Walt Disney, in a forgery of a documentary, “White Wilderness,” had crew members throw lemmings off a cliff, while the narrator asserted that it was mass suicide.

While the lemmings didn’t launch themselves off the cliffs following their own “Alpha lemming” leaders, the American public followed Disney’s fictional depiction like, uh, fictional lemmings.

Back in the 60s, when we thought we were enlightened, we believed it was imperative to “Question Authority.” Our generational motto has fallen out of favor with too many, and today, much of our nation is playing a toxic and malign game of “Follow the (Dear) Leader.” We seem to be marching into a dark forest behind a strangely charismatic Führer. We seem to be marching without interrogating the reason for this march into darkness, or questioning the sanity and goodwill of the leader who beckons us towards a new Dark Age.

While I don’t personally “get” this leader’s charisma or find anything about him even vaguely appealing, I must try to understand the appeal that is leading so many into surrendering their autonomy, their moral principles and our precious democracy. Many, too many, smart, educated and successful people have surrendered to the leader’s vision—his dark vision of American carnage, failure and victimization.

Many of our institutions, our societal guardrails, have crumbled, felled by the very first blows against them. “It’s an emergency,” the leader warns. “I must act and save our cities from the worst people, immigrants, rapists, criminals, homeless and insane people.” I must, says Trump, send the National Guard and Marines to Los Angeles to save it from burning to the ground. I must save Washington, DC by taking over its police department

and deploying the National Guard to tame the rampant crime—all those murders, robberies, and criminality.

His constant message and rationale for taking over our cities is to declare an emergency. Most people seem to go along. They go along with activities that would have been unthinkable, even to the greatest pessimists, a few months ago. Who foresaw masked agents of what was once “our” government, sweeping up people off the streets, churches, hospitals, and at work, solely based on their brown skin and Spanish language?

Who could imagine major law firms being extorted to donate time and money to Trump-endorsed causes as the price of not being locked out of federal courts and having any and all government contracts voided? Consider the craven capitulation of the media to Trump’s bullying. Paramount pays extortion to let a sale and merger go through. Bezos and the Washington

Post change election coverage and endorsements to dodge the threat to Amazon of increased postal rates. Universities are pressured to turn over employment records, admissions criteria and the immigration status of foreign students and faculty. UCLA is given a billion-dollar penalty, theoretically for not fighting antisemitism. They’d better pay it if they don’t want \$400 million in grants suspended. UCLA says they will fight. Maybe they learned the lessons from Colombia and Harvard that tried to buy off the demands but found that, as we see on endless TV shows and movies, extortionists never stop after the first pay-off.

Many of us were deluded into believing that our institutions would hold, and the courts would not cave. The Supreme Court will save us. No. Some lower courts have been true, but the Supremes are consistently caving to Trump’s every whim. Maybe our military, which is sworn to defend and pro-

***We the People
effectively
(or ineffectually)
surrendered
our once
precious democracy
in six short months.***



Cartoon © by Lynne Goldfarb & Alex Rennie

tect the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, won’t follow illegal orders. That faith also has been shattered as Marines accepted their illegal deployment in Los Angeles, and Trump today has threatened to deploy more in DC, Chicago and New York.

The Posse Comitatus Act forbidding the use of the military to enforce civilian law means nothing today—despite the fact that according to 18 U.S. Code § 1385, Trump could be subject to two years of imprisonment for violating it. Of course, following the unbelievable capitulation of the Supreme Court,

Trump can’t be held to account. This Supreme Court has granted him “Presidential immunity.”

There are no guardrails left. They were destroyed in six months! We the People effectively (or ineffectually) surrendered our once precious democracy in six short months. What will be left in three more years?

How will history understand our lack of resistance, our national willingness to betray friends and embrace adversaries? Will anyone be left either free or alive to write our history? Trump is committed to rewriting history and removing anything uncomfortable to

white men or displaying criticism of past acts that lacked perfection—as he and he alone sees it. Slavery? Not so bad ... just a matter of working conditions, and really, slaves were better off here than in Africa.

Our Vice President and Secretary of Defense on August 11th, associated themselves quite admiringly with Christian nationalists who hold that men are the leaders of every household and women should obey them and vote as their husbands demand, lest they lose their franchise. I am not making any of this up!

Only today, President Trump said that “people were spitting on police and cursing them, and the police were frustrated because they’re not allowed to do anything. But now they are allowed to do whatever the hell they want.”

Where are the people? Some meekly follow the leader out of fear, laziness, or despair. Others enthusiastically march behind the leader, committed to his holy cause, his infallible judgement, and the magical energy of surrendering their authority and autonomy to a mad Pied Piper who leads where not even Disney’s fictional lemmings would go.

It is not too late. Not yet too late. We can save our nation and our democracy! Don’t follow the leader and do question authority. Stand up! Show up! Speak up!

Re-imagining Fullerton

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What do you envision for the future of Fullerton? Let us know by taking this survey and we will do our best to render it and show everyone your vision.:

Use this link <https://forms.gle/TL2JRCF6BoYYejr9> or use this QR code

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92834.



A Potential Solution for Fullerton's Homeless Crisis

by Curtis Gamble and Saskia Kennedy

As California grapples with a deepening homelessness crisis, the urgent need for viable solutions has never been clearer. Among the most vulnerable groups affected are senior citizens, who face homelessness at higher rates. The Rancho La Paz Mobile Home Park, located at 501 E Orangethorpe Ave, presents a critical opportunity to address this pressing issue by providing stable housing for homeless seniors. Current statistics illustrate the situation in Fullerton, where approximately 300 individuals are homeless. With the city's resources funding the Fullerton Navigation Center offering 150 beds—primarily for those recovering from medical issues. This leaves a significant portion of the homeless population, particularly seniors aged 55 and older, without essential support. This age group represents about 20% of the homeless demographic, often leaving them in desperate situations triggered by unforeseen challenges such as job loss or health emergencies. Rancho La Paz is ideally situated to

meet this growing demand. Operating within Anaheim's SB2 By-right Industrial Zone, which is designated for Emergency Shelters and Recuperative Care, the park has the capacity to serve as a robust housing solution. As mobile homes become vacant, the city can transition homeless seniors into these units, offering them a stable living environment and a supportive neighborhood community. The economic rationale for this approach is compelling. The Fullerton Navigation Center's costs for 150 beds are estimated at around \$10 million, starkly contrasting with the exorbitant costs associated with hospital stays, which can average between \$1,900 and \$3,000 a day. The Navigation Center itself operates on an annual budget of approximately \$1.19 million. By repurposing vacant Rancho La Paz homes for senior housing, the city could significantly reduce financial strain, directing resources to those who need them most. Moreover, partnering with organizations like the Illumination Foundation,

which provides primary and behavioral health services at the Navigation center in Fullerton, could enhance the quality of care for unhoused people in the North Service Planning Area a collaboration of cities, including Anaheim, Fullerton, Buena Park, Brea, and Yorba Linda to end homelessness. By utilizing an permanent housing model, the community can improve outcomes for seniors, reduce the overall strain on the healthcare system, and help those homeless in need of more intensive care. Housing seniors in a supportive environment like Rancho La Paz would not only grant them the stability they seek but also free up crucial resources at the Navigation Center. Additionally, the park's access to public transportation creates an essential link for seniors looking to continue employment or re-enter the job market, ensuring they can maintain their independence. The emotional and social impacts of stable housing should not be underestimated. Providing a nurturing environment for homeless seniors can foster a sense of belonging, significantly

reducing the isolation many experience. This supportive atmosphere is vital for enhancing the mental health and overall well-being of these vulnerable individuals. As the homelessness crisis in California intensifies, it is crucial that we take action to secure permanent housing for those currently in temporary homeless shelters. This will help individuals get back on their feet and find stable housing. Utilizing the Rancho La Paz Mobile Home Park as a dedicated housing solution for homeless seniors is not only practical but also a moral obligation. By implementing this approach, we can demonstrate our commitment to supporting the most vulnerable members of our community, while also addressing the broader systemic challenges that contribute to homelessness. This initiative could lead to a brighter, more inclusive future for our senior citizens. Find statistics and data on the costs of homeless unhoused verses housed at unitedtoendhomelessness.org or hudex.change.info/homelessness-assistance/

OPINION: AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2025 WWW.PATREON.COM/C/THEEOPINIONATOR

Housing First. Housing First. Housing First. Also, from "s-thole countries" to "s-thole cities."

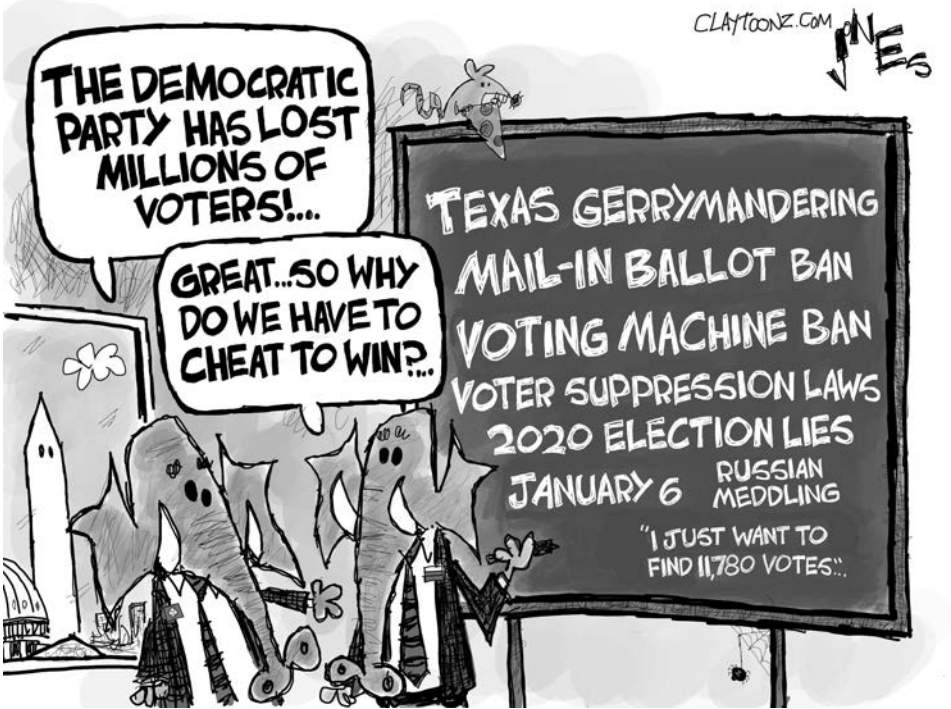
Now that my Google feed has been trained to fetch stories about the unhoused in cities around the world, two themes are emerging: first, despite all the voluminous evidence to the contrary, rounding up the homeless, throwing away their possessions and shoveling them into shelters and jails—or just leaving them to start another community elsewhere—continues to be the modus operandi of cities and communities. Second, usually around the middle of each article, a housing advocate will cite Housing First as a better and cheaper solution. Which leads me to wonder: do the people doing the evicting ever read these articles? Does anyone in these numerous City Halls ever sit and ponder the insanity of doing the same thing over and over and over again, with no change in result? One more once for those in the back: Housing First, as the name implies, involves getting the unhoused into housing as a first step. Once the new home is established, and the new resident is comfortably settled, then the issues of financial insecurity, food insecurity and mental/physical disorders (e.g., drug addiction) are addressed by on-site teams of financial advisors, social workers, doctors, psychologists and therapists. This is not pie-in-the-sky thinking: it has been tried in cities too numerous to list here and found to be more successful—and less expensive than warehousing in shelters, jails and psych wards—by a factor of 2 to 1. Housing First is not a "magic bullet," not a one-size-fits-all-cure-all. But it does work and is life-changing for a majority of the homeless, with the exception of those whose addictions and mental disorders are too severe and require a purely therapeutic setting. So the question remains: why aren't all US cities with unhoused citizens doing this? The reasons are simple, though not entirely rational. In our largely Western

Protestant way of thinking, everything has to be earned: money, jobs, cars, homes. The notion that anyone be given anything, rather than earning it by the sweat of their brow, is seen as unnatural, unChristian. Arising from this is the notion that the writer Robert Heinlein expressed in the acronym TANSTAAFL: There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch. This reveals an ignorance of how Housing First works. Yes, the homeless are given homes, but there is equity involved. In most but not all HF programs, the unhoused initially pay 20-30 percent of the rent, based on what assets they have, while the state or the city picks up the lion's share of the cost. Over a period of years, the amount paid by the resident increases while the government contribution decreases. Success is measured by the residents who are paying their rent and bills unaided. And in Finland, those chosen for the program are not required to be sober or employed. Their success rate is eighty percent, with most participants getting jobs, keeping their housing and rebuilding their lives. The second reason Housing First is not widespread is this notion, completely unfounded on the facts, that It's Too Good To Be True and therefore It Can't Possibly Work. That reveals a deep skepticism about human nature. Something will go wrong. Scofflaws will turn their new housing into drug dens, or renege on payments until evictions become necessary. Yes, there will be recidivism. Yes, some of the unhoused will have to be evicted. Humans are like that. But for everyone who fails, there will be—and have been—numerous documented success stories.

Yes, some of the unhoused will have to be evicted. Humans are like that. But for everyone who fails there will be and have been numerous documented success stories.

The third reason is the lack of available housing, which is at its lowest point since the pandemic began. Simply put, it's a case of too many dollars chasing too few available properties, plus foreign investors jacking up housing prices by up bidding on properties to put them beyond the financial resources of American buyers. The tiny homes movement presents a partial solution: housing the most on the least amount of land available. And tiny homes have the advantage of being relatively inexpensive and easy to assemble. Programs like Habitat for Humanity also give a pathway to housing, but as with tiny house start-ups, they need more funding from private and public sources. In the meantime, Dear Leader is accelerating his pogrom against the homeless, the mentally ill, and other residents of "s-thole cities": LA, Oakland, DC, Chicago, New York City and Baltimore. This is a two-pronged attack: round up all "undesirables" in these places and throw them into human warehouses,

while assuming control of America's cities as a means to take over states—namely blue ones. This power grab could not possibly be more naked. Thankfully, the residents of these cities are not bending over for Trump and his stormtroopers. The Governors of the affected states—Gavin Newsom, Kathy Hochul and JB Pritzker chief among them—have made it crystal clear that they won't tolerate this cheap-jack fascism that Trump is promulgating. And, most important, they're backing their words with actions, often employing the same tactics that Herr Trump has been using. It's at moments like these I find myself amazed at the words I am putting on the screen, as if I were writing a dystopian novel about the fascist takeover of America. No wonder Sinclair Lewis titled his 1935 novel It Can't Happen Here. It would be another quarter-century before Stanley Milgram conducted his pioneering research which demonstrated that any country could become a fascist theocracy. Frank Zappa predicted this in 1986 and was roundly mocked for doing so. Nobody's laughing now. As with all good fiction, however, the ending is not yet written. May the odds ever be in our favor.



Audrey Mary York 1930-2025

Audrey Mary York, age 94, passed away peacefully on July 24, 2025, at home in Fullerton.

Audrey was born on December 3, 1930, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Robert and Dorothy Whittick (née Knapp). She spent her childhood between Argentina and Kingston upon Thames, England, alongside her parents and younger sister, Sylvia. Audrey graduated from Wimbledon High School, where she enjoyed playing netball and developed a lifelong love of drawing and painting.

Audrey had a talent for writing and began her career as a legal secretary in London before taking a position as a reporter for the Stars and Stripes newspaper. That work took her to Madrid, Spain, and then to Darmstadt, Germany. It was in Darmstadt that she met Denison (Denny) Williams York, who was serving in the United States Army Corps of Engineers as part of NATO. Audrey and Denny were mar-



ried on October 8, 1960, at St. Peter's Church in Norbiton, England.

After their marriage, Audrey moved with Denny to Southern California. She worked in the secretarial pool at C.F. Braun in Brea and later as an editor for the Fullerton News-Tribune until the birth of her first child, Catherine. As her children grew older, Audrey returned to part-time work and enrolled in art classes at Fullerton College.



Audrey loved to paint in watercolor, often working from photographs to depict sunsets, landscapes, and even the family dog, Happy, pictured with a tennis ball between his paws. She enjoyed listening to classical music and playing the piano in her free time. Though far from her childhood home, Audrey found a close-knit community in Fullerton. She spent countless afternoons at the park and by the pool with her dear friends Martha McCarthy and Jo Ann Woodard, watching their children play, sharing cookies, and talking and laughing for hours.

Denny preceded Audrey in death by six months, three weeks, and five days. They shared 64 years of marriage and now rest together in peace.

Those left to cherish Audrey's memory are her daughters, Catherine York, Jean Metter (Adrian Metter), and Clare York (Aaron Peets); her son, Robert York (Cassie York); grandsons, Robin and Grant Metter; brother-in-law, Peter Lefroy-Owen; nieces, Miriam Lefroy-Owen, Sera LeGrice (Oliver), and Patti Wall (John); nephew, Neal Lefroy-Owen (Kathryn); and many friends and extended family members.

Audrey's family was her pride and joy. Her greatest roles in life were those of devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She will be fondly remembered for her warm sense of humor, her kindness, and her gracious spirit.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the staff at Sunnycrest Senior Living for the compassionate care they provided to both Audrey and Denny in their final years.

At the family's request, all services will be private.

Richard A. Foster 1935-2025



Richard A. Foster (Dick) was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in Orange, California, to Kenneth and Illa Foster.

He grew up in Fullerton, attending Ford Elementary, Wilshire Jr High School, and graduating valedictorian from Fullerton Union High School in 1953.

Shortly after graduation, Dick married Cynthia Johnson, also a longtime Fullerton resident. They relocated to Palo Alto, where Dick entered Stanford University and Cynthia attended San Jose State College.

Dick graduated, with distinction, from Stanford in 1957, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. Shortly after, Dick began his career at Interstate Electronics, a successful company in the defense industry in Anaheim,

simultaneously earning a Master of Business Administration degree from UCLA, and retiring as President in 1991.

Dick is survived by his wife, Cynthia Johnson Foster. They would have celebrated 72 years of marriage this September. He is also survived by his sister, Sally Foster Kambak; his niece, Pamela Rae Shurilla; his daughter-in-law, Martita Foster; his granddaughters, Tessa Zedner and Tanya Bohorquez; his grandsons, Dylan Kozlowski and Christopher Foster; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his daughter, Susan Foster, and his son, Kenny Foster.

In honor of Dick's memory, the family requests that donations be made to the Fullerton Public Library Foundation or the Fullerton Arboretum, organizations where Dick and Cynthia served actively in leadership roles.

There will be no formal memorial service held.

Henry Nalepka 1935-2025

Henry Nalepka, 90, of Fullerton, passed away on Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

Henry was born in Clifton, New Jersey, in 1935. He graduated from Clifton High School in 1953, where he was a member of the Mustang football team. Known for his athletic ability and excellence on the field, he was inducted into the Clifton High School Athletic Hall of Fame and named to the All-Century Team in 1999 for his skills as a defensive lineman.

In 1956, Henry enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he served as an aircraft technician at El Toro Air Force Base until 1959. After his military service, he married Barbara J. Deck, also of Clifton, in 1963. Together, they moved to California, and Henry made



Fullerton his home for over six decades.

A proud member of Sheet Metal Workers Union 105, Henry served as a Business Agent before retiring.

Henry is survived by his two daughters, Linda Dest (and her husband Don) of Trumbull, CT, and Laura Nalepka of Fullerton; and two grandchildren, Alyssa Timpson, and Gabriella Casonova.

A funeral service was held at 10 am on Thursday, August 21, at McAuley Wallace Mortuary in Fullerton. A brief graveside service followed at 11:30 am at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Orange.

Henry Nalepka will be deeply missed by his family and all who knew him. His legacy of love and dedication will live on in the hearts of those he touched.

Blake Kelly Golden 1960-2025

Blake Kelly Golden, 65, of Yorba Linda, passed away on August 1, 2025. Blake's life was a testament to innovation, creativity, and perseverance.

He was born on May 4, 1960, in Roseburg, Oregon, to Robert Thomas Golden and Donna Stowel Golden Thompson.

In 1984, he founded Golden Glass of Fullerton with a vision, a strong work ethic, and a determination to succeed. Over the course of more than four decades, he and his team have built Golden Glass Inc. into one of the leading glass service companies of Southern California. Blake leaves behind not only a successful business but also a legacy that endures through his family, his colleagues, and the community he has touched.

Blake was a man who loved God, loved life, and loved his country. He found joy in the outdoors, lived life on the edge, and never passed up an opportunity to ride or drive anything that went fast.

Blake will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him.

He is survived by his son, Rush Golden (Haley Vossman), and his cherished grandson, Jack Golden. Blake was the youngest of five children and is also survived by his siblings and their significant others: Jeff Golden (Pam Alborg), Lauree Golden Vance (Rolin), Jana Golden Austin (Curt), and Scott Golden, along with many nieces, nephews, and extended family who loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his niece Rebekah Kay Vance Sauter, and his son Corporal First Class Shane Golden (2021).

Viewing & Visitation are Friday, September 19, 11 am to 12 pm. Service is from 12 to 1:30 pm at Calvary Chapel East Anaheim, 5605 E La Palma Ave, Anaheim.



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Richard Lee Hopping 1928-2025

Richard Lee Hopping, 97, passed away in Fullerton on August 12, 2025.

Richard was born on July 26, 1928, to parents Dorothy Marie (Anderson) Hopping and Lavon Lee Hopping in Dayton, Ohio. At age 9, he resolved to attend college, becoming the first in his family to do so despite financial challenges.

After moving to El Paso, Texas, he hitchhiked back to Ohio in eighth grade to work and support himself in school. He later attempted to enlist for the war but was turned away for being underage. Back in Dayton, he earned a living as a trumpeter in a local band and became a star athlete and team captain at Stivers High School.

Richard attended Cedarville College (Ohio), Chaffey College (California), Sinclair College (Ohio), and the University of Dayton, depending on scholarship availability. Along his path, he had career offers from Hollywood, leaders of industry, and a large funeral home in Memphis. However, his heart pointed him to health care, and he enrolled in the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee, where he earned his Doctor of Optometry degree with Honors in 1952.

Newly married to Patricia Louise (Vance) Hopping and with their infant son, Richard returned to Dayton, Ohio. In line with his vision of how future optometry should provide care, he chose an uncommon setting for his solo optometric practice. He opened in a professional medical building called The Doctors Building.

Early on, he embraced all aspects of optometric care, including primary care, vision therapy, low vision, and contact lenses. He was also employed by the U.S. Veterans Administration and is recognized as the first optometrist in the country to be on staff of the V.A. (1953-57), where he proved the essential value of optometric care for our nation's veterans. Later, he provided volunteer service as a doctor in the Subnormal Vision (Low Vision) Clinic of Goodwill Industries in Dayton (1957-73).

Richard was dedicated to serving others and excelling in every aspect of his life. He was a compassionate doctor, an innovative educator, and a

devoted family man.

As a visionary national leader, Richard profoundly influenced the profession of optometry in the latter half of the twentieth century. He advocated for expanding optometric practice and patient care, guiding leaders and testifying in legislatures nationwide.

Richard quickly became active in the Miami Valley Optometric Society and was tapped for leadership in the Ohio Optometric Association, serving in all chairs, including President (1964-65). He was elected to the Board of the American Optometric Association (AOA) (1966) and served on the Board until 1973, including as President (1971-72).

Richard served on over 150 professional and community boards, demonstrating unparalleled commitment to his profession.

He proposed the motion that led to the historic 1969 Airlie House Conference on the Role of Optometry in Health Care, which laid the groundwork for integrating optometry into the U.S. healthcare system. This event focused on expanding the optometric scope of practice and was a precursor to significant legislative gains in the field.

Richard held various leadership roles, including Planning Chair for the AOA Future Conference (1974-75), Chair of the Section on Primary Care for the AAO (1978-79), and Chair of the Optometric Education Georgetown Summits (1992). He also chaired the AOA Scope of Practice Conference in 1992.

After his tenure on the AOA Board, he became the first President of the Southern California College of Optometry (formerly the Los Angeles College of Optometry). During his 24 years as President (1973-1997), he elevated SCCO in optometric clinical education, significantly expanded training opportunities, and transformed the college's finances from uncertainty to one of the largest endowments for a U.S. school of Optometry.

As a college president, he significantly improved optometry's educa-



tional curriculum and training, contributing to public health and veterans' healthcare.

He also founded the Optometric Oath, which every optometrist recites at graduation and professional meetings across the country.

Among his numerous leadership roles, he was Chairman, Advisory Research Council, AOF (1976-83); President, Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) (1983-85); Founding Member (1983), Distinguished Practitioner, and Chair of the National Academy of Practice in Optometry (1985-89); Chair, Professional Enhancement Advisory Program (PEP) (1982-90); Chair, Industry Relation Committee, AOA (1982-95); National spokesperson, ABC's of Eyecare, Better Vision Institute (1988-2000); chief coordinator and consultant, Pathways in Optometry, AOA and Allergan, Inc. (1989-95); Chairman, Georgetown Conference, Summit on Optometric Education Conference Series, AOA and ASCO, (1991-95); Chair, Centennial Advisory Committee, AOA (1996-2000); and active member of dozens of committees and commissions serving his communities, state and nation.

Richard actively engaged in his community through a wide range of charitable and service organizations. His volunteer work included the Illuminating Engineering Society (Tennessee and Ohio), Retinitis Pigmentosa International, the Museum of Natural History in Dayton, the Big Brothers Association, and the Optimist Club.

He also contributed to Boy Scouts boards in Ohio and California, served on the St. Jude's Hospital Board in California, was President of the local PTA in Dayton, and was a founding member of the Orange County Performing Arts Center. His involvement included roles with the YMCA and YWCA, Community Chest and Red Cross campaigns, the Cerebral Palsy Board of Directors, United Way, the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, and Head Start screenings in Ohio.

Richard has received many prestigious honors, including the Optometrist of the Year Award from the Ohio and California Optometric Associations (1962, 1988), honorary Doctor of Ocular Science degrees from Southern College of Optometry (1972) and State University of New York (1995), and the Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Public Health Association (1984). He was named National Optometrist of the Year by the AOA (1988) and received the Dr. Raymond I. Myers Award (AOSA, 1990), Eminent Service Award (AAO, 1991), and Distinguished Service Award (AOA, 1993). Other accolades include the Leo Award of Excellence in Global Eye Care (1995), Lifetime Achievement Award from Southern College of Optometry (1997), and induction into the Optometry Hall of Fame (2003).

Richard was a true visionary and inspirational leader. One of his favorite quotes is attributed to Sir Isaac Newton:

"If I have seen further, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants."

Richard honored those rare giants before him who led the way. Undoubtedly, Richard Hopping became one of those few giants in our time.

Richard is preceded in death by his wife of 73 years, Patricia Louise (Vance) Hopping, his parents, and his brother Jack Hopping.

He is survived by his three children. Ronald Lee Hopping, O.D. (Desiree, O.D.), Debra Lynn Hopping Davis (Tom), and Jerrold Alan Hopping (Rennie); nine grandchildren (Reed Hopping O.D., Grant Hopping M.D., Brett Davis, Tricia Davis Dunton, Julie Davis Jenkins, Lauren Davis Kirk, Major Tyler Hopping USMC, Austin Hopping, and Morgan Hopping); and 18 great-grandchildren.

Services were held on Friday, August 29, 2025, at McAuley-Wallace Mortuary, Fullerton, at 1 pm. There was a private interment earlier that day.

Gifts in his memory may be made to the Southern California College of Optometry (MBKU), the Southern College of Optometry, Optometry Cares, or a charity of your choice.

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ANSWER KEY TO "OVERLOOKED" 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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Left: George Hernandez, Deputy Director for Olinda Alpha Landfill, at the start of the landfill tour showing where trash is placed each day before being compacted and covered with a layer of soil or tarps. **Right:** Third-largest landfill gas-fueled plant in the U.S. at Olinda Alpha Landfill - converts landfill gas to energy which powers over 36,000 average Orange County homes. PHOTOS COURTESY OF EMMERSON LITTLE



VIDEO OBSERVER

by Emerson Little © 2025

See videos on YouTube @emersonlittle1901

Tracking Where Our Garbage Goes:

A Tour of Olinda Alpha Landfill in Brea

Walking around my Fullerton neighborhood back in July, it was hard not to notice the abundance of waste disposal bins left outside during the trash collection delays caused by Republic Services' sanitation workers going on strike. Fortunately, the company and the union reached an agreement, and trash pickup resumed. However, the amount of bins with garbage and recyclable materials left behind made me wonder what happens to the things we throw out. I contacted OC Waste & Recycling (OCWR) because I was interested in learning more about what happens to our trash and recyclables. I discovered OCWR offers free public tours of the county-owned and operated Olinda Alpha Landfill & Valencia Greenery, located in the hills above Brea. After exchanging several emails with Francine Bangert, Public Communications Officer at OCWR, I was able to schedule a tour of the landfill.

Originally, Olinda and Olinda Alpha were permitted as two waste disposal facilities in neighboring canyons. They were divided by a central ridge, according to OCWR.

In 1960, disposal operations started in Olinda Canyon before moving into Olinda Alpha Canyon in 1981. The central ridge separating the two canyons was eventually excavated, and by 1988, the two canyons were connected into one large landfilling area, according to the County.

Heading east on Lambert Road, turning north on Valencia Avenue, and following Valencia until it ended at the landfill, I arrived at the disposal site's public access entrance, where a long line of trucks was waiting. Checking in at the landfill's main office, I had a chance to interview George Hernandez, Deputy Director for Olinda Alpha Landfill, and Thomas Koutroulis, Director for OCWR, to learn more about the landfill and its day-to-day operations.

"Here at Olinda, we have approximately 80 employees," said Hernandez. "So, the day of a landfill worker really starts around 4:30 am to about 6 am, and it ends anywhere from

5 to 6 pm. We initially kick off our day with the safety briefing meeting that takes place at our crew quarters...Once the safety briefing ends, they will directly report to their supervisor... they will get their full assignment that will encompass one of three areas that they will be working on."

At Olinda Alpha Landfill, I learned that there are three major areas of operation, which consist of landfilling, composting, and M.R.Fing, an insider acronym that stands for material resource recovery facility. This helps preserve landfill capacity, an important part of the waste management system. The landfill's resource recovery facilities divert resource materials, such as green waste, metal and mattresses, for reuse.

Hernandez said, "We've begun metals and mattress recovery programs, which to date, since we started the programs back in 2024, we've recovered over 112,000 mattresses and over 9,000 tons of metals. This goes a long way considering that it has generated about 1.2 million dollars in revenue."

Walking around my neighborhood on trash pickup days, I've spotted three different types of disposal bins: one for organic recycling, one for non-organic recycling, and one for landfill waste. According to OCWR's "What Goes Where" Guide:

- Weeds, garden trimmings, cut flowers, grass clippings, leaves, wood chips, fruit, bread, fish, meat, vegetables, dairy, and coffee belong inside the green organic recycling bins.
- Anything paper, plastic, metal or glass goes inside the non-organic recycling bin.
- Lastly, things such as ceramic/Pyrex, mirrors, Styrofoam, waxed paper products, wet or soiled paper products, diseased plants, pet waste, mixed products, and coated materials belong inside the black trash bin.

Eventually, materials from the trash bin make their way to one of Orange

County's landfills. I learned from my tour that each day, trash is placed, compacted and covered with a layer of soil or tarps in sections until a specified size is reached, forming a cell. Leachate is liquid that results from decomposing waste, and condensate is the liquid that forms inside the landfill gas collection system. Both of these liquids are collected and stored in tanks.

Wells are used to monitor for any impacts from the landfill to the groundwater beneath it. To control dust above ground, trucks spray dirt areas as needed using liquids recycled from the landfill. Large portable screens are then used to trap and collect any excess litter to keep it from flying away. These screens can be moved based on wind directions. Special misting machines spray a very fine mist into the air to help confine any odors. OCWR's bird abatement falconry program stops birds from feeding on waste, keeping trash where it belongs.

Decomposing waste in landfills naturally produces methane gas. This gas is collected through pipes, then sent to a facility for conversion to renewable energy or to be flared. According to the County, this landfill gas that's converted to energy is used to power over 36,000 average homes. I learned that hundreds of probes monitor subsurface gas at various elevations and detect if any escapes. Interestingly, this is the third-largest landfill gas-fueled plant in the U.S.

For any Fullerton residents or any businesses interested in disposing of their garbage at the Olinda landfill, I learned that there are fees you must pay at the entrance gate, depending on the weight of your vehicle. Proof of residence in Orange County is required, and businesses must have a valid business license, but non-hazardous, municipal solid waste from commercial and self-haulers is accepted.

"At other disposal sites that are out there, they'll typically have anywhere from 10 to 20 different gate fees or disposal fees. Here at Olinda, we have three: we have a small vehicle fee, so any small vehicle weighing 360 lbs. or less will pay a flat rate of \$5. Any vehicle that's a pickup truck or larger under 880 lbs. will pay a \$20 flat fee, and then any vehicles (pickup or larger)

that have more than 880 lbs. will be charged on a per-ton rate," said Hernandez.

OCWR Director Thomas Koutroulis stressed that OCWR works cooperatively with regulators to ensure that the landfill operates in full compliance with all federal, state, and local codes, ordinances and regulations. In fact, I learned that the landfill is subject to regular inspections by CalRecycle's local enforcement agency, and is also regulated by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. I was also informed that, since 1960, the Brea landfill has been permitted based on reaching a certain elevation.

Koutroulis said, "We are highly regulated, and we get our permits from CalRecycle, and so that elevation is based on 1,415 feet above mean sea level. As waste comes in, again, we're highly engineered. It's basically a perpetual construction site until it reaches that elevation, and then once it reaches that elevation, the landfill closes... Right now, we are in the final years of getting close to reaching that 1,415 feet above mean sea level... Of the three active landfills that we have in Orange County, this one is the oldest... On average, this landfill used to receive about 7,000 tons annually... Right now, because of what's called pyramiding, we're receiving close to 3,000 tons a day. So, over the next, I'll say 3 to 6 years, the landfill operations will be winding down."

According to Koutroulis, right now, the county has built composting facilities located at all three Orange County landfills. He explained that the composting facility at the Olinda Alpha Landfill will still remain in operation for composting as a result of California's Senate Bill 1383, which was passed in 2016. It mandates a statewide reduction in organic waste disposal and edible food recovery. "We'll continue with composting operations here, as well as what George mentioned earlier, with material recoveries for self-haul material," said Koutroulis.

Overall, I found my tour of the Olinda Alpha Landfill to be very informative and ideal for a documentary filmmaker, high school science class or club. For those interested in scheduling a tour, please visit http://www.oclandfills.com/landfill/landfill_tours.

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