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### Union Pacific Park Makes Progress Toward Opening After 22 Years

by Saskia Kennedy

After more than two decades of delays, the community's anticipation for a new Union Pacific Park is finally set to culminate in a long-awaited opening. Funding for these improvements will be delivered in two phases. The playground installation, backed by a Kaboom grant, commenced on September 13. Following this, construction, supported by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and other city sources, is anticipated to begin in October, focusing on remaining renovations, such as trail repairs and turf installation.

Initially slated for inauguration in 2003, the project faced significant set-backs following the discovery of soil contamination just before its launch, halting progress for years. The soil was eventually deemed safe by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in 2011. Still, remediation efforts left parts of the playground and basketball court damaged, resulting in further stagnation.

continued on page 10

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Community volunteers gather to install the new playground at Union Pacific Park with help from a KABOOM! grant.

PHOTO BY MIKE RITTO



# Emerson Little teaches photography at the Muckenthaler

Emerson Little, a visual artist with expertise in photography, graphic design, and video art, is set to teach a new class at the Muckenthaler titled "Light, Shadows, and Reflections: Introduction to Digital Photography." The course will take place on Wednesdays from 10 AM to 11 AM, running from October 1 to November 5.

Little, who holds a B.A. in Digital Media Production from Whittier College and an MFA in Creative Photography & Experimental Media from California State University, Fullerton, brings significant experience as a contributing journalist for the *Fullerton Observer*, where he has created over 120 documentary-style videos since 2015.

The photography class is designed for beginners and those looking to improve their skills. Participants will learn fundamental techniques, including exposure basics and post-production methods in a digital darkroom.

To learn more go to: https://themuck.org/art-classes

# Rising Popularity of Pickleball Sparks Debate Over Court Usage and Accessibility Issues

As the popularity of pickleball surges, communities such as Fullerton are facing challenges regarding the use of recreational spaces. This fast-paced, family-friendly sport has drawn a dedicated following that is increasingly demanding access to available courts, leaving established user groups expressing concerns over competition for space.

Local tennis players, basketball enthusiasts, and other recreational users voiced their frustrations at the Parks and Recreation Commission on September 8 as they compete for access to courts that have become increasingly crowded. Community leaders and recreational planners are now tasked with the difficult challenge of accommodating the growing interest in pickleball while ensuring that existing users can continue to enjoy their preferred sports.

During the meeting, one resident raised concerns about how pickleball's rising popularity could

impact tennis at the Fullerton Tennis Center. The participant, who plays both sports, praised the community's engagement but noted serious issues affecting tennis players, primarily citing parking difficulties during peak league play.

One resident said, emphasizing the challenges faced during peak times on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. They explained that parking often requires arriving at least 15 minutes early, warning that the addition of pickleball courts could worsen the situation by increasing the number of players vying for limited parking

To address these challenges, the resident urged commissioners to conduct a feasibility study to explore alternative solutions, such as repurposing other areas.

A few residents expressed a willingness to volunteer in analyzing potential alternatives, highlighting the community's commitment to finding effective resolutions.

# **September is Suicide Awareness Month**

Between 2014 and 2018, on average, there was one suicide in Orange County per day, and rates were highest for white males and females. In addition, four times more males than females committed suicide, and those 85 years and older had the highest rate. These statistics do not include attempts.

To get help call 9-8-8, a toll free, 24-hour line.

# Trustee Aaruni Thakur Announces Departure from Fullerton School Board



After seven years of dedicated service for Fullerton School District, Trustee Aaruni Thakur has announced he will step down from his role representing Trustee Area One at the end of September 2025. Reflecting on his tenure, Thakur expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve his communi-

ty, stating, "It has been the greatest honor of my life and most exciting professional endeavor."

Thakur's deep ties to the Fullerton School District began early in his academic journey. He started kindergarten at Orangethorpe Elementary, progressed to Nicolas Jr. High, and graduated from Sunny Hills High School, where he met his wife, Pamela. His family is also rooted in the district, with his older son, Kailash, attending Fisler and Raymond Elementary, while his younger son, Akash, was part of the inaugural class of the Spanish Dual Language Academy. Both sons later moved on to Ladera Vista Junior High School of the Arts and currently attend Troy High School.

In a heartfelt letter to the community, Thakur credited much of his personal success to the education he received within the Fullerton School District.

"My teachers taught me to work hard and dream big," he wrote, acknowledging influential figures like Mr. Bock, Mrs. Cogdill, and Mrs. Hollenbeck. Inspired by his formative years, Thakur returned to Fullerton after completing his education at UCLA and law school in San Diego, committed to giving back to the community that shaped him.

During his tenure, Thakur highlighted significant achievements in the district, including the incorporation of mental health, nutrition, and student safety as board goals. He praised the district's swift response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which allowed schools to reopen sooner than many others, thereby minimizing learning loss.

Thakur also expressed gratitude to Fullerton voters for the passage of Measure N, a bond measure aimed at building and repairing school facilities, and acknowledged the contributions of fellow Trustees Ruthi Hanchett, Vanesa Estrella, and James Cho, along with Trustee Beverly Berryman.

In his letter, Thakur thanked his parents for choosing Fullerton and extended special appreciation to his wife, Pamela, for her unwavering support.

"I am, and always will be, a proud Fullertonian," he concluded, assuring the community that he and his family would remain actively engaged in local initiatives post-tenure. "Thanks to every dedicated administrator, classified staff member, teacher, and all who serve our FSD family, I know our district's best days are still ahead of us."

#### LETTERS TO EDITOR

#### **High Speed Rail (HSR)**

Even without an HSR station, Fullerton residents will benefit from increased reliability for Metrolink and Amtrak service thanks to the addition of a fourth track. This will allow two tracks to be dedicated to passenger use, reducing conflicts with BNSF freight trains. As a daily Metrolink rider from Fullerton, I am looking forward to that.

\*\*Jatmes D.\*\* Fullerton\*\*

#### **Union Pacific Park**

And would ya look at that! We didn't even need to shift funds from the UP Trail to do it. What a miracle. Speaking earnestly, this is wonderful news and I'm excited to see this park be built.

Amy P. Fullerton

#### **Subscription Cancelation**

I am appalled at you people! I just read the Sept Issue of your communistic "community" newspaper!

Simply awful that you condone the breaking of our community, state and federal laws. Just awful.

Our country is great because of our laws, and the fact that you condone and support those who are here illegally is simply nauseating.

The ICE Agents are doing their job to keep us safe from foreign invaders. We currently over 50,000 military aged Chinese Nationals in the US unaccounted for!! 50,000, a not so small Army!! Print that! Damn you!

Cancel my subscription ASAP!!!

Gary Wilson Fullerton

#### Re: Fullerton supports ACLU lawsuit against illegal ICE raids

I am so disappointed in Council Member Nick Dunlap. He is such a nice person and then he doesn't show up for illegal kidnaping of people!

Janice Peters Fullerton

#### **RE:** Housing First

"Housing without rules does not work." Well there is no such thing as that anywhere for anybody.

What you seem to want is something else. Housing as some type of reward for good behavior. It's not a problem solving attitude.

Housing first, so you can BEGIN to solve the problems.

John H. Fullerton

#### Arboretum Parking No Longer Free

Please be aware that starting last month parking at the Arboretum on the weekends is NO LONGER FREE and costs \$6 and will soon go up to \$12 for 1-2 hrs using the Parkmobile parking app.

Parking at the Arboretum for 40 years use to be FREE to everyone, with a suggested donation of \$5 to the Arboretum.

So from being a free enjoyment open to everyone, especially to Fullerton families, CSUF has now monetized a visit to the Arboretum. Also, parking fees do not directly fund the Arboretum, and even volunteers now have to pay for parking. I will pass.

Steve Chapin Fullerton



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.

Subscribe now for \$39 a year and receive 21 issues delivered directly to your door.

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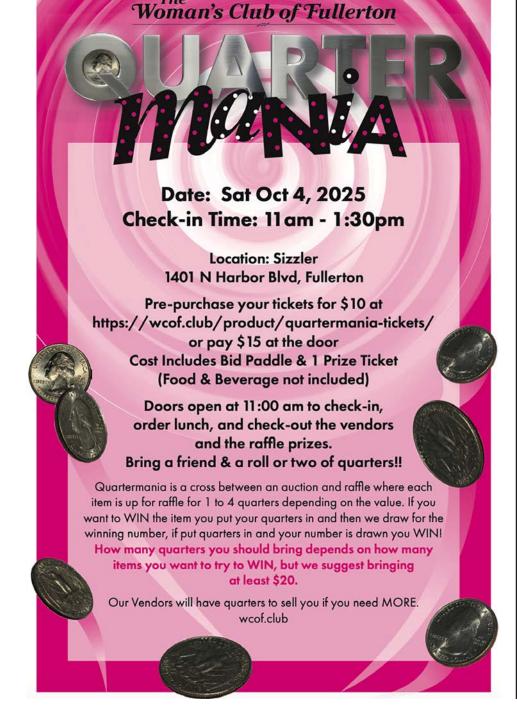
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NEXT DEADLINE FOR WRITERS & ADVERTISERS IS SEPTEMBER 29. THE EARLY OCTOBER ISSUE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON OCTOBER 6.





Left: Known for his grilling skills, Dr. Pletka has made it a tradition, with the help of his executive cabinet, to show appreciation for staff by hosting several BBQ lunches each school year. **Right:** *Dr. Pletka has* helped inspire, support, and uplift his staff, students, and families to dream big and innovate. He is shown here speakng at the district's second Tiny Home Project ribbon-cutting ceremony. Below: Dr. Bob Pletka addressing attendees of the 2025 FSD Summer Institute





# Fullerton School District Superintendent Dr. Robert Pletka Announces Retirement After 13 Years of Service

Dr. Robert "Bob" Pletka, the Superintendent of the Fullerton School District (FSD), has officially announced his plans to retire on February 1, 2026, after more than 13 years at the helm. In a heartfelt letter to the FSD community, Dr. Pletka expressed his profound gratitude to students, staff, families, and community members for their support throughout his tenure, describing his role as "one of the greatest honors of my life."

"This district is so much more than a system of schools—it's a true community, woven together by people who care deeply about children and one another," Dr. Pletka stated, reflecting on his time in office.

Under Dr. Pletka's leadership, the district has implemented various innovative instructional programs and expanded access to technology and personalized learning. His tenure has been marked by a commitment to ensuring that students are equipped with the necessary skills for their futures, all while upholding the district's motto, "Great Schools – Successful Kids," which emphasizes academic excellence, creativity, collaboration, and inclusivity.

"Dr. Pletka's leadership has left a lasting impact on the Fullerton School District," said Beverly

Berryman, President of the FSD Board of Trustees. "His vision for innovation, unwavering belief in our students, and ability to connect with people have significantly strengthened our schools and community. We are deeply grateful for his years of service and dedication to providing every FSD student with the opportunity to achieve success."

Dr. Pletka's career in education spans over 35 years, beginning as an elementary and middle school teacher in the Lake Elsinore Unified School District. He has held several leadership roles, including Director of Instruction and Technology at Covina-Valley Unified and Associate Superintendent at Vista Unified, before becoming Superintendent of El Centro Elementary School District and finally joining Fullerton in 2012.

A recognized authority on educational technology and 21st-century learning, Dr. Pletka has authored two notable books: "Educating the Net Generation: How to Engage Students in the 21st Century" and "My So-Called Digital Life." He holds a Doctorate in Education from the joint program at UC Irvine and Cal Poly Pomona, as well as Master's and Bachelor's degrees from National University and CSU San Bernardino, respectively.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Pletka has earned respect for his passion for nurturing a lifelong love of learning and his ability to unite the community during challenges and celebrations alike.

As he prepares to leave his position, Dr. Pletka looks forward to spending more quality time with his wife, Katie, along with their six children and grand-children. "I leave this role with deep appreciation—and deep peace—knowing that the Fullerton community will continue to care fiercely for its children and for each other," he reflected.

The Fullerton School District Board of Trustees is set to commence the search for the next superintendent in the coming months to ensure a seamless transition of leadership.

Serving over 11,000 students from transitional kindergarten through eighth grade, the Fullerton School District encompasses 15 elementary schools, two TK through eighth-grade schools, and three junior high schools. Unique programs such as a districtwide Speech and Debate program, which boasts six consecutive national championships, a Dual Language Academy, and a Performance Academy Sports Program highlight the district's commitment to enriching student education.



# Certified Farmers Market Returns to Independence Park

The popular Certified Every Wednesday 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 who 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.



AI is math,

not magic.

It is not

infallible

or all-knowing,

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educational tool.

## **Artificial Intelligence as an Educational Tool**

by Vivien Moreno

After 15 years of discussing 21stcentury education skills, Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs are creating an impactful way to supplement and enhance education.

There is plenty of concern around using AI for plagiarism and cheating, but AI use is more nuanced, and some educators find real-time benefits. The capacity to both understand AI's limitations and embrace its educational options depends on students', teachers', and administrators' collective quickness, flexibility, and resiliency and parents need to be engaged in the process, too.

The California Department of Education states unequivocally that technology cannot replace the importance of human interaction and relationships to build a solid education. Human relationships are imperative to teach others how to learn. AI programs facilitate more opportunities for humans to interact with one another because they organize data and offer options very quickly, allowing humans to decide what works best, and triggering people to think of greater creative possibilities.

Safety is a top priority, and digital citizenship education enables students and teachers to use AI to respond decisively to bullying situations, protect privacy, and provide social media awareness. Students require ongoing digital citizenship training against cyberbullying, deep fakes, ID misuse, social media abuses, and identifying false facts and scams.

Every research study on using AI concludes that it accomplishes dataintensive jobs faster, as long as users stay skeptical of AI outcomes and cross-check conclusions. This warns users to watch for potential AI glitches, and also brings the self-realization that the human brain is lazy and accepts AI conclusions without questioning outcomes, unless human skepticism is

trained into the process. AI is math, not magic. It is not infallible or all-knowing, and students and educators must be wary of overdependence on any educational tool. Checking conclusions should be part of training as well as identifying fake photos, news, and information derived from AI.

Responsible student exposure to AI programs in controlled environments empowers students to use them wisely, responsibly, and ethically to automate

lower-function tasks after students exploring AI programs and does not understand the procedure. It can foster time management and help develop critical thinking, analysis, and creative problem-solving.

Districts can provide intentional, ongoing training with ethical guidelines for instructors and students on the responsible use of educational AI applications. School board policies reflect their awareness of this fastchanging, unregulated technology's addition to security and universal access (every student should be able to utilize AI), ethical use standards require parent input for best practices.

FSD trustees include responsible technology use and training for students as one of their five elementary board goals. Students learn AI utility with district-vetted AI programs accessible on their school devices and discuss both positive and unacceptable uses of AI, reflecting their understand-

ing in age-appropriate stages beginning in kindergarten. Thinking about AI as a tool helps educators set reasonable goals, and digital citizenship training helps children take agency over AI applications.

FJUHSD's BP 6163.4 concerning technology use mentions AI applications in conjunction with academic honesty and copyright infringement, and focuses on inappropriate Educational use. Services Director, Dr. Josh Porter, said the district is

allow AI program access on district Chromebooks, but allows instructors to teach with AI programs for student interaction.

La Vista High School Mathematics Educator, Dr. Al Rabanera, recently spoke at the Aspen Ideas Festival about his utilization of AI in the classroom as an educational tool. Dr. Rabanera spends time learning about new AI applications while using AI to collate

impact on students and teachers. In his students' responses to focus on topics relevant to his students, identify alternative perspectives, and achieve lesson plans that engage students faster. Dr. Rabanera said AI-scanned written work shows him areas of student understanding and areas of challenges, allows him to individualize student lessons faster, and thus increase student access and cooperation in the learning process. Time saved also frees up his time to build better relationships with his students.

When he asked his students to use AI to explain the recent FJUHSD AI use guideline, they utilized various AI programs on their personal devices since FJUHSD blocks all AI apps on student Chromebooks. The students reported positive outcomes, gained tools to expand their vocabulary, examined the topic from various perspectives, and learned multiple ways to complete the assignment.

Educators can utilize AI tools to personalize lessons, granting greater educational access for special education and English language-learning students. Assessing lesson plans with AI tools provides multiple perspectives and identifies unconscious bias and equity issues. AI can help teachers take global issues while making lessons tailored to embedded communities and cultures.

School districts and boards need clear technology priorities supporting ongoing ethical training to control how AI is perceived and utilized responsibly by teachers and students, because AI use is here, and students will use it with skepticism and ethics or in ignorance and without guardrails.

#### **Cradle 2 Career Initiative Turns 5**

by Vivien Moreno

In 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom and the state legislature approved Assembly Bill 132, the \*Cradle 2 Career (C2C) initiative to create a single K-12+ public school student data repository. In cooperation with the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI), students utilize dashboards and CCGI to keep transcript records after changing districts, learn about aligning personal interests with career options, map out education pathways to achieve that goal, and streamline financial aid and admission processes. All student personal data is protected under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), but metadata points will be accessible to education researchers and school districts to support effective education revisions.

In four years, the C2C program has achieved many goals and reprioritized others, and also launched its first data platform this year. C2C reprioritized by focusing on high school students before expanding into earlier grades. Launched in August, the Student Pathways dashboard allows students in grades 6-12 to align their personal interests with multiple job positions, then offers higher education pathways to achieve their career dreams. CCGI allows students to fill out the Common Application for CSU and UC colleges in less than 30 minutes; FAFSA and CADAA financial aid forms are submitted faster too. C2C partners with existing scholastic programs serving students like AERIES, National Clearinghouse, Student and International Baccalaureate, so it did

not waste time "reinventing the wheel," but utilized existing data in a centralized location for students to use and for researchers to access. C2C is currently negotiating with the College Board, which oversees the Advanced Placement curriculum and assessments, and nationwide private universities to give students more choices.

C2C includes e-transcript, where teachers insert student course information into a central database calculating all student efforts, from dual enrollment to coursework from different districts, towards meeting their a-g requirement. This owns operator error and gives students more accurate information. A-g fulfillment qualifies students to directly enter UC and CSU schools as freshmen. In Riverside Unified School District, this program exposed a 15-point increase in graduating seniors' a-g compliance that was missed due to misidentified courses, non-inclusion of dual enrollment classes, or operator error.

Before the initial five-year plan expires, C2C will launch e-transcript statewide, connect smaller school districts to Wi-Fi (enabling access to the C2C programs), expand the Workforce data connection, launch the Quest research dashboard, and continue strengthening security measures protecting student personal information from data mining. The Quest dashboard provides data accessibility to researchers and public-school staff. Workforce data expansion includes industry agreements to expand career option pathways.

Students use CCGI as an effective and user-friendly way to explore career opportunities that align with their interests and strengths. C2C programs like CCGI give students data and efficient services so students can directly interact with higher education opportunities they qualify for academically and financially, instead of allowing others to decide if they are college material.

According to FJUHSD Education Services Coordinator Dr. Katie Wright, the district introduced the CCGI program to all students last October, with parents having the ability to have their children opt out of using the database. The soft launch gave counselors an opportunity to help some students access their transcripts, fill out applications, and apply for California colleges and financial aid. It worked well, but widespread family engagement to learn about the program has been challenging.

Students work with their academic counselors to reassess classes annually, aligning coursework with their goals. Through CCGI, counselors have one database to monitor transcripts, student's a-g completion rates, dual enrollment college classes, higher education applications, and financial aid submissions, all of which leaves them time to follow up with students to meet deadlines and get other support to transition to higher education.

According to Dr. Wright, the CCGI program received positive student feedback regarding ease of application submission and overall access. This year, with all students and counselors accessing CCGI, FJUHSD will get better response data on student ease of use. Dr. Wright also stated that FJUHSD still offers yearlong higher education in-person services like large college fairs, weekly site visits from colleges, career/trade information sessions, and college field trips. Parent information about CCGI is translated into Spanish and Korean. For more information, contact your student's academic counselor or the school site guidance counselor.

\*(https://c2c.ca.gov/)





## The Surprising Behavior of Pigs

by Alicia, 8th grade

Society often pigs sees muddy animals that roll around in the dirt. But they

are much more interesting than that; smart, social and even a little picky about how they live.

Contrary to popular belief, pigs are surprisingly clean. If they are given enough space, they will keep their sleeping, eating, and bathroom area separate. They prefer to stay organized, and not live in the sloppy mess most people imagine.

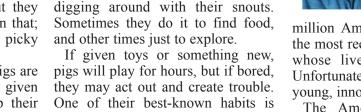
Pigs are also very social animals that like to be around other pigs. They live in groups and form strong friendships. Within the group, they decide who leads and who follows. They communicate using different sounds; grunts, squeals and snorts that can be interpreted as "I am hungry," "be careful" or "I feel good."

Like many creatures, pigs are naturally curious.

They love to root, which means digging around with their snouts.

wallowing in mud-sometimes with others. Since pigs cannot sweat, the mud helps them stay cool. It also keeps bugs away and protects their skin from the sun.

The next time you see a pig, you might notice it has more personality



Ultimately, pigs are more than just farm animals. They are smart, playful and social, with habits that make them unique.

than you expected.

### **Fevers Should be Favored** by Declan, 10th grade

Many of us have with struggled falling ill and the excruciating discomfort of a fever.

Although people often take painkillers or fever suppressant pills like Tylenol to ease their symptoms, these drugs can actually make the infection worse.

Fevers are a crucial defense in the immune system and, when controlled, should be welcomed to a certain extent.

As humans, we take our warmblooded nature for granted. Our bodies regulate a steady temperature around 37°C or 98.6°F, which makes us resistant to many pathogens like fungi. Sustaining this temperature in most circumstances requires extra energy, but it allows us to trigger a fever anywhere and anytime. In contrast, cold-blooded animals must move to warmer environments to raise their body temperature, which is why fish migrate to warmer waters when fighting infection.

A fever begins when the body's pattern receptors detect a viral component, triggering an immune response. Pyrogens, chemicals that cause fever, enter the bloodstream and signal the brain's temperature-regulating gland to raise the body's set heat. The blood prevent heat from escaping, and our skeletal muscles generate additional heat through shivering. This temperature increase enhances the body's defensive abilities by speeding up the production and effectiveness of immune cells and attacking proteins to locate pathogens and infected

As a result, pathogens in the body experience great stress and are destroyed. However, fevers can also impair the function of healthy cells, organs and systems-except the immune system—within the body.

In adults, dangerously high temperatures starting at 105.8°F will damage healthy cells and lead to organ malfunction or failure. Severe feverrelated illnesses, such as typhoid and yellow fever, remain life-threatening and account for nearly 200,000 deaths per year worldwide.

If fevers help fight illness but can also be dangerous, how should you respond when you have one?

According to the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, low-grade fevers are best left alone as they allow the body to naturally fight off infections. However, fevers above 102°F require the over-the-counter or prescribed medications to prevent complications. Though uncomfortable, fever is the body's way of pro-

#### **National Tackle Kids Cancer Day** by Mateo, 12th grade



Cancer is undoubtedly one of humanity's greatest challenges. Simply ask one of the 1.9

million Americans diagnosed in 2022, the most recent year with accurate data, whose lives changed in an instant. Unfortunately, cancer is something even young, innocent children must face.

The American Childhood Cancer Organization reports that, annually, 16,000 newborns and young adults in the U.S. contract some form of the disease. National Tackle Kids Cancer Day, observed each year on September 15, encourages the public to raise awareness and garner widespread support for children fighting the unthinkable.

This national recognition originates from the Tackle Kids Cancer program, organized by the Hackensack University Medical Center Foundation in 2017. After discovering that only 4% of the National Cancer Institute's annual budget was allocated to childhood cancer, the organization dedicated its services to starting fundraisers for young patients.

Their efforts led to great success, including partnerships with sports teams like the New York Giants and endorsements from many businesses and institutions. As a result, the organization set aside an entire day to support both the ones battling cancer and the determined researchers working to save their livescreating National Tackle Kids Cancer

If you want to make a difference in the lives of these young cancer patients, there are many ways to help. You can start a fundraiser in your community with friends and family. It could be a bake sale, a lemonade stand (especially in the summer heat), or any other local event. Either way, you will be engaging the community and spreading the word about the Tackle Kids Cancer program's mission. You can also take to social media to spread awareness.

A cancer diagnosis can shatter someone's entire world in an instant, especially that of a young child. But through National Tackle Kids Cancer Day, you can help support these kids and their families in their valiant fight.



# **Alopecia Awareness Month**

by Omika, 11th grade

As the leaves begin darken this September, let us turn our attention to a cause that impacts millions: alopecia.

Alopecia Awareness Month, led by the National Alopecia Areata Foundation (NAAF), aims to support and uplift those with this complex condition. Alopecia occurs when the immune system mistakenly attacks hair follicles, leading to hair loss that can manifest in a multitude of ways and affect people of any age. According to NAAF, pediatric alopecia areata affects 1 in 1,000 young people, and is most common in teens over the age of 12.

Alopecia includes, but is not limited to, alopecia areata (round patches or complete scalp hair loss), alopecia totalis (complete loss of hair across the scalp), and alopecia universalis (complete loss of all body hair).

Often dismissed as merely a cosmetic condition, alopecia treatments are rarely covered by insurance unless deemed absolutely medically necessary, leaving families to shoulder the cost even if they in support fails to support those who cannot afford wigs for their children, and overlooks the social and emotional toll of losing hair at any age. Thankfully, organizations like NAAF work to address this disparity by offering resources for families who are living through the diagnosis, as well as coordinating volunteer efforts, research funding and public outreach.

But these organizations cannot do it alone. So the question remains: how can we, as a Fullerton community, support these children and their families?

On Saturday, September 27, from 9 AM to 1 PM, NAAF is hosting a Walk for Alopecia fundraiser at Culver City Park near Los Angeles to raise funds for its continued efforts. Anyone is welcome to sign up and participate. Whether you have a personal connection to alopecia or simply a compassionate heart, your presence sends a message of hope, awareness and acceptance. Let us come together as a community and make sure no one walks this difficult path alone.

Register to walk or donate today at [https://naaf.donordrive.com/WFALosA



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FROM UNWRITTEN LANGUAGE TO THE PRINTED PAGE "NATIVE AUTHORS OF PANAMA"



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MUSEUM OF TEACHING AND LEARNING 247 E. AMERIGE AVENUE FULLERTON, CA 92832

**CELEB SALON DINNER & SPEAKER \* JANICE MUNEMITSU, AUTHOR** OCTOBER 5, 2025 @ 4:30 PM \* \$50 INDIVIDUAL, \$75 COUPLES

The Kindness of Color recounts the true story of two immigrant families in Southern California during WWII. Unexpectedly, the incarceration of the Munemitsu family enabled the Mendez family to fight for the desegregation of California public schools in the landmark court case, Mendez, et al v. Westminster, et al.

APPETIZERS AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT MOTAL

> **RSVP VIA EMAIL AT** INFO@MOTAL.ORG



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.MOTAL.ORG



## Los Coyotes, then and now

Vestiges of our pioneer days are still scattered around our berg, and some seem to be coming back, in full force.

In the 1870s, our hills were dubbed Coyote Hills due to the number of critters roaming around. On the east end, the hills have been developed, and there are few empty lots left in our downtown or elsewhere. The more ground we cover with concrete and asphalt, the more the natives move, adapt, and multiply.

Down below the hills, on any given day, we see possums, squirrels, skunks, raccoons, rabbits, and in the sky, hawks, ducks, and even Canadian geese. As recently pointed out here, Egyptian geese have also taken up residence in our parks, alongside egrets.

One would be hard-pressed to find anyone who spotted a coyote casually cruising downtown in the middle of the day 20 years ago, but now?



Day and night, warnings to keep our 'fur babies' inside, with sightings all over, all the time. Some hate them, some want to give them water or food—bad idea. With the growing popularity of raising chickens over the last five years, we have provided even more reasons for Coyotes to leave the hills.

This is a security camera image taken on the sprawling front lawn of a Fullerton home recently, two chickens down, likely more to go.

Here and there, large lots, some with multiple orange trees from the 20s like this one, plus vegetable gardens and a water supply, welcome the critters, who lived here first, finding greener pastures, and stayed, just like us.





Above: Highland entrance at the beginning Right: Highland entrance now Below: Grading in progress



# **Happy Trails For You**

The Union Pacific Trail, which was made possible by a nearly \$2 million state grant and additional city funds totaling \$480,000, (\$330,000 of which were provided by the city's park dwelling fund). That fund can only be used for parks and recreation projects or facilities, and it is collected through fees from new housing developments, not our tax dollars. The Phase II project broke ground on July 2, and now, with much of the grading completed, it is really taking shape.

For years, this stop-and-go project has been well-documented here in the

Observer (see the July 4 issue), as Phase I actually began nearly 20 years ago, and the last five years have seen a non-stop effort to make the trail a reality.

Here are a few images of the recent trail progress, including photos from Highland Avenue to the east and Independence Park to the west, plus the grading taking place along the way. Say goodbye to rubble, weeds, rocks, trash and hard-to-navigate surfaces. As you can see by the rendering, this will be suitable for bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, will promote outdoor recreation, and will be a safer route for all.

#### **Union Pacific Park**

This park will soon also be a welcome addition to South Fullerton, which really needs green spaces close by for kids, big and small, to gather and share some good times. The project has also been in the works for quite a while and is now at the point where the playground equipment is set to arrive. Thursday, September 11, was Prep Build Day, getting the site ready for volunteers to help bring the vision to life on Build Day, September 13. Once completed, we promise to reveal the final look here. It is said to be kid-designed, and will be a play space built by the community, for the community. (See Frontpage for more)



#### 3D RENDERING 1: INDEPENDENCE PARK TRAIL ENTRANCE

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



Last time: Diego and other Observer readers logically figured this would be a fast food restaurant with a drive-through, the way it looks. Perhaps some were recalling that for years, it was said the McDonald's just west of the site would be moving to that location. But no, it's going to be a new Chase Bank location. Here is an updated photo.



**This time:** Where is this, and what was Richard Nixon doing there?

# OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2025

"THAT'S HOT" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 15)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	
13			Г		14	Г			15	Π	Г			16
17			Τ	18		Г	Г		19	Г	Г			П
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			28	П	29	30		Г	Г	Г	Г	31	32	33
	34	35		П	Г		Г				36			П
37		Г	Т	Г	Г	Г		38	39	40		41		П
42	Т		Т				43		Г	Г	44	Г	T	
45	T	T	Т	46		47	Г	Г	Τ	Г	Г			
			48	П	49			Г		50	Г	51	52	53
54	55	56		57		Т		58	59	Т		60		П
61			62				63				64			П
65			Т				66	Γ			67			П
	68			П			69	Г			70			П

#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Totes
- 5. Steelers' org.
- 8. Hot dessert chocolate
- 13. Lincoln and Vigoda
- 14. Horse-and-buggy
- 15. Oomph
- 17. Hot new chicken place in Fullerton 54. Dynamite
- 19. Aftershock
- 20. Fashion designer Anna
- 21. Sci-fi craft
- 22. "Lost" actor Daniel Kim
- 23. 12th graders: Abbr.
- 24. Room at the top
- 26. Dickens's Heep
- 28. "HOT TO GO" singer
- 34. Veers suddenly
- 36. Idris of TV's "Luther"
- 37. Hot kitchen dramedy
- 38. Barbell abbr.
- 41. Treacherous, as winter roads

- 42. Toner target
  - 43. Hot scary summer movie
  - 45. Kind of whale
  - 47. Type of puzzle
  - 48. Italian ice cream
  - 50. Plumbing problems

  - 57. "Oh, brother!"
  - 58. "Murder, Wrote"
  - 60. Draft pick
  - 61. Hot plush doll
  - 63. Mad Hatter's drink
  - 64. Bygone autocrat
  - 65. Kyra Sedgwick series, with "The"
  - 66. Good name for a cook?
  - 67. Jazz trumpeter Al
  - 68. Luxury Hyundai sedan discontinued in the U.S. after 2017
  - 69. Hot seasonal drink: Abbr.
  - 70. Lost

#### **Down**

- 40. Tomorrowland mountain
- 43. Humor
- 44. One that gives a hoot
- 46. Dues payer
- 47. "The Brady Bunch" middle daughter
- 49. "Twin Peaks" Palmer
- 51. Recently reunited band currently touring the U.S.
- 52. Driving hazard
- 53. Sealy competitor
- 54. "Waterfalls" trio
- 55. "The Lion King" lioness
- 56. One member of 54-Down
- 59. Schlep
- 62. Take advantage of
- 63. Recipe amt.
- 64. Lil Wayne's " Block Is Hot"

#### **BOOKS WANTED** LARGE OLDER COLLECTIONS NGINEERING (30+ BOOKS) PHYSICS, PREFERRED MATH & TECHNICAL Call BOOKS Deborah: PURCHASED (714) 528-8297

# Why the Lord Come to SAND MOUNTAIN

a one-act play by Romulus Linney



"Why the Lord Come to Sand Mountain" is a 45-minute play with no intermission. The play is free, although donations are welcome.

#### Show Dates & Times:

Thursday, September 18 (preview) @ 8pm Friday, September 19 @ 8pm Saturday, September 20 @ 8pm Sunday, September 21 @ 12pm



#### Address:

Live Oak UCC Church, 300 East Imperial Hwy, Brea

## UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF TIMELY MEDICAL INTERVENTION

by Alicia Hsieh, contributing writer for Troy Preparedness Club

For history teacher Marie Chabanel, disaster preparedness is more than just a concept taught in classrooms. To her, it's a vital skill that can make the difference between chaos and safety. Her understanding of its importance was deeply shaped by the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

"Certainly, I think the experiences of 9/11 helped a lot of us to learn about disaster preparedness and also responding to situations," Chabanel explained. On that day, her husband was in New York City. Though he was not near the World Trade Center, witnessing the emergency response teams rushing to help left a lasting impression. "Watching responding teams go to the World Trade Center and knowing that there was a plan in place to be able to try to rescue people... definitely showed the importance of having a plan for a disaster of all kinds."

That experience reinforced her belief that planning ahead can save lives. In her daily life, Chabanel takes steps to stay alert and proactive. "I try to always look around to make sure that there's no one around that shouldn't be around and that students are making safe choices," she said. This situational awareness not only protects her but also helps keep her students safe during school hours.

Chabanel compares preparedness to teaching. When a teacher doesn't prepare for a lesson, things can quickly unravel. "If you don't prepare for a les-

son and you get up in front of a group of students, you don't do as well as you would if you had been better prepared," she explained. "Things don't go smoothly. Students don't necessarily understand as well." The same principle applies to emergencies; preparation leads to smoother, safer responses.

Living in Southern California, where earthquakes and other natural disasters are a constant possibility, Chabanel stresses the need for community planning. "I think that we all need to rely on each other and make sure that we talk about the potential of there being some kind of disaster," she said. She encourages families and neighbors to discuss plans ahead of time, so everyone knows how to act when disaster strikes.

Whether it's having an emergency kit, knowing evacuation routes, or simply checking in on one another, preparation is key. Chabanel's message is clear: by staying ready and working together, communities can face challenges with strength and resilience.

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.



- 1. Model material
- 2. " Last Night" (1986 romantic comedy)
- 3. "Understand?"
- 4. Retired boomer
- 5. Brand of foam darts
- 6. Cold, in Cancun 7. Angels, on the scoreboard
- 8. Fine point 9. Preposterous
- 10. Spelling contest
- 11. Outfits
- 12. Dr. Frankenstein's assistant 16. Mos. and mos.
- 18. Swindle
- 22. Dr. of rap
- 25. Lettuce type
- 26. and downs 27. Charlemagne's domain: Abbr.

31. "thirtysomething" actor Ken

- 29. Principal on "Abbott Elementary"
- 30. The "p" in m.p.g.
- 32. Fundamentals
- 33. Dissenting vote 34. Union workplace
- 35. " #1!"
- 37. Pulls a Charmin shenanigan, briefly
- 38. Building projects in the toy aisle
- 39. Humanities degs.

# HITS & MISSES

by Pamela Mason Wagner © 2025



#### THE ROSES. A HIT AND A MISS

The allure of The Roses is undeniable: a late-summer release with A-list actors, a sharp script, and plenty of visual flair. In a market dominated by superheroes, Benedict Cumberbatch and Olivia Colman starring in an adult comedy are reason enough to buy a ticket. Their performances, as expected, are excellent. Yet despite its pedigree, this big-budget Hollywood remake of Danny DeVito's 1989 The War of the Roses never quite adds up to a satisfying whole.

The story begins with Theo Rose (Cumberbatch), a London "starchitect," meeting Ivy (Colman), a sous chef, in a restaurant kitchen. A flirtation turns into a fling in the walk-in cooler, which soon leads to marriage, two children, and a move to Mendocino, California. Early on, the film mines plenty of humor from these fish-out-of-water Brits. A trip to the gun range with their American friends leaves Ivy and Theo rattled, their discomfort doubling as a sly critique of America's love affair with guns.

For a decade, Ivy raises the kids and cooks at home while Theo climbs the professional ladder. Sensing her frustration and wasted culinary talent, he encourages her to open a beachside restaurant. Unexpectedly, it blossoms into a runaway success—just as Theo's career collapses. Roles reverse: Ivy becomes the breadwinner while Theo stews at home, channeling his frustrations into molding their kids into Olympic hopefuls.

There's fertile ground here for a sharp, modern exploration of gender roles. Instead, the film leans on cheap laughs and stereotypes. Jobless, Theo is mocked as a man with "no balls," while Ivy's evolution from good mum

and loving wife to self-absorbed, materialistic entrepreneur feels thinly motivated. A more interesting script would have leaned into the social context, asking how an ambitious couple might navigate shifting power dynamics in a marriage. Instead, the energy of the first half fizzles once these deeply flawed characters dig in, refuse to compromise, and the war of the Roses ensues.

Visually, the film has its pleasures—particularly the dream house Ivy finances for Theo to design and build, perched above the Pacific. But once the house becomes the backdrop for cruel dinner parties and escalating revenge games, the humor curdles. A gun enters the picture, and for anyone sensitive to domestic violence, the jokes fall flat.

The supporting cast is uneven. Kate McKinnon, usually an enjoyable oddball, is miscast as Amy, a lusty housewife. Andy Samberg is wishy-washy as Amy's clueless husband Barry, Theo's best friend and later his divorce attorney. Both actors feel airlifted from an SNL sketch, and outmatched by the British pros. Only Allison Janney, as Ivy's razor-sharp lawyer, manages to find both the bite and the wit the script requires. Too bad her role is so brief.

Ultimately, The Roses can stand alone for audiences unfamiliar with the 1989 film. But for those who recall Kathleen Turner, Michael Douglas, and Danny DeVito's acidic original, this remake feels unnecessary. DeVito's framing character brought cohesion and turned the chaos into a cautionary tale. Here, Colman and Cumberbatch spar gamely but, without a moral anchor, the film loses its relevance.

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



#### **FULLERTON MUSEUM CENTER**

301 N. Pomona Ave

(714) 519-4461 | info@fullertonmuseum.com

#### Oct 1 & Oct 2 from 6 to 8:30pm Haunted Fullerton Walking Tour

Walking Tour
Tours begin at the Fullerton Museum
Center with a ghoulish cocktail mixer
hosted by your ghost guides. The tour is
around 1.5 miles of walking with some
stairs. This will be a new route with
even more haunting stories!

#### Oct 2 FROM 6 TO 8:30PM Unplug Thursday: Chris Cruz and Hëx Indigo

Thursdays in October for fun vibes and drinks at our Beer & Wine Garden. What's on Tap? Only the best! Beer, wine, and mixed drinks. All proceeds benefit the Fullerton Museum Center.

#### OCT 8 & OCT 9 FROM 6 TO 8:30PM Haunted Fullerton Walking Tour

Tours begin at the Fullerton Museum Center with a ghoulish cocktail mixer hosted by your ghost guides. The tour is around 1.5 miles of walking with some stairs. This will be a new route with even more haunting stories!

# OCT 9 FROM 6 TO 8:30PM Unplug Thursday: Tragically Delicious

Thursdays in October for fun vibes and drinks at our Beer & Wine Garden. What's on Tap? Only the best! Beer, wine, and mixed drinks. All proceeds

and Miswired

benefit the Fullerton Museum Center.

OCT 11 FROM 5:30 TO 9 PM

#### "Agnew: The Story of a California Family" Plaza Screening

If you missed the premiere, this is your second chance to experience this powerful film under the stars with fellow music and film lovers.

This is an outdoor event.

Preferred Seating ticket holders will have chairs provided.

General Admission ticket holders must bring their own chairs or blankets for lawn seating.

The Beer Garden will be open throughout the event.

Local vendors will also be on site. \$25 – Preferred Seating + Drink Ticket \$10 – General Admission (BYOC – Bring Your Own Chair)

Don't miss this night of film, music, community, and California punk history.

# OCT 12 FROM 12:30 TO 3 PM "Chinatown Punk Wars" Screening and Panel Discussion

Indoor Screening: "Chinatown Punk Wars" in the Wilshire Room at the Fullerton Museum Center

Join us for a special screening of "Chinatown Punk Wars", a powerful documentary exploring the intersection of punk music and identity in Los Angeles' Chinatown scene.

Stay after the film for a panel discussion with director Steven Kochones.

The Beer Garden will be open throughout the event. \$10 – General Admission

# CSUF CENTER FOR HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS FREE CLASSES

320 W Elm Ave | (714) 714-1416

EVERY THURSDAY FROM 9 TO 10 AM CHAIR ASSISTED FROM 10:15 TO 11:15 AM

#### Yoga

Relax, recharge, and find your balance with our free yoga sessions.

CADA LUNES Y MIERCOLES FROM 9 TO 10 AM

#### Zumba

Relax, recharge, and find your balance with our free yoga sessions.

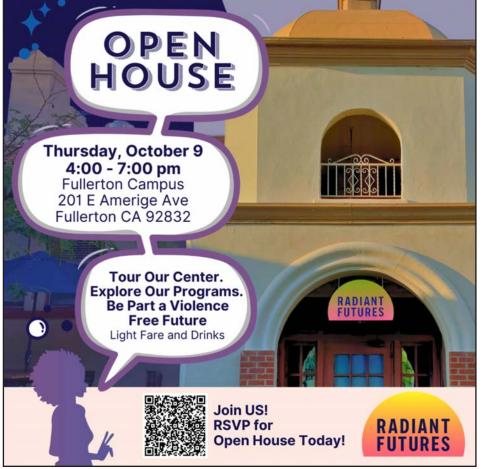
First Thursday from 5 – 7pm

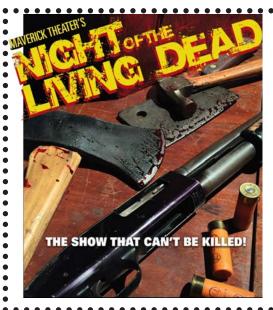
Demonstrativas de Cocina
For more info call (714) 441-3401



Oct 2 – Imitación de jaiba y Camarones Nov 6 – Tostadas

de tinga verde **Dec 4** – Arroz frito con pollo





ing magic show that will leave you spellbound.

full of fun and frights!

#### MAVERICK THEATER

110 E. Walnut Ave., Unit B (714) 526-7070 mavericktheater.com • \$33

**SEPT 19 - NOV 1** 

CALL FOR TIMES

#### Night of the Living Dead

The zombie classic that started it all! A group of panicked survivors are barricaded in a deserted farmhouse while a horde of flesh-eating zombies hovers outside their door. Will they survive? Will you? This is a one of a kind experience, perfect for the Halloween season.



# ARBORETUM AT CSUF

Sept 25

**Baylon Rockers** 

1900 Associated Rd. 657-278-3407 arboretum.fullerton.edu

#### SEPT 18 FROM 9:30 TO 11 AM • \$25 Tai Chi

Tai chi could be described as "meditation in motion" and is a gentle form of exercise that helps maintain strength, flexibility, and balance. Tai chi can lower anxiety and bring you a sense of quiet and calm.

Tai Chi is a martial art based on the theory of an ancient classic called "I Ching".

\*Class is located on covered walkway in front of Ayres Hall.

\*Class will be moved indoors due to

#### SEPT 19 FROM 5 - 7PM **Evening Stroll**

Members, and children under 12 General Public - \$10

Beat the heat and join us for a stroll around the garden featuring live music, fruit tasting, and fun activi-

#### THE MUCKENTHALER **CULTURAL CENTER**

1201 W. Malvern Ave 714-738-6595 | themuck.org (\$35 Non-Member; \$20 Member)

#### 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."

# Ост 2, 2025 7:30 то 9:30 рм

#### Darden

Leaning towards an Alternative, Modern Americana feel, DARDEN presents an experience of crystal clear harmonies, angelic melodies, and modern versions of classic songs and styles.



OktoBOOfest at the Downtown Fullerton Plaza

Join us for a fang-tastic time at Fullerton's OktoBOOfest on October 24th

from 4:30-8:30pm at the Downtown Fullerton Plaza! This spooktacular event

is perfect for the whole family, featuring trick-or-treat trails for the little

ghouls, a costume parade to show off your Halloween spirit, and an enchant-

Enjoy a stroll through the pop-up farmers market for some fall goodies, and

adults can sip on seasonal brews in the beer garden. It's going to be a wicked

good time, so grab your costumes and head to OktoBOOfest for an evening

To learn more, please check out our social media

@fullertonparksandrec or @cityoffullerton





Food, ride, and game 1316 N Acacia Ave, tickets will be available for purchase Fullerton, CA 92831

Friday (9/26): 5pm to 11pm Saturday (9/27): 3pm to 11pm Sunday (9/28): 3pm to 9pm

#### FRIENDS OF THE FULLERTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY Sept. 26 & Sept. 27



Time to start your holiday shopping

MAIN LIBRARY - CONFERENCE CENTER 353 W. COMMONWEALTH

FRIENDS MEMBERS ONLY\* OPEN TO THE PUBLIC \$3/BAG OR \$5/2 BAGS

Friday 10am -11am Friday 11am-4pm Saturday 10am-4pm

Saturday 2-4pm

\*You can buy membership at the door! Cash or Credit Card accepted

### **Public Notice of Observation Schedule for the November 4, 2025 Statewide Special Election**

Observation Schedule for the Nov 4, 2025 Statewide Special Election

The public is invited to observe as the Orange County Registrar of Voters conducts the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election. All ballot processing, counting, testing, and audits will take place at the Orange County Registrar of Voters Office, 1300 S. Grand Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705. Observers are also welcome to visit Vote Center and ballot drop box locations throughout the county to observe daily operations.

The start dates for significant election activities are listed below. Daily election activities are posted and updated on an observation calendar on the Registrar of Voters website – *ocvote.gov/observe*.

Start Date/Time	Observable Election Activity
October 6, 2025 8 am	Voting Preparation  The preparation and loading of ballots will take place prior to this date and/or time. Those interested in observing the preparation and loading of ballots can view our observation calendar at ocvote.gov/observe for the exact date and time. Ballots for all active registered voters in the county will be delivered to the U.S. Postal Service for mailing by this date. Voters may also visit the Registrar of Voters to be issued a ballot and vote.
October 7, 2025 10 am	Pre-Election Logic and Accuracy Test Accuracy testing of Orange County's voting system will start with the preparation of test ballots and will continue until all devices to be used in this election have been included in the test. It is expected that scanning of the test ballots will commence on Wednesday, October 7.
October 7, 2025 1 pm	Processing of Mail Ballots Mail ballot processing includes sorting, signature verification, collection and return operations, and duplication of the official ballots.
October 13, 2025 10 am	Counting of Mail Ballots Mail ballots accepted for counting are scanned. The votes on the scanned ballots may not be tabulated by the voting system, accessed by Registrar of Voters staff, or released until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4.
October 25, 2025 8 am	Vote Center Opens 32 Vote Centers open throughout the county to serve voters daily. An additional 34 Vote Centers will open Saturday, November 1. All 66 Vote Centers will be open through 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4. Processing of Conditional Voter Registrations and provisional ballots can begin.
November 4, 2025 After 8 pm	Tabulation of Ballots The votes from mail ballots processed and scanned by this day and in-person ballots cast at Vote Centers will be tabulated by the voting system. Unofficial Election Results Reports will be posted at 8:05 p.m., 9:30 p.m., and every half hour thereafter until all Vote Center ballots are tabulated.
November 5, 2025 10 am	Official Canvass During the Official Canvass, the Registrar of Voters continues to process mail ballots; accounts for all ballots that were issued, voted, and those that were not used; and completes audits. The Registrar of Voters is prohibited from completing the canvass before Tuesday, December 2.
November 6, 2025 11 am	One Percent Manual Tally At least 1% of all precincts will be randomly selected at this time. It is expected that the hand counting of all ballots from those precincts to verify the votes tabulated by the voting system software will commence on Friday, November 14.
November 14, 2025 8 am	Post-Election Logic and Accuracy Test The scanning of test ballots on all voting system devices will commence to confirm that the system is still tabulat- ing votes accurately.

### **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

## **Union Pacific Park Makes Progress**

continued from front page

The plans

for the

1.2 acre space

includes

the playground,

picnic areas,

renovated

benches.

a community

garden,

ADA upgrades,

and the addition

of basketball and

The City Council established a Union Pacific ad hoc committee and facilitated community surveys to gauge residents' priorities. These surveys highlighted safety and engaging programming as primary concerns, aligning with the broader goal of enhancing neighborhood security through increased recreational opportunities.

Saturday, September 13, 2025, marked a pivotal moment in the project's timeline, as the Kaboom initiative kicked off the installation of a new playground. The final design for the park has received the green light from both the Union Pacific Park ad-hoc committee and the

The plans for the 1.2 acre space include not only the playground but also picnic areas, renovated benches, a community garden, ADA upgrades, and the addition of basketball and pickleball courts.

City Council.

City officials are optimistic about completing the entire project by the end of the year. Currently, the park resembles a neglected dirt lot with an unusable basketball court, but the upcoming renovations aim to transform it into a vibrant community hub pickleball courts. that fosters pride and engagement among residents. The goal is to create a safe, inviting environ-

ment that enhances the overall quality of life in the neighborhood.

In a 2010 announcement, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) updated the public regarding the ongoing environmental investigation at Union Pacific Park, located at 141 West Truslow Avenue in Fullerton. The 1.7 acre park, situated in a bustling industrial, commercial, and residential area, had been fenced off and closed to the public as the DTSC assessed the extent of environmental contamination at the site.

"Public access was restricted while we evaluated the nature of the contamination and developed a proposed cleanup plan," a DTSC spokesperson stated.

The agency reassured residents that there was no immediate risk to public health, emphasizing its commitment to protecting both the community and the environment.

DTSC determined that hazardous chemicals linked to past operations on the site, which operated under various capacities from 1923 to 1998, including railroad tracks, a passenger depot, and a roofing company, were present.

Sampling results indicated hazardous levels of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and lead in the soil, necessitating a comprehensive

cleanup plan.

The investigation process began with a Remedial Investigation (RI), which identified potential contaminants, followed by a Feasibility Study (FS) to evaluate possible remediation strategies. Both studies received DTSC's approval.

The agency anticipated a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) address the contaminated soil, with plans to make it available for public review and comment in early to mid-2011. The DTSC planned to notify the community through a mailing that would outline how residents could participate in the upcoming cleanup process.

As the lead agency overseeing the investigation, DTSC remained dedicated to ensuring that the site was safe for future use. The cleanup actions were carried out responsibly to protect public health and the environment, but the park remained closed to the public by a chain link fence and abandoned despite other parks continuing to get funds and new features.

After a long-fought battle to complete the Union Pacific Trail Phase II, the Union Pacific Park finally received the attention it deserved. The community members are seeing their hard work come to fruition. This revitalization marks a pivotal moment in the push for improved community spaces and access to recreation in District 5.

Get notified by phone, text, email or TTD/TTY Register multiple locations to receive notifications.



# Register Today at www.AlertOC.org

Reciba notificaciones por teléfono, mensaje de texto, correo electrónico o TTD / TTY

Nhận thông báo qua điện thoại, tin nhắn, email hoặc TTD/TTY

전화, 문자, 이메일, 또는 TTD/TTY 로 통지를 받으세요.

## Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting September 8: Ongoing Capital Improvement Projects

The local community is abuzz with exciting developments as three major projects are currently underway, signaling a revitalization of public spaces. One of the standout initiatives is the construction of a new bike trail on Union Pacific Trail Phase II, which is progressing steadily. Construction crews have been seen cutting down curbs to facilitate the installation of the bike trail, while grading and irrigation work are also in full swing. Project managers are optimistic, reporting that the timeline remains on track for a ribbon-cutting ceremony before the year's end, allowing residents to enjoy the trail soon.

The Union Pacific Park revitalization will occur in two phases, with the first phase dedicated to a new playground. This project is expected to complement the bike trail, which runs along the park's northern edge, enhancing recreational options for families and individuals alike. Community members are

eagerly anticipating the completion of these projects, which promise to beautify the area and foster a sense of community pride.

Demolition work is underway on the site of the former kitchen at Independence Park, with plans to potentially convert the space into a new restroom in the future. An architect has been brought on board to assess the scope of work and ensure there are no underlying foundations that could impact the project. Once the details are finalized, a game plan will be developed. The project is expected to reach completion by summer next year.

Other changes at Independence Park have led to the Wednesday farmers market at the park, where it has been well received. A survey is currently available at Independence Park for visitors to provide feedback, and results will be reviewed and scheduled for the coming weeks.

## Fullerton Parks and Recreation Celebrates Community Engagement

with enthusiasm, hosting several significant events that brought the community together. The Pop Warner Football League held its opening ceremony on August 16 at Lions Field, marking the beginning of a new season with team introductions and a kid's ball drop fundraiser in collaboration with the local fire department. Followed closely, Fullerton City Football Club also celebrated its inaugural opening ceremony on August 23 at Lions Field. This event featured various familyfriendly activities, including food trucks that engaged attendees and created a festive atmosphere.

This summer, Fullerton introduced Movies in the Park series, which saw attendance grow dramatically from around 50 participants at the first screening to approximately 150 at later showings, underscoring the community's enthusiasm for such gatherings.

The Friday Night Live concert series was hosted at the Sports Complex. The series featured five bands and was sup-

Fullerton kicked off its fall season ported by numerous sponsors and food trucks, providing local families with an opportunity to enjoy live music in a vibrant outdoor setting.

In addition to these events, the community held a community yard sale on August 2, with plans for another on October 4, which will be the last for the year. The yard sales have seen increasing vendor participation, attracting more shoppers eager for unique finds.

The downtown Farmers Market will close September 25. The market has expanded into fall with themed events, including a special NFL kick-off celebration that featured an entertainment trailer and a jersey day.

Finally, the Wednesday Certified Market moved to Independence Park, starting August 6, after years at the Fullerton Community Center. It will be open every Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 pm. The market offers a wide selection of fresh produce, eggs, honey, plants, nuts, and bread, with plans for expanding vendor offerings in the future.



# LION'S FIELD TO UNDERGO MAJOR TURF REPLACEMENT

Lion's Field, located at 1440 N Brea Blvd, will replace its aging synthetic turf originally installed in 2012. After a decade of use and numerous repairs, the turf has surpassed its recommended lifespan, particularly in high-traffic areas like the batter's box and pitching mounds. The city has allocated \$2 million for the project, funded through capital improvement and pipeline fee sources.

The KYA Group submitted the most competitive bid among three vendors evaluated under California Multiple Award Schedules (CMAS). The project will involve the removal of approximately 216,000 square feet of old turf and the installation of advanced synthetic turf with durable dual fiber blades and an organic-based fill to minimize heat and environmental impact. The new design will feature permanent inlaid striping for various sports, eliminating the need for temporary paint.

City officials are focusing on quality assessments, informed by site visits to other parks. KYA Group's previous success at Pico Rivera Smith Park strengthens their proposal, given their extensive experience with football field projects.

The new turf design will include temporary bases for stability at pitching mounds, avoiding permanent inground sleeves that could damage the surface. User feedback has highlighted the need for four dedicated softball fields and a fifth field for 6U teams, aiming to optimize scheduling and reduce conflicts during games.

The redesign also plans to incorporate a cohesive watermark down the center of the field and various innovative cooling technologies, with proposals from KYA and Shaw Sports Turf under consideration. KYA's Tencate product features temperature-regulating GeoCool infill, while Shaw's Game On Technology 2.0 is noted for its cooling capabilities.

Additional upgrades include replacing vandalized wooden dugout benches, enhancing field goal posts, and installing modern, Wi-Fi-enabled scoreboards to improve user experience.

The Lions Conference Room at the Fullerton Community Center is also set for updates, including a shade structure over the bleachers at the football field to address heat concerns during events. This will streamline the purchasing process through a cooperative agreement.

Lastly, the project will replace existing wooden dugouts with new ones for designated seating, alleviate crowding, and enhance safety with technologydriven field goal post installations.

These upgrades aim to enhance Lion's Field as a vital space for community sports and recreational activities.

#### Upcoming Events in Fullerton: A Schedule of Fun and Community Engagement

Fullerton is gearing up for an exciting lineup of events this fall that promises entertainment for all ages.

First up, the Parks and Recreation Department invites residents to the **Boots Bash** on September 20 from 3 to 7 pm. This lively event will offer a variety of activities for both kids and adults, including a mechanical bull, bounce houses, face painting, and a line dance instructor, all accompanied by live music from the band Outlaw.

On the same day, from 10 am to 1 pm, the **Fullerton Cup Park Golf Tour** will take center stage. This inaugural tournament will provide participants with access to 18 holes and all necessary equipment. There will also be food available, ensuring a fun-filled day of golfing and community engagement.

Mark your calendars for **Gourds of the Year**, scheduled for October 4 at Independence Park from 9 am to 1 pm. This annual event will celebrate the fall season with a variety of family-friendly activities.

Another highlight is the return of **Pup-toberfest** on October 11, taking place at the Hunt Branch Library from 12 to 4 pm. This pet-friendly event will feature a live band, a dog fashion run-

way show, dog racing, and various vendors catering to canine companions. A beer garden will also be available, making it one of the year's standout events for dog lovers.

The **OctobooFest** will follow on Thursday, October 24, from 4:30 to 8:30 pm. This festive tradition will include a mini-parade that extends outside the market, offering kids the chance to trick-or-treat and visit local businesses. Attendees can also enjoy live entertainment, vendor booths, a farmers' market, and numerous activities designed for children.

Additionally, residents are encouraged to save the date for **Veterans Day** on November 11, which will feature a parade leading to Hillcrest Park, culminating in a ceremonial event. Details are still being finalized, but organizers promise more information will be released soon.

Finally, the city will host its first-ever **5K run** on November 22 at the Sports Complex, inviting the community to participate in a healthy and fun outdoor activity.

With a range of events on the horizon, Fullerton residents can look forward to a season filled with fun and community spirit.

## **City Meetings**

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

October 6 at 4pm
Transportation & Circulation

#### **How to contact your District Representative**

- Mayor District 1: Fred Jung (714) 738-6311 fred inne@cityoffullerton.com
- fred.jung@cityoffullerton.comMayor 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

Equal justice

disappears

when race

and ethnicity

constitute

"sufficient cause"

to stop, interrogate

and arrest people.

I have come to admire

Gavin Newsom for taking

soul to Donald Trump in

ways that maddens him

and his supporters.



# Opinion: Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2025 • Jonathandobrer.substack.com

## **Supreme Court** Rips Lady Justice's Mask Off

The Supreme Court yesterday (September 8, 2025) threatened to put a knife into the very heart of what gives this nation any claim even to aspire to exceptionalism by allowing race, ethnicity and language (accent!) to be sufficient cause to stop and question suspected violators of immigration laws. We inevitably fall short of our highest aspirations, yet we hold them as worthy goals. We take pride in being a nation of laws, while acknowledging that we sometimes fall short.

We have never been a nation where Lady Justice truly covered her eyes so as not to see race, class or religion but only the law. She always peeked but, and this is the point, she wasn't supposed to, and we weren't supposed to tolerate her peeking. We have never been truly color blind. We saw race. We knew that "driving while Black" could lead to an unwarranted stop, frisk or arrest. We knew that being Brown in a public place could get you into trouble. We knew that being identifiably Asian could lead to violence, persecution, incarceration and deportation—depending on which Asian you appeared to be and when.

Persecution (except Segregationist South) was not legal. It was often widespread but not legal. That has just changed, and the results will be devastating to all of us-minority or not.

There is a vast difference between traditions and folkways of intolerance and making it legal. It is one thing for an individual business to have a sign that says No Jews, Blacks, Asians, Irish or Dogs and have that policy manifest in the law. Illegal, but practiced, is bad; making it legal is far worse. We know because

we have clear precedents in history.

In 19th-century Vienna, there was much anti-Semitism both personal and institutional. Though legally emancipated in 1867, Jews faced strong anti-Semitic backlash as their population grew from 6,200 in 1860 to 150,000 by 1900. Jews were restricted from education by strict quotas and even exclusion. They were kept in seperate neighborhoods. They were kept from an

increasing number of professions, from the arts to academia. Their stores were picketed and vandalized, and they were labeled eternal enemies of the German people (in Austria!).

Dr. Karl Lueger, a renowned anti-Semite, was the Mayor of Vienna from 1897 to 1910. He took anti-Semitic customs, some dating back to Medieval times, and made them into laws. So, while Jews had suffered discrimination, and much of it was not illegal, making it legal was a disaster to

> the Jewish people in Vienna.

While upper-class successful Jews fared somewhat better than recent immigrant working-class escapees from Poland and Eastern Europe, even the most successful artists, musicians, scientists and philosophers suffered.

This persecution, from being only traditional,

then legal and now illegal, still exists. When I was a student in Vienna in the '60s, Freud's bust was displayed at the University of Vienna in a double culde-sac hidden from the "real Viennese" scholars. Psychiatry was known as a "Jewish Science"—not a real science. The great Vienna Philharmonic was 50% Nazi by 1938, and while Jews were "invited back" in 1945, today there are only two Jews. The legacy

of de jure discrimination is lengthy.

The Supreme Court's shadow docket's ruling, unexplained but with withering dissents, allows perceived race, ethnicity, language and skin color to constitute sufficient cause to stop and interrogate a person. They have legalized stopping people for driving while Black, working while Brown and living while Asian. Maybe I shouldn't worry because surely, they'd never extend it to the size and shape of a

Not since Korematsu, which legalized the arrest of ethnic Japanese, even American citizens, has the Supreme Court tortured our Constitution so. While the outrageous presidential immunity might lead to the replacement of democracy with the divine right of kings, it deals with only one position. This ill-considered ruling strikes at the heart of equal protection, the Fourth Amendment and our better angels that would counsel us to see individuals and not colors, races and ethnicities.

This government and its unholyowned subsidiary, the Supreme Court, which so opposes seeing any race other than white singled out for advantage, is happy to find that race counts when thinning the herd. This does just what Lueger did and converts traditional oppression into legally supported oppression. This has not ended well in the past. Nor will it end well in the future.

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

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

## A Reflection on Newsom's Approach and the Broader Political Landscape

Newsom's redistricting plan is a necessary evil. His plan to clear California's streets of homeless encampments is not.

What are the biggest stereotypes about homeless people?

That they are drug addicts, mentally ill, physically filthy and disordered individuals. Some of those poorlyworded epithets do apply to certain homeless individuals, but not the homeless as a whole. In Gavin Newsom's campaign to address encampments, he has fallen victim to some of those same stereotypes.

Take the language he used in his recent declaration to institute a State Action for Facilitation Encampments Task Force: "No one should live in a dangerous or unsanitary encampment..." I imagine, then, it would come as a shock to the governor to learn that many in those encampments, based on personal experience, consider jails and shelters to be even more dangerous and unsanitary. It also ignores the ingenuity shown by many of the unhoused in constructing their encampments-some even have running water and electricity, and a sense of community in which resources are shared freely.

I do not think Gov. Newsom's Task Force is without merit, and I believe his intentions to be sincere. But he is ignoring an obvious solution to the unhoused issue: housing. Warehousing the homeless in jails and shelters will only lead to increased violence, sexual abuse and disease spread. Anyone who's spent any time in a shelter or jail will tell you that they are Petri dishes for assaults, viruses and bacteria. It would make as much sense to put the homeless in emergency rooms.

I've pointed out the advantages and

successes of Housing First programs ad nauseam. Now the time has come to act; to declare a true War on Homelessness with supportive housing

a solution. Anything less is a bandage over a gaping wound.

While I continue to the battle for this country's also be troubled by his homeless stance, I have come to admire Gavin Newsom for taking the battle for this country's soul to

Donald Trump in ways that maddens him and his supporters. By adopting Trump's ranting style to his social media posts, and constantly pointing out that red states have even worse crime problems than blue states, he is doing what few in Congress and the media seem willing to do: openly confronting Trump with his own BS.

Sir Thomas More, who was an expert in dealing with narcissists (Henry VIII), wrote that "the proud spirit cannot endure to be mocked." Mark Twain and C.S. Lewis are among the august company that echo that statement. I'd like to think that More would admire Newsom's technique, for what it lacks in finesse, it makes up for in sheer chutzpah. Newsom is using Trump's own rhetorical style against him, revealing him for the empty suit that he

We don't all have as big a soapbox as Gavin Newsom's, but that's no reason why we can't use it in the same way. Every insult, every nickname, every bit of mockery has a chance of getting under Trump's thin skin and making him even more irrational. And if we keep doing it, then perhaps more of our elected representatives will be aware that they are defending an empty suit of a man and will not be forgiven by history for doing so.

I'd also like to offer a belated "Welcome back" to Jimmy Kimmel, who has been one of the late-night hosters vying to see who can get Trump to say the worst things about them. The more often that Trump berates Kimmel, Jimmy Fallon,

Stephen Colbert and Seth Meyers, the more they are getting to him. And with "The Daily Show" back from break, we can look forward to even opprobrium more directed Trump's way.

A word of warning: between the non-stop mocking and Trump's rapidly deteriorating mental and physical health, we may be seeing President Vance before Donnie's second term is complete.

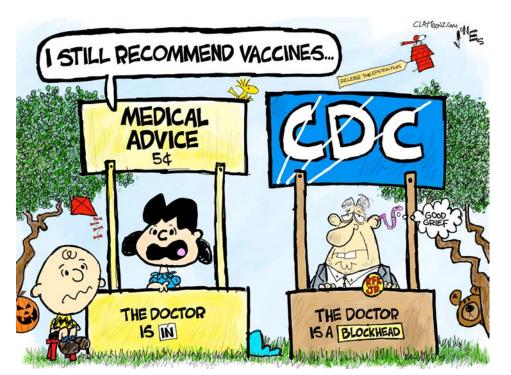
What dangers Vance represents, and in what ways he will continue his pre-

decessor's pogrom against the federal government, needs to be on the table for discussion immediately. But it seems pretty clear from his public statements that JD intends to support Dear Leader's continued efforts to dismantle health care, support of veterans and the disabled, and anyone else that doesn't qualify as a "winner."

If you're a realist, you know that having Vance in office will be like having a younger, but equally incompetent Trump behind the Resolute Desk.

Can Vance be reasoned with? Or will he be as inflexible as the Orange Man? Those are the questions we must answer in the next few months, or weeks, because we truly don't know how bad Trump's health is, and if Vance is already being groomed for the

But anyway, keep protesting, keep calling, keep writing letters, keep flying flags from your cars and everything else you've been doing to protest the Trump badministration. I promise you, it is having an effect, and that effect will accelerate as Trump's deficits





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

#### **NURTURING INDEPENDENCE:** A Fresh Perspective for Parents

One of the most challenging stages of development for parents is adolescence. During this time, teenagers are on a journey to discover who they are and where they fit in the world. This stage is marked by increased psychological independence, experimentation, and boundary testing, accompanied by hormonal changes that can lead to mood swings and impulsive behav-

A friend of mine faced a problem with her daughter staying up late. The daughter was texting friends late into the night because she didn't want to miss out on what was happening. Concerned about her daughter's health and declining grades, the mother initially tried a cognitive-behavioral approach, aiming to be caring and understanding of her daughter's social life. However, she felt compelled to take away her daughter's cell phone at 7pm on school nights.

When this strategy didn't work, she resorted to nagging and yelling, which only resulted in resistance from her daughter. This dynamic led to power struggles between them, deepening the rift and diminishing their communica-

I introduced the mother to the "Let

Them Approach." With this method, she expressed her concerns about her daughter's health and grades while allowing her to experience the consequences of her choices. As a result, the daughter began to understand that she was in control of her behavior regarding sleep and was responsible for the consequences of staying up late. This approach eliminated yelling and nagging, and over time, her daughter matured and developed positive decision-making skills.

By adopting this method, the parent created a calm and peaceful home environment. The mother listened to and empathized with her daughter's feelings of tiredness due to a lack of sleep and refrained from micromanaging her life, allowing her daughter to maintain control.

This approach resembles cognitivebehavioral therapy but empowers the adolescent. From my experience as a clinical psychologist, I have learned that "one shoe does not fit everyone." I encourage you to try this approach; it may work for your teenager. If it doesn't, consider seeking help from a therapist or psychologist who has a strong working background in teenagers.



# **Balance & Change**

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

## The Stigma of Asking for Help: Why We Should Embrace Support

Is it okay to ask for help? Many people have a very difficult time with this.

Perhaps they got the message that people who ask for help are weak. Or they got the message that they are not worthy of help. Or that they would become a burden. There are so many reasons why we do not ask for help. But let's flip it.

How do you feel when someone you care about asks for help?

Perhaps you know something is going on in your friend's life. You are aware of the troubles they are facing. You probably want to help, which is generally how we feel when someone we love is suffering, but you have no concerned about stepping on toes. Or you may have been given the message that offering help to someone can be perceived as disrespectful.

So, what to do?

Talk!

If you need help, ask those who love you to help! If you see someone that you care about is struggling, ask what the best way is for you to support them.

Ask questions in a loving, supportive way. Even if all you can do is offer a hug, that can be huge. Let people know, even if it is something small, what would be helpful.

Yes, we are on a journey, but we are clue what would be helpful. Or you are not on it alone! Be there for each other.

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# James "Jim" W. Vanderburg 1934-2025 "I would like to believe I've made a difference

for the creative thinkers and risk takers." -Jim Vanderburg

James "Jim" W. Vanderburg passed peacefully in his sleep on the morning of July 22, 2025, at Morningside of Fullerton.

Born in Hospers, Iowa, in 1934, Jim lived a full and remarkable 90 years, defined by love, family, friendship, and service.

Jim shared a 69-year marriage with his Fullerton Union High School sweetheart and beloved wife, Willa (Stedman) Vanderburg. Together, they built a life rooted in love and commitment, raising three sons: Mark of Corona, California; Wayne of Springfield, Missouri; and Jeff, who preceded him in passing in 2019.

Their family grew to include daughters-in-law, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, who

carry forward his legacy of kindness, laughter, and resilience. Jim is also remembered with love by his sisters Sandra Hayes and Joyce Selix, his sister-in-law Shirley Laroff, and a large extended family of nieces and nephews.

In 1961, Jim and Willa purchased Crown Printing in Brea, later moving it to Fullerton in 1968. For more than four decades, Crown thrived under their leadership, serving as a cornerstone for the local community. Beyond their business endeavors, Jim and Willa devoted themselves to volunteerism, generously sharing their time and talents.

Jim's greatest passion was his more than 60 years of service to Rotary, from his involvement with the Rotary Clubs of Brea and Fullerton

to his leadership on the global stage. He dedicated himself to advancing Rotary's mission of Service Above

He was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of Rotary International, which governs 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries worldwide. Jim and Willa are listed as Major Donors to Rotary International Foundation, helping to make a lasting impact on countless lives around the world.

Representatives from Rotary International will honor Jim's extraordinary contributions and enduring legacy on October 15 at a special meeting of the Rotary Club of Fullerton (further details at fullertonrotaryclub.com).

Those who wish to make charitable donations to honor Jim's life may consider the Fullerton Rotary Foundation.

Above all. Jim will be remembered



as a devoted husband, a loving father and grandfather, a loyal friend, and a man of unwavering integrity. His gentle humor, steady wisdom, and generous heart enriched the lives of everyone who knew him.

A private family gathering will be held at Memory Garden Memorial Park in Brea, where Jim's ashes will be interred at a later date.

### Mary Elizabeth Winfrey 1931-2025

Mary Elizabeth Winfrey, age 93, Hospital, La Habra Community passed away peacefully and entered Hospital, her eternal life with God on Hospital, retiring at the age of 82. September 7, 2025.

Mary was born on December 14, 1931, to Arsen and Eliza Matossian and was a longtime resident of Fullerton.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Calvin Winfrey, and her siblings: five John James Matossian, Matossian, Paul Matossian, David Matossian, and Lucille Isenburg.

After graduating from high school, she earned her degree as a registered nurse. Mary enjoyed a fulfilling nursing career at Hollywood Presbyterian and Placentia-Linda

Mary cherished spending time with

her family, gardening, reading, attending Angels games, bowling, and cooking.

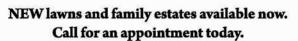
She is survived by her three children: Daniel Winfrey (Kimberly), Randall Winfrey (Diana), and Barbara Winfrey, as well as six grandchildren: Joshua Winfrey, Rachel Winfrey, Taylor Barnes,

Shelby Barnes, Jessie Howorth, and Katie Howorth.

Mary's warmth, caring nature, and vibrant spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

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# **City of Fullerton Employment**

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#### Associate Planner

Salary: \$83,185 to \$106,169 Annually Job Type: Regular Full-Time Job Number: 2025-00129 Department: Community and Economic Development Division: 2312-Planning

The Planning team is looking for an Associate Planner who's ready to take on exciting, hands-on work that makes a real difference in our community. This is a journey-level role where you'll dig into complex projects, work with great people, and see your efforts take shape in the neighborhoods, businesses, and public spaces around you.

#### **Community Services Leader Series - Community Center**

Salary: \$16.50 - \$17.00 Hourly Job Type: Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)

Job Number: CSL-CC-2023

Department: Parks and Recreation Applicants selected for Fullerton Community Center positions will have the exciting opportunity to deliver the highest quality customer service to a diverse group of patrons. The Community Center acts as the front line and resource center for the Parks

#### **Community Services Leader** Series - Park and Trail

Salary: \$16 - \$16.50 Hourly Job Type: Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)

Job Number: CSL-PT-2023

& Recreation Department.

Department: Parks and Recreation

Park and Trail staff may work at the front counter of a sports facility and/or provide supportive services to multiple facilities. Hours worked per week may vary and include evenings/weekends.

#### **Community Services** Leader Series **Youth Services Division**

Salary: \$16.50 - \$17.00 Hourly Job Type: Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)

Job Number: 01 - Youth Srvcs Div Department: Parks and Recreation

Applicants selected for the Youth Services Division will have exciting opportunities to make a significant impact in the lives of children and families participating in the City's many after-school, teen, and summer programs. Duties in this division cover a broad range of experience, and may include a lead role in planning and implementing special events, creating marketing publications and social media posts, coordinating donations, planning and supervising youth and teen programming, data collection and analysis, and coordinating the work of City volunteers.

#### Director of Administrative Services

Job Type: Regular Full-Time Job Number: 2025 - Dir of AS (#2) Department: Administrative Services Closing Date: Continuous

The City of Fullerton is recruiting for a highly experienced Director of Administrative Services to manage the day-to-day activities of Administrative Services Department. The successful candidate will have a broad background in municipal finance and a strong track record of success in managing a multi-faceted organization. The new Director will work closely with the City Manager's Office and will be directly responsible for a 31 full-time employees, with an operating budget of \$5.6 million.

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# OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

ANSWER KEY TO "THAT'S HOT" on no 7.



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

^					WER RET TO THAT SHOT OH pg 7.											
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# VIDEO OBSERVER

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# Discovering Brea's Sculptural Art in Public Spaces

On a sweltering Sunday afternoon at the very end of August, I had a chance to visit Brea Gallery's exhibition, "Mapping the Landscape: A 50 Year Dialogue with Art + the Community," with my family. We had read online that there would be free admission to the art gallery on the Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend if we mentioned the words "Fresh Air" at the reception desk.

The show was free since the citysponsored gallery was celebrating its current Fresh (AIR) artist-in-residence, Cody Lusby, through a weekend program in which visitors could collaborate on postcard-making activities with the artist. I appreciated the event, but enjoyed the gallery's exhibition even more. The show, "Mapping the Landscape," highlighted works from different sculptural artists who have contributed to the City of Brea's Art in Public Places Program. This piqued my interest and made me want to learn more about the public art initiative, while also inspiring me to search for the various outdoor sculptures located throughout Brea.

Established in 1975, Brea's Art in Public Places Program was one of the "first art in private development programs in the state," according to the city's website. The way it works is that businesses developing a commercial propert over a certain value have to commission sculptures to display on that property. These artworks are then put through an extensive review process by the city, and once approved, are installed in publicly visible areas for people to enjoy.

"Through this initiative, private developers in Brea are required to install permanent outdoor sculptures that are accessible for the public to experience and enjoy," reads the museum wall text at the start of the "Mapping the Landscape" exhibition.

I learned through reading the program accompanying the Brea Gallery show that the Brea City Council started this review process in 1984, when a city-sponsored "Art in Public Places" manual (APP for short) was made to establish requirements for developers. This APP Manual, which is available online and includes requirements on sculpture ownership, mainte-

nance responsibilities, and a detailed breakdown of the sculpture approval process, has been revised and updated in the years since it was established. The most current version was approved in 2021.

Fortunately, for those of us interested in observing Brea's public art sculptures, there are at least two different interactive maps available online that have been designed to make it easier to locate the over 195 sculptures that have been created since the city's outdoor collection first started.

The map that I thought was the easiest to navigate can be found at Brea's *ArtinPublicPlaces.com*, a website established by Dena Sommer and Terry Sullivan. The reason I liked their MapHub map so much was that it divided the City of Brea into four different color-coordinated sections for four different driving tours, with little dots corresponding to outdoor pieces in each area of the city. I could then click on the dots dispersed across the city map to distinguish between the Art in Public Places pieces and companion pieces.

The second online interactive map of Brea's sculptural art installations that I thought was useful can be accessed through the City of Brea website.

I found each piece in Brea's Art in Public Places Program to be unique to this area of North Orange County. The oldest sculptures in Brea date back to the mid-to-late 1970s, while the most contemporary ones were installed from the early to mid-2000s to the present day.

The week after visiting the "Mapping the Landscape" exhibit, I took some time to check out the public art sculptures by driving north from Fullerton up Brea Boulevard. Just driving into the downtown area on this street alone, I spotted 21 different pieces by artists including Sergio O'Cadiz, Joan Carl, Robert Holmes, Karen Heyl, Aris B. Sherwood IV, Carlos Terres, Marsh Scott, Guy Angelo Wilson, Laddie John Dill, Gregory Hawthorne, Marsh Scott, Cheryl Ekstrom, Meg Cranston, Essie Pinsker, Charles O'Perry, Gerard Basil Stripling, and Archie Held.

Some of the more notable sculptures in the northeast area of Brea include "Orange Grove Fountain" by Meg Cranston on the south side of Birch at Walnut, and "The Brea Angel" by Cheryl Ekstrom on the northwest corner of Brea Boulevard and Birch near the Regal Cinema. I remember seeing water in the "Orange Grove Fountain" during the summertime when I was growing up and was in the area to see the \$1 family movies at Regal Cinema with family and friends.

North of Central Avenue on Brea Boulevard is another really unique public art piece titled "Sunburst" by Sergio O'Cadiz, which is a 16-foot-tall pillar. It appears both ancient and modern at the same time, with a human-esque face in the center of a sun, symbolizing Cadiz's passion for Chicano culture and lost Mexican civilizations.

One of the more contemporary pieces of public art on the southeast side of Brea is a multi-colored art installation made in 2022 titled "Pollination," which is by Dixie Friend Gay and consists of a mosaic wall highlighting plants native to Southern

California, with three fantastical flower and seedpod sculptures situated near the mural. Public art sculptures, such as these help bridge the gaps between Brea's past and present, beautifying suburban neighborhoods and industrial areas in the process.

With over 195 sculptures commissioned over the past fifty years, Brea has one of the largest civic art collections in California, so the next time you're driving through the city just north of Fullerton, keep an eye out for contemporary public art sculptures with plaques next to them.

Also, "Mapping the Landscape: A 50 Year Dialogue with Art + the Community" is open through September 19, 2025, at the Brea Gallery located within the Brea Civic Center.

Admission to the exhibit will be free during its closing reception on September 19 from 4 to 6 pm.

To learn more about Brea's Art in Public Places Program, visit https://www.breaartgallery.com/breas-art-in-public-places.



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