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PHOTO BY SASKIA KENNEDY

New Fullerton firefighter recruits take a break from training to meet U.S. Representative Lou Correa. Also pictured: City Manager Eddie Manfro, Fire Department Chief Adam Loeser, City Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra, Member and Chair of the Orange County Board Supervisor Doug Chaffee (District 4).

## Fullerton Fire Stations Receive \$250,000 for Critical Upgrades by Saskia Kennedy

U.S. Representative Lou Correa (CA-46) presented a check for \$250,000 to the Fullerton Fire Department on April 13. This funding is intended to improve the infrastructure of the city's fire stations. The money will be used for essential upgrades across the six fire facilities, focusing on improving response times and ensuring the safety of both firefighters and residents.

The grant will support the installation of modern station alerting systems, the replacement of roll-up bay doors with lateral-opening doors, and the enhancement of steel hose towers with state-of-the-art mechanical systems. Local officials have highlighted the urgent need for these upgrades, citing that parts of the city's emergency alerting system are becoming outdated.

*Continue reading on page 7*

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OBSERVER  
PO BOX 7051  
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## Public Invited to Shape Fullerton's Open Space & Conservation

The Fullerton Planning Commission is set to review important updates to the city's Open Space & Conservation Element at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at Fullerton City Hall, with the option to participate online as well.

Community members are encouraged to voice their opinions on the proposed changes, whether in person at the meeting or remotely. Written comments will also be accepted, with submissions due by noon on the day of the meeting.

As the city looks to enhance its approach to preserving parks, natural areas, and resources, public input will play a crucial role in shaping Fullerton's future open space policies. For more information, visit [www.cityoffullerton.com/agendas](http://www.cityoffullerton.com/agendas).

## No Time to Volunteer? You Can Still Help the Fullerton Observer

For 48 years, the Fullerton Observer has stood as a pillar of local journalism, offering a platform for community voices and storytelling that reflects the heart of Fullerton. This all-volunteer newspaper thrives not on corporate funding but through the dedication of residents like you.

While not everyone can dedicate time to write, edit, or participate in meetings, there is a simple and impactful way for community members to support the Observer: spreading the word. Engaging with local businesses, dining at restaurants, or participating in community events are all opportunities to make a difference.

A few simple phrases can transform perceptions: "I read about you in the Fullerton Observer," "I saw this event in the Observer," or "I heard about your business through the Observer."

These statements carry weight, demonstrating to local businesses that the Observer plays a vital role in the community. They highlight its ability to connect people, draw attention, and foster local engagement.

For a small, volunteer-run newspaper, visibility is crucial. Such grassroots support helps to:

- Build credibility for local businesses and the publication itself

- Attract advertisers and sponsors crucial for sustaining operations
- Encourage community contributions and involvement
- Reinforce the Observer's importance within Fullerton

Ultimately, these interactions reaffirm the value of local journalism. The longevity of the Fullerton Observer, nearing half a century, is a testament to the community's belief in its mission, whether through writing, ideas, or simply acknowledging its presence in

everyday conversations.

If you've ever wished to contribute but felt time was a barrier, remember that your voice matters. Support doesn't always require a significant commitment—it can stem from brief moments of recognition that highlight the Observer's impact.

In a community like Fullerton, every acknowledgment strengthens the paper and reaffirms the vital role of local journalism in reflecting and serving its residents.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Note from the Fullerton Observer Editor, Saskia Kennedy**

Fullerton is our city. Your voice matters. Staying informed is a choice—and a powerful one. Every time you pay attention, ask questions, share what you learn, or show up, you help shape the direction of our community. Local decisions affect your streets, schools, safety, and future. When you stay informed, you're not just watching—you're participating, impacting, and influencing real change.

**Helpful City Employees**

Today 4/15/26 I went to the Fullerton City Hall to seek information on a permit for a fraternity. My apologies for not getting all the names.

The first floor officer unlocked the door to the stairs to go to the second floor to the Planning Department. The staff members instructed me to log in with the computer in the office. Once I logged in I was called by a lady to assist me. She took my information and instructed me to go to the basement where the Code Enforcement Department was located.

Denise Cyprien (this name I did get) assisted me and led me back to the second floor Planning Department. She went into the employees-only section

and conferred with staff members.

A friendly lady staff member [Sunayana Thomas - Community and Economic Development Director] came out and informed me that the Planning Department would investigate the permit and that the process would take a few weeks. She said that she talked with my attorney on the phone and that when the investigation was completed my attorney would be contacted.

I was in awe of how friendly and helpful all the staff members were. I hope they all get commended for their efforts, not just for helping me but all the residents of Fullerton.

*Don Waterbury* Fullerton

**Transparency Needed in Waste Hauler Decision**

To the Editor,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the City Council's recent decision to narrow the field of potential waste haulers for Fullerton. During the special meeting on April 18, the Council shortlisted six firms but excluded NASA Services, a move that is logically inconsistent and potentially costly for local ratepayers.

Mayor Fred Jung justified this exclusion by claiming NASA Services lacks experience serving communities of our size. However, the data tells a different story.

NASA currently serves Pico Rivera, a city of 60,000. Paradoxically, the Council moved forward with Valley Vista Services, whose primary exclusive hub is Diamond Bar—a community of only 53,000.

If "community size" is a primary metric for qualification, why was the smaller operator advanced while the larger one was cut?

While Valley Vista Services is a competitive bidder, NASA was also among the most cost-effective options, particularly regarding commercial pricing. By eliminating NASA, the Council has narrowed our options and removed a key player that would have driven competition to ensure the lowest possi-

ble rates for residents.

This decision is especially troubling for multifamily communities like ours that will be subject to commercial pricing under the new contract. The selection process—heavily influenced by an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of just Mayor Jung and Council Member Jaime Valencia—appears to have ignored the financial advantage of maintaining a broader pool of affordable bidders.

A more logical approach would have been to eliminate firms that were prohibitively expensive, such as Athens Services (high overall rates) or Republic Services (high commercial/multifamily rates). Instead, the City removed a financially favorable option, potentially locking residents into inflated utility rates for years to come.

Our elected officials owe the public a clear explanation. We need to see the full evaluation scores made public to understand why "size requirements" are being applied so arbitrarily. Transparency is the only way to ensure that this contract is awarded based on merit and value rather than behind-the-scenes preference.

*Jeffrey Otter, Treasurer for Craig Park East HOA* Fullerton

**Swap Councilmember & ADA Parking**

Dear Editor,

There are six parking spaces near the entrance to city hall reserved for the mayor, mayor pro tem, three council members and the city manager, all of whom sport on their resume an eight-digit budget deficit for fiscal year 2026-27 ("Fullerton's \$10 Million Budget Deficit and the Challenge of Rebuilding Trust," Observer, March 2026).

If you're facing the entrance, the VIP spaces are on the left.

On the other side of the entrance, there are two parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities. Those spaces are directly in front of trash bins, meaning people with disabilities pass by the trash — and surely smell it — before getting to the entrance.

Can't a swap be arranged? Two disabled spots and four resident slots on the clean-smelling side of the entrance, and six VIP spaces on the foul side? At least until the budget is balanced?



*There are two parking spaces at city hall reserved for people with disabilities. They are directly in front of trash bins.*

PHOTO BY BRADY RHOADES

*Brady Rhoades* Fullerton

**Observers Around the World**



*Jesus Silva and Sharon Quirk-Silva had a wonderful time in Italy.*

**Fullerton Observer**

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

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

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

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

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## Fullerton Coyotes Club: Environmentalism in Action! by David Spargur

Amid all the noise about Fullerton's looming budget deficit, there is one group of high-schoolers quietly improving our city's famous trails - at zero cost to taxpayers!

You may have seen them walking the Bud Turner trail last Monday putting hubcaps, bumpers, and other trash into trash bags.

They are the Fullerton Coyotes Club. Dylan Ardaya founded the Coyotes with friends Ethan Yan and Fernando Muñoz to share his love of running and improve the health of Fullerton kids like himself.

They shifted the focus to include trail cleanup when they discovered the fitness and beauty of Fullerton's trails was equally important to them.

Currently they try to do one to two cleanups a month. They range from ten to twenty volunteers per cleanup but have had on occasion over 70 individuals participate in cleanups, according to Mr. Ardaya.

They started as a community-based club but have added chapters at Troy and Sunny Hills High Schools, along with some members from Fullerton College and Brea Olinda High School. They have a

service hour system which they sign in and out of, and will share hours with the Parks and Rec department when requested.

They have signed several Adopt-a-Trail and Adopt-a-Park agreements with the city. They have had two collaboration cleanups partnering with Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra, and plan to work with Friends of Coyote Hills this summer.

To join the club or get more information, go to their website at [fullertoncoyotesclub.com](http://fullertoncoyotesclub.com), or email [fullertoncoyotesclub@gmail.com](mailto:fullertoncoyotesclub@gmail.com).



**OC School of the Arts:** Riley Olivo **La Serna High School:** Natalie O'Reilly **California High School:** Adeline Dumas **Mater Dei High School:** Bella Dinglasan  
**Fullerton Union High School:** Kiersten Bedell, Madeline Capp, Sydney Cruz, Emily Simon, Brooke Tanner, and Kamyra Valenzuela  
**Sunny Hills High School:** Lauren Beecher and Rachel Buchi **Troy High School:** Saira Abbasi, Kate Berger, Emma Bondurant, and Samhita Pakalapati

## Senior Assisteens Celebrated the Commencement of their Years of Service by Gayle Berggren

At a formal event on April 10, Fullerton Assisteens honored eighteen of their senior high school members who will soon be headed to college.

Assisteens, an auxiliary volunteer group of the Assistance League of Fullerton, was formed in 1964 to enable teenagers to help others while learning leadership skills.

The Assisteens auxiliary is made up of seventh through twelfth graders. The group currently has 80 members with a waiting list of teens who want to join, and is also open to male members.

Assisteens earn volunteer hours working on community service projects, and projects of the Assistance League of Fullerton, including fundraising activities such as Taste of the Town (coming up October 3) and the nonprofit thrift shop at 233 W. Amerige Avenue.

The Assistance League credits thrift shop sales to the Assisteens for the hours they volunteer as sales clerks and donation sorters, and these funds form the budget for the Assisteens' philanthropic activities.

During the school year, they volunteer at the thrift shop on Saturdays, and in the summer, Assisteens help with many thrift shop operational tasks.

This year, eleven members earned Bronze, Silver, and Gold National Volunteer Service Awards for their volunteer service hours. One member earned a Young Adult Gold award, recognizing 316 completed service hours.

This past year, the Assisteens' community projects helped the Boys and Girls Club: they filled backpacks with school supplies and also held a holiday party for children, complete with Santa and wrapped gifts they shopped for from the children's wish lists. They provided Halloween candy for the City of Fullerton for Octoobfest; they filled hygiene baskets for Crittenton Children and Families.

At Thanksgiving, they filled food baskets for needy families in the Fullerton School District. They collected and donated clothing for a local

homeless shelter; they have collected plastic (or paper) bags for the Pathways of Hope food distribution program; and have made cold-weather survival kits for Pathways of Hope, specifically for homeless people.

The Assisteens also earned money to provide six \$1,000 scholarships for six Fullerton high school seniors. They helped at the Day of Authors fundraiser for another auxiliary volunteer group, ALPHA (Assistance League Professional Humanitarian Auxiliary). Finally, the group also made 1,600 bagged rewards for the Fullerton Public Library's Summer Reading Program.

Their last community event this year will be a cleanup of Laguna Lake at the end of April in partnership with OC United's Love Fullerton volunteer day.

To join Assisteens contact [Assisteens@alfullerton.org](mailto:Assisteens@alfullerton.org).  
 For more information:  
[www.assistanceleague.org/fullerton/](http://www.assistanceleague.org/fullerton/)

**love fullerton**  
 where compassion meets action | **OCUNITED**

On April 25, volunteers all over Fullerton tackle over 80 projects including painting schools, cleaning parks, and supporting nonprofits. By participating, you and your friends can make a year-round impact. So, mark your calendars and come out on April 25 for Love Fullerton!  
 Check out <https://lovefullerton.org/> for more information.

FULLERTON CERTIFIED  
**FARMERS MARKET**

The popular Certified Farmers Market in Fullerton is located at 801 W. Valencia Drive, every Wednesday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

## Fullerton School District Board meeting April 14

### Welcome Dr. Gretchen Janson the New FSD Superintendent

The board unanimously approved the \$299,770 annual, 3-year contract hiring Dr. Gretchen Janson as the new FSD Superintendent. Dr. Janson comes from the Lynwood Unified School District (LUSD), where she served as Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.

Dr. Janson has nearly 30 years of experience in public education, both as an instructor and an administrator. A former classroom teacher, instructional mentor, and principal, Dr. Janson is bilingual in Spanish. She earned a Master's Degree in Education from Pepperdine University and a PhD in Education Leadership from the University of Southern California.

Her time at LUSD included planning to mitigate severe declining enrollment. Her committee prioritized realigning district resources to best

serve existing student populations by enhancing school programs, consolidating underutilized campuses, and investing in modern learning environments.

Dr. Janson thanked the board for this opportunity, praising FSD, saying she is excited to come to Fullerton School District, "not to change what's working well, but to build upon it."

Dr. Janson believes, "public education can and should be a powerful changemaker in the lives of students," and that her priority is "ensuring that all students have the opportunity to succeed and thrive."

Many of the trustees thanked Interim Superintendent Dr. Chad Hammit for his support during the process, announcing that he will continue in this position until Dr. Janson's term begins on July 1.



FSD) Board of Trustees consists of President Ruthi Hanchett, Vice President James Cho, Clerk Vanesa Estrella, and Trustees Beverly Berryman and Miguel Alvarez

### Art Awards and Celebrations

The Fullerton School District's April 14 board meeting celebrated student projects and art accomplishments. The Superintendent's Student Advisory Board presented their community service projects, ranging from making gifts and visiting with Parkside Medical Facility residents, organizing and delivering baskets of Thanksgiving food to families in need, to hosting a Multicultural Assembly that celebrated the FSD's diverse student populations through dance, song, and food.

Each FSD junior high and K-8 grade school had its Associated Student Body approve the project, and 7th and 8th grade teams organized and implemented the projects under the mentorship of a teacher advisor.

The annual Wonder of Water Visual Art winners received their awards, sponsored by the nonprofit "Go Fish Foundation," which works to educate youth about fishing and how this hobby is environmentally challenged.

First and second-grade Guitar Club participants from Richman and Pacific Drive Elementary Schools played for the audience. Guitar Club provides basic instrumental understanding for students interested in joining the Nicolas Junior High Mariachi Club and class in 7th and 8th grade.

FSD Boardmembers thanked "All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation" for its foundational student art lessons, which have exposed every FSD student to visual, musical, dance, and theater for over 20 years.

Today, the organization commits \$13,000 per year to FSD, enabling every elementary school to host a family art night where families experience a part of the art lessons their children receive each year. All the Arts will hold its annual Art Auction on Saturday, April 25, from 6:00 to 9:00pm at the Fullerton Community Center.

Go to [www.allthearts.org](http://www.allthearts.org) for ticket information.

## Safety Protocol Update with Fullerton Police Department

Interim Superintendent Dr. Chad Hammit and Fullerton Police Chief John Radus reviewed FSD's partnership with the Fullerton Police Department and the policy protocols that prioritize student and staff safety. FSD protocols emphasize prevention, quick response, and recovery to return situations to normal after incidents.

Dr. Hammit said that in the event of an emergency, the Fullerton Police Department can access school site camera recordings (each accessed with a unique password for transparency), classroom key entry, and their database, which holds a routinely updated school site map.

If police activity is in progress within a quarter-mile radius of any FSD school site during the school day, a red circle pops up on the police car's computer, alerting officers to inform the school principal of the potential impact on students. Principals and police determine if the school should shelter in place, which allows instruction to continue with limited movement, or go into lockdown, where doors are locked, instruction stops, and teachers and students wait for police to announce an "all clear."

Trustee Vanesa Estrella asked Chief Radus about law enforcement challenges at FSD. Chief Radus stated that,


because there is no Student Resource Officer at any of the 20 FSD school sites, communication is difficult. FSD utilizes one Police Liaison Officer (PLO) for the district who provides communication, education, and positive officer interactions with students.

Chief Radus mentioned that the school district and police department relationship strengthened after the Fern Drive Elementary bomb threat earlier this year, and they now include a FSD administrator at the Crisis Command table for better communication during any FSD incidents. Chief Radus could not comment on the ongoing Fern Drive investigation, except to say that

the threat originated outside Fullerton.

Chief Radus stated that the federal government prohibits police from informing schools about any ICE activities, and that ICE is the only law enforcement agency currently not informing FPD when it is active in the area. However, if police are monitoring ICE activity near an FSD school, they will inform the district where the activity is occurring.


The next scheduled FSD board meeting is on May 12 at 6pm. 1401 W Valencia Dr, Fullerton. For the agenda, go to: [www.fsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.fsd.k12.ca.us)



# GRANT WRITING 101 WEBINAR


Thursday, May 7, 2026  
10:00am - 11:30am  
ZOOM (RSVP REQUIRED)

Please join Chair Chaffee and California Consulting for an engaging grant writing workshop designed to provide cities, school districts, special districts, nonprofits, and other organizations with expert insights and best practices for securing funding.



**GRANT FUNDING**

Please RSVP by May 4, 2026 • <https://bit.ly/4s4hyLs>



## Big Dogs, Bigger Hearts Foster Homes Needed Now

OC Animal Care's shelter is experiencing an uptick in stray dog intakes and need fosters to help create space for those still arriving. OC Animal Care has wonderful large dogs (30+ lbs.) who just need a break from the kennel—a calm home where they can decompress and get ready for adoption. Even a short-term foster can make a life-saving difference. OC Animal Care will support you every step of the way. All adult dogs receive a wellness exam before foster, are up to date on their vaccines and flea/tick preventative, and provide food, a leash, collar, and basic supplies (as available).

### Interested in helping?

Email OC Animal Care with:

- Max size/weight you can foster
- Any breed preferences or restrictions
- Current pets in your home
- Household members/ages
- If you're open to a medical foster
- A specific dog name or ID (if you have one in mind). If you'd like to meet a dog first, you're welcome to visit daily from 11 am - 5 pm to walk through our dog kennels and cat areas.



I'M READY TO FOSTER!

To get started, contact our team at [OCACPrograms@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:OCACPrograms@occr.ocgov.com)

## Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response

by Alicia, 8th Grade



ASMR—short for autonomous sensory meridian response—started out as something people only talked about quietly online, and now it’s everywhere when it comes to relaxing or getting lost in thought. You know that strange, tingly feeling that starts on your scalp and goes down your back when someone whispers or taps their nails? That’s ASMR. The feeling itself has been around for a long time, but we only started calling it “ASMR” relatively recently.

There was no widely recognized name for this feeling until the late 2000s. But everything truly began to change around 2010. Before then, people would share stories about these strange tingles, but it all seemed a bit mysterious, and their discussions were

disorganized. Once the term “Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response” was introduced, it gave people a common way to talk about the experience.

Soon after, YouTube began filling up with creators making videos. They used soft whispers, light tapping, crinkling noises and all sorts of other sounds to help trigger the sensation. It was as if YouTube quickly became the main hub for ASMR. At first, people weren’t quite sure what to make of it. If you told someone you watched videos of paper crinkling to help you sleep, they would probably look at you strangely. But the community kept growing. Along with it, more and more

stimuli became known as “triggers”—everything from quiet talking to role-playing scenarios and gentle head massages.

Before long, the number of viewers of ASMR videos on YouTube increased dramatically. People began relying on ASMR to help them sleep, unwind after a long day or simply take a mental break.

By the mid-2010s, ASMR had entered the mainstream. Some channels gained millions of subscribers. News outlets began writing about it and researchers grew interested in understanding why it had such a strong effect. Studies suggest that ASMR may create feelings of comfort similar to receiving calm, personal attention in real life.

Today, ASMR is not limited to YouTube. It appears across platforms such as TikTok and Instagram, often in shorter videos designed to capture

attention quickly. Even major companies incorporate ASMR-like elements into their advertisements, hoping to create a soothing effect for viewers.

This shift reflects how strongly people are seeking ways to relax their minds. Life can be hectic, and many individuals seek simple and accessible ways to reduce stress. ASMR fits that need—it is easy to access, free and often effective.

The rise of ASMR demonstrates the influence of online communities. A small, shared experience grew into a global trend simply because people connected and shared what worked for them. It is remarkable to consider how a once-unnamed sensation became such a widespread phenomenon.

Through the internet’s unique spaces, millions of people now use ASMR to relax, find inspiration or simply feel a little less alone in ways that few could have predicted.

## Our Body’s Natural Defense

by Declan, 10th Grade



Every single day, the human body hosts a continuous war. At the cellular level, pollution, smoke, and toxins produced from stress attack our valued cells, proteins and DNA, a process known as oxidation. Without maintenance and prevention, this damage rapidly develops into chronic illnesses, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, and overall physical degradation. As chronic disease rates rise in the current generation, many people seek treatments and supplements yet ignore natural sources that can help prevent these illnesses.

Regarding heart disease, consuming antioxidants through food is one of the most effective prevention methods.

Antioxidants are molecules that can donate an electron to unstable molecules, such as pollutants and other free radicals, without becoming unstable themselves.

Free radicals are constantly generated in the body but increase rapidly with unhealthy habits. When these unstable molecules gain an electron, they become stable, neutralizing their threat. However, when free radicals accumulate faster than the immune system can eliminate them, oxidation occurs. Oxidative stress damages cellular membranes and destroys DNA, which is essential for the production of

healthy cells. This damage alters the structure and function of proteins, leading to conditions such as diabetes from ineffective insulin, cancer from mutated DNA, cardiovascular disease, and Alzheimer’s due to accelerated aging.

Antioxidants exist in many forms, including vitamins that protect cell membranes or blood plasma, minerals naturally produced by the body, polyphenols from plants and carotenoids that accumulate in tissue, each functioning through specific processes. Together they help prevent low-density lipoprotein from clogging arteries, reduce arterial inflammation, slow DNA mutation and support the immune system in destroying abnormal cells that could develop into cancer. Antioxidants are most effective when consumed as whole foods rather

than supplements. Clinical trials have shown that some supplements sacrifice safety for profit, with high doses often producing negative effects that force studies to end early.

The human body is designed to obtain antioxidants from nutrient-rich foods like fruits, vegetables, and nuts, rather than processing extremely high concentrations. Blueberries contain anthocyanins that reduce inflammation, broccoli contains sulforaphane that supports the body’s natural antioxidant production, and citrus fruits provide vitamin C that protects cells from damage.

Many plant-based foods can help prevent chronic disease when consumed regularly. A routine built on a healthy diet rich in these foods is one of the most valuable investments an individual can make in a lifetime.

## What’s trending: 2016 Returns

by Taliha, 11th Grade



Unicorn Frappuccinos, Adidas Superstars and The Pink Wall. Oh, and the Flower Crown Filter, of course. Is that not what 2016 is all about?

Our generation is going back to an era that feels like home, and it seems as though everyone cannot get enough. A lot of us are reminiscing about the time when life was seen through a filter.

The return of 2016 embodies true happiness and allows people to go back to a time when life was just a little more fun. Back in 2016, trends across the internet, including fashion, music and overall aesthetics, shared a common theme: genuineness. Social media was not taken over by overly curated feeds or perfection. It was simple yet profound.

As a whole, 2016 represents a symbol of happiness and expression compared to the pressures of today, where it looks like the whole world has a color-coded grid on Instagram or an overly excitable life on VSCO. It is remembered as a time of experimentation, when anything said or done fostered a sense of identity and honesty.

Compared to the anxieties and pressures of today, 2016 feels authentic, which is what many desire to return to. The need to revive 2016 in 2026 stems from the lack of expression in today’s society.

In 2016, the memes were a little funnier, the sunsets were a bit brighter, and the world was just a better place. Artists like Post Malone, Zara Larsson and Justin Bieber were dropping

albums left and right, and the themes all revolved around being one’s true, authentic self.

The world, already full of light and color, and everything around us just accentuated these themes a little more. Snapchat was also introduced, and the filters created there were indescribable.

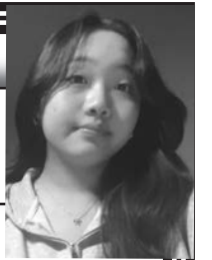
2016 has become a symbol for happiness, prosperity and a time when there was a sense of safety surrounding us. The return of 2016 is evident worldwide, especially in pop culture.

Everyone is posting their old “throwback” photos and joking that 2016 was when life was full of bliss. For many of us, we were most likely only toddlers at the time, but looking back makes it seem as though it was almost magic. It feels like a shared memory of a time when we all had so much in common, yet we did not even know it. 2016 is also a way of reclaiming what we did not fully appreciate at the time, when life had no worries. It highlights and celebrates being loud, messy and different without holding back.

2016 has become a symbol of happiness and safety, evoking nostalgia as people share old photos, remembering it as a carefree time. Even those who were toddlers then feel a magical connection to that shared experience. This return to 2016 highlights how we can celebrate authenticity and differences without pressure to be perfect. By coming together, we can find solace.

## Temptation of a Cookie

by Betty, 10th Grade



She walks a tightrope, Thin as a Thread,  
with thoughts like chains, binding her head,  
what is Beauty? the world has its say,  
her spirit feels heavy, locked far away.

A simple cookie, warm and inviting,  
calls to her heart, but Fears are igniting,  
each Crumb a battle, each Bite a sin,  
a dance with the darkness that festers within.

Her fingers tremble, she closes her eyes,  
imagining Freedom, yet tangled in lies,  
“Am I Enough?” echoes louder than sweet,  
in the voice of desire, an impossible feat.

The whispers of Numbers, the Scale’s cruel decree,  
can a cookie bring Solace? Further Misery?  
she dreams of the taste, the soft, melting bliss,  
Shame waits patiently, sealing the abyss.

**Year-round offerings**  
**Youth and Adult Swim Lessons**  
**Red Cross Lifeguarding Classes**  
**Water Aerobics, and**  
**indoor family fun swimming**

for more info  
and updates visit  
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[@fullertonswimshere](https://www.instagram.com/fullertonswimshere)



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FEATURING: WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES IN FULLERTON



**Michelle Gottlieb: Healing one person at a time** by Breanna Pineda

For thirty-five years, Michelle Gottlieb has dedicated her life to helping people heal. The passion for communicating with others about their fears or insecurities began while she was in high school.

Later in 1988, she graduated with a master's in counseling from Arizona State University, before receiving her doctorate in 2004. After working in different clinics for the first half of her career, Michelle started her own practice in Fullerton following the birth of her first son.

She has now been a psychotherapist for thirty-five years, specializing in trauma therapy and individual, family, and couples counseling.

The main focus of Michelle's work

surrounds understanding what led someone to have the issues they are dealing with and how to handle their future. Before a client comes into her office, virtual or in-person, they fill out an intake packet in order for Michelle to get a sense of the person's childhood and past that led them to therapy.

"I am trying to put all the puzzle pieces together," she says.

Insight into a person's history is central to the type of therapy Michelle specializes in, called "Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing" (EMDR). After hearing about EMDR, she trained for it and began to utilize the method in 2000. She has kept it as an integral part of her work with patients ever since.

This specific therapy focuses on memories of traumatic events that still affect one's future. While EMDR does involve communication with clients, it has a unique aspect with its bilateral stimulation. This technique uses sensory stimuli such as eye movement, taps, or other forms of stimulation to help people fully let go of trauma. Although Michelle has always been a trauma therapist, she found that helping people cope did not actually help people heal.

"It's not like 'the next time the thought comes up, this is what I'm going to do' [with EMDR therapy]; the thought doesn't come up anymore," says Michelle.

There is a developed body of research that proves EMDR can reduce the trauma associated with a person's past. "EMDR is not talk therapy; it is brain therapy," Michelle explains.

Although it can be difficult at times for Michelle to hear the trauma history of clients, she notes it is important for clinicians not to burn out.

"At the end of a session, [clinicians] leave the [trauma] all behind us. It does not come home with us," says Michelle. "It doesn't take over who and what and how we are."

Despite this, Michelle describes some of the best moments of her career as seeing individuals who enter her office feeling held back by trauma and leave with the ability to accomplish what they feared. She thinks here especially of the people who thought they could never be parents without recycling familial issues become successful fathers and mothers, and the people who are in healthy relationships with boundaries they previously had trouble

setting. Or as Michelle enthusiastically says, "the people who don't need me anymore!"

Currently, Michelle teaches couples counseling at Cal State Fullerton. She began to teach at the university after noticing that clients would approach her office after a bad experience with another therapist. Her goal is to teach the next generation of therapists how best to approach different clients.

One of the biggest differences she has noticed between when she was a student and current students is the effect of social media, as well as the still ongoing effects of the worldwide trauma of COVID-19. These new issues have greatly shaped the younger generation and have added new layers to what therapists need to be prepared to handle.

As she juggles both teaching and therapist work, she stresses the importance of not directly telling clients what to do; rather, she helps clients have the tools to make their own decisions.

"My job is to hold up the mirror," Michelle says, "and [clients] get to look at the mirror and make a decision."

**Three Easy Steps to Register a Business**

Registering your business can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be! Here are three simple steps to help you get started.

Please note that while these steps cover the majority of businesses, there may be exceptions. If you have any questions or need further clarification, feel free to call the City of Fullerton at (714) 738-6531 or (714) 738-5326.

**STEP 1: CHOOSE A BUSINESS**

**NAME**

**Using Your Personal Name**

If you plan to use your own name as your business name (for example, "John Smith"), you generally won't need a fictitious name filing.

**Using a Fictitious Business Name**

If your business name differs from your personal name (for example, "John's Bikes"), you must register a Fictitious Business Name (DBA) with the Orange County Clerk-Recorder. Start by searching for your desired name on the Orange County Clerk's website.

Once you confirm the name is available, you can register it online. Payment can be made in person or by mail at the Orange County Clerk Recorder's Office.

After filing your Fictitious Business Name Statement, you are required to publish a Public Notice in an approved adjudicated newspaper in Orange County once a week for four weeks to make your name legal for a five-year period.

If your business operates in Orange

County, you must file with the Orange County Clerk Recorder. A list of approved newspapers [The Fullerton Observer recommends *OC Reporter at https://www.ocreporter.news*] can be obtained from their office or website.

The North Orange County branch office is located at 222 S. Harbor Blvd., #110A, Anaheim.

**STEP 2: OBTAIN A RESALE OR SALES TAX USE PERMIT**

The next step is to apply for a "Resale or Sales Tax Use Permit" from the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (previously known as the State Board of Equalization).

If you plan to engage in retail sales, acquiring a resale tax permit is essential. It's always a good idea to check with the CDTFA to determine if this permit is necessary for your specific business.

**STEP 3: SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION**

**For Home-Based Businesses**

If your business operates from home, you can register and apply online from our website, or you can print and download an application to send by mail.

If applying online, we will contact you via email once your application is accepted and ready for payment.

Be sure to check your spam or junk folder, as the email will come from [Businessweb@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:Businessweb@cityoffullerton.com).

If you need to confirm the total business tax due, please call us at (714) 738-6531 or (714) 738-5326.

Before registering, make sure to read the Home Occupation Agreement. If you apply by mail or in person, please initial the agreement on your application.

Applying in person requires an appointment, available from 9am to 3pm. If applying by mail, send your completed application and payment to the Business Registration Division at City Hall, located at 303 W. Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton.

Make your check payable to the City of Fullerton. City Hall hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:00am to 5:30pm and 7:30am to 5:00pm on open Fridays, while it is closed on alternate Fridays.

**For Out-of-Town Businesses**

If you are an out-of-town business

planning to operate in our city, you can follow the same registration instructions, but you do not need to read or initial the Home Occupancy Agreement.

**For Commercial Locations**

If you plan to conduct your business from a commercial location in Fullerton, we encourage online registration. Keep in mind that all business addresses within the city are subject to approvals from other departments or divisions, which may delay the registration process. Once your application is approved and signed by the Planning Division, you will receive a temporary business registration receipt. The official Business Registration certificate will be mailed to you within 15 business days.

Show your **heart** for **GREEN bliss Cafe**

Located in the Villa Del Sol  
305 N Harbor Blvd #103

Tell them you saw it  
in the Fullerton Observer

INTERFAITH **JAZZ VESPERS**

THE RON KOBAYASHI TRIO  
WITH Vocalist Crystal Clulee

MAY 17 STARTS AT 6PM

FREE EVENT  
ALL DONATIONS  
GO TO THE  
FULLERTON OBSERVER

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Resolving issues from your past  
that block your future.

**MICHELLE GOTTLIEB** Psy.D., MFT, LPCC  
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[www.michellegottlieb.com](http://www.michellegottlieb.com)



In attendance were representatives from various nonprofits including HOPE, Fullerton Heritage, Tara's Chance, and more. Fullerton's Meals on Wheels President Sandra White proudly positioned in the front row, second from the right.

## Meals on Wheels of Fullerton Honored with Community Investment Award

Meals on Wheels of Fullerton was honored with a prestigious Community Investment Award during the Rotary Club of Fullerton's weekly luncheon on April 8. This grant, presented by the Orange County Community Foundation, highlights the foundation's ongoing commitment to serving the community. This recognition emphasizes the essential role that Meals

on Wheels plays in providing vital services to those in need.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support from the Rotary Club of Fullerton and the Orange County Community Foundation," said Fullerton's Meals on Wheels President Sandra White.

She expressed her appreciation for their continuous

partnership. The award not only honors the organization but also reinforces its mission to ensure that no senior goes hungry.

Since its inception in 1974, Meals on Wheels of Fullerton has served the homebound residents of the city, delivering nearly 2 million meals over the past 52 years.



## Fullerton Fire Stations Receive \$250,000 for Critical Upgrades *Continued from front page*

During the funding presentation, Councilmember Ahmad Zahra stressed the significance of prompt emergency response, recalling a recent incident in his neighborhood where timely paramedic intervention made a crucial difference.

"Rapid emergency response is essential, and these upgrades will help ensure that our first responders are equipped with the best possible tools to serve our community," Zahra affirmed.

Mayor Fred Jung echoed this sentiment, stating that enhanced facilities are vital for maintaining effective emergency services. "This funding will have a direct impact on public safety," Jung noted, emphasizing the importance of modernized infrastructure.

Fire Chief Adam Loeser voiced his support for the improvements, explaining that the upgrades will modernize the department's dispatch-related infrastructure and bolster its ability to

respond reliably to calls for service.

Correa underscored the federal government's commitment to supporting local emergency services, stating, "Ensuring they have the necessary resources to respond effectively is vital for the safety of everyone in Fullerton."

City officials anticipate that the fire station upgrades will not only improve operational safety and efficiency but also reduce long-term maintenance costs.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF FULLERTON

**Jewelry Sale**

233 W. AMERIGE AVE., FULLERTON

New & nearly new, vintage, costume, sterling silver, gold, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, brooches, rings

Shop 10-3  
The sale is in the big Thrift Shop Annex room  
April 25- shop 10-1

APRIL 18, 21, 23, & 25

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The Woman's Club of Fullerton

**Bunco Boogie Brunch**

Saturday, May 9, 2026  
10:30 am - 2:00 pm  
Fullerton Elks Lodge  
1400 Elks View Lane

A Day of FUN ~ FOOD ~ PRIZES!

WCOF.club

## Outdated Code Booklets in Fullerton Spark Calls for Better Public Access

by Saskia Kennedy

A resident of Fullerton is raising alarms over the availability of the city’s Municipal Code booklet, which is currently outdated and hindering public access to crucial legal information. The most recent version of the booklet available at the local library is dated 2024, prompting concerns about fairness and the enforcement of city laws.

Curtis Gamble, a local advocate, voiced his concerns, highlighting the negative impact that outdated information can have, especially for vulnerable populations.

“The Fullerton Municipal Code booklet contains laws that are essential for residents to understand and follow,” he stated. “With the current edition being from 2024, it fails to reflect many of the codes that are not being enforced and do not align with today’s standards.”

Gamble pointed out the importance of the Municipal Code booklet for the homeless community, which relies on accurate legal information regarding

emergency shelter codes. He noted that many homeless individuals have faced harassment from law enforcement and received unfair citations due to their lack of access to up-to-date codes.

“I urge the city to distribute the ten updated copies from the clerk’s office to the appropriate departments and ensure the booklet reflects the laws of 2026,” he added.

Municipal codes are essential for residents as they outline legal rights and responsibilities. When these guidelines are outdated, it can lead to confusion and potential inequality in the treatment of residents. Many locals are calling for the city to take immediate action to make current versions of the code booklet more accessible, particularly in public spaces like libraries and other city departments.

As of now, city officials have not provided a clear timeline for distributing the updated code booklets. For more information or questions, call the Fullerton City Clerk’s Office at (714) 738-6350.

## U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Urges Nationwide Awareness

As road safety remains a pressing concern in the United States, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is calling on drivers to take a proactive stance against distracted driving.

The campaign emphasizes the slogan: “Eyes Forward. Don’t Drive Distracted.”

Distracted driving, including cell phone use and other activities that divert attention from the road, poses a significant threat to all road users—drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists alike.

NHTSA data reveals alarming statistics: from 2020 to 2024, approximately 16,482 lives were lost, and roughly 1.6 million individuals were injured in crashes related to distracted driving.

In 2024 alone, traffic fatalities involving at least one distracted driver rose sharply, claiming the lives of 3,208 people, which accounted for 8% of all traffic deaths that year. Furthermore, an estimated 315,167 additional individuals suffered injuries in crashes linked to distracted driving during the same period.

To combat this growing issue, NHTSA advocates for the adoption of phone-free driving habits:

**Pull Over:** Drivers are encouraged to find a safe location to park before sending or reading text messages.

**Designated Texter:** Passengers can assist by managing calls and messages, thus allowing the driver to concentrate fully on the road.

**Avoid Social Media:** Steering clear of social media and messaging apps while driving is crucial.

**Do Not Disturb Mode:** Using this feature can help silence notifications and reduce distractions.

**Out of Reach:** Storing phones in the trunk, glove box, or back seat can help break the habit of driving while distracted.

The message is clear: cell phone use while driving is hazardous. By committing to phone-free driving, motorists can ensure they keep their eyes on the road and their focus on safe driving.

For more insights into the dangers of distracted driving, visit [NHTSA.gov/DistractedDriving](https://www.nhtsa.gov/DistractedDriving).

# Fullerton Observer

## OUR COMMUNITY. OUR COVERAGE. OUR FUTURE.

For many communities, the future of local news is uncertain. But for the Fullerton Observer, our path is clear: to remain an editorially independent voice for our community. We are not owned by a distant hedge fund. We are a part of this community, committed to delivering the essential reporting that matters most.

From town halls to school boards, our reporters are on the ground, keeping you informed and holding power accountable. This work is vital for you, your children and everyone who wants to see our community thrive.

While subscribers, advertisers and donor support have sustained our daily operations, traditional revenue streams don’t cover price hikes and modernization.

Your support helps ensure that this community newspaper continues for everyone who calls Fullerton home - not just for today, but for generations to come.

### Lifetime Reader: \$5,000

Never renew again, digital and print access for life. Your name listed in the print edition and online in recognition of your support.

### Heritage Reader: \$10,000

Everything above, plus one complimentary annual subscription to gift a friend, neighbor or new community member.

### Community Steward: \$15,000

A meaningful investment in the future of community journalism. Lifetime access plus two complimentary annual subscriptions to gift (or one two-year subscription). Special recognition that you helped ensure the Fullerton Observer survives and thrives for generations, or anonymous listing if you prefer.

**These aren’t just subscriptions.** They’re an investment in the future of volunteer community journalism.

**Only a limited number of lifetime subscriptions will be offered.** To subscribe or learn more, contact Publisher and Editor Saskia Kennedy at [contact@fullertonobserver.com](mailto:contact@fullertonobserver.com) or at P.O. Box 7051, Fullerton, CA 92834. *Thank you for supporting local journalism.*

**There is no tax deduction to be gained from your contributions.** The Fullerton Observer is a NOT-for-profit venture. All of your contributions will go to printing and mailing costs, overhead, and to helping all the volunteers give you, your family, and the whole community news that changes lives, changes policies, and keeps us connected.

*88th Annual*  
*Avenue of Flags*

## MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026  
★  
10:00 A.M.

**LOMA VISTA MEMORIAL PARK**  
701 E. Bastanchury Road, Fullerton, CA 92835 ★ (714) 525-1575

## 2026 GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW & SALE

Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 — 10 am – 5 pm  
Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 — 10 am – 4:30 pm

**BROOKHURST COMMUNITY CENTER**  
2271 CRESCENT AVE., ANAHEIM, CA  
[WWW.SEARCHERSROCKS.ORG](http://WWW.SEARCHERSROCKS.ORG)

**Free Parking and Admission!**



# POLICE ACTIVITY by David Spargur

Fullerton Police arrested a suspect for robbery on April 9th. The suspect reportedly passed a note demanding money at a bank near the 900 block of North Harbor Boulevard. The suspect took the note back and fled before obtaining any cash.

Officers apprehended the suspect without incident near Harbor and Union Avenue. The suspect, a resident of Los Angeles, was charged under California Penal Code 211 with felony robbery. He had previously been arrested by FPD in February for taking a car without the owner's consent. (VC 10851(a))

*The "Police Activity" author recognizes that suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Our default policy is to not publish the names of arrested suspects.*

## Got parking-related and traffic questions?

FPD Traffic Bureau Commander Lt. Petropolous and other traffic officers will be available to answer any concerns or questions at a public meeting Thursday, April 23 at 11am to 12:30pm at Kitch Cafe on Malvern.

## Prescription Drug Takeback on Saturday, April 25 from 10am to 2pm

Federal and local agencies are providing a "no-questions asked" curbside collection site for unwanted prescription and OTC drugs. The drivethrough location is on Highland Avenue. Help prevent drug misuse and abuse. For more information go to [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://www.DEATakeBack.com).

**Note:** no "sharps" (like needles) will be accepted.

## Arrest Overview for March 21 thru April 6

There were 383 arrests made.  
 31.62% Drug-related arrests  
 19.20% miscellaneous  
 14.29% DUI-related  
 13.11% violence-related  
 11.48% Trespassing including unlawful camping  
 9.60% theft-related  
 0.70% vandalism-related

### Arrest categorization reference:

**Drug-related:** HS 11350(A), HS 11351, HS 11364.5(A), HS 11364(A), HS 11375(B)(2), HS 11377(A), HS 11378, HS 11395(b)(1), HS 11550(A), PC 3056, PC 381(B), PC 381B

**DUI-related:** PC 647(F), VC 14601.2(a), VC 23152(A)

**Miscellaneous arrests:** MC 5.13.020(A), MC 5.14.060(H), MC 7.110.010A/B, PC 1203.2(A), PC 136.1(A)(1), PC 148.9(A), PC 166(C)(1), PC 22610(A), PC 236, PC 240, PC 314(1), PC 978.5, VC 12500(a), VC 23109(A)

**Theft-related:** BP 22435.2(B), PC 211, PC 459, PC 459.5(A), PC 466, PC 484(A), PC 485, PC 496D(A), PC 666.1(a)(1), VC 10851(A), VC 10853

**Trespassing including unlawful camping:** MC 7.105.010, MC 7.105.020(A)1 to 3, PC 369I(A)(1), PC 555, PC 602.5(B), PC 602(M)and (O)

**Vandalism-related:** PC 594(B)(1) and (2)(A)

**Violence-related:** PC 25850(A), PC 273.5(A), PC 273.6(A), PC 273A(A), PC 422(A), PC 148(A)(1), PC 21310, PC 242, PC 243(D), PC 243(E)(1), PC 245(A)(1), PC 417(A)(1),

**BP:** CA Business & Professions Code.  
**HS:** California Health and Safety Code  
**PC:** California Penal Code  
**VC:** California Vehicle Code  
**MC:** Fullerton Municipal Code

# OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2026

"ROAD WORK" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 19)

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### ACROSS

- Bye, in Bologna
- Nissan Leaf, e.g.
- \_\_\_ fever
- Chances
- Pickup shtick?
- Intoxicating
- Tightly connected, as a family
- Great Lakes tribesmen
- "\_\_\_ the land of the free ..."
- Oui's opposite
- Purple yam from the Philippines
- \_\_\_ kwon do
- "He's \_\_\_ duck" (doomed)
- Like this clue
- Everyday luxury, or a street in Fullerton
- Eccentric timber, or a street in Fullerton
- Perps
- "The \_\_\_ Squad"
- Chilling
- Preceder of com or edu
- Literature Nobelist Mario Vargas \_\_\_\_\_?
- Two dudes, or a street in Fullerton
- Tiny potted tree
- Smidgens
- Preserve, in a way
- "Bye Bye Bye" boy band
- In the past
- Rascal
- Hawaiian dish
- Fair-hiring letters
- Hyatt, for example
- Royal weight, or a street in Fullerton
- Hammerin' Hank
- \_\_\_ Hayes (role on 38-Across)
- "\_\_\_ No Sunshine": Bill Withers hit
- 14 lbs, to a Brit
- Border
- Takes advantage of

### DOWN

- Après-ski drink
- Went nowhere
- Cherish
- C.I.A. predecessor
- Nevada's second-largest county
- Spice rack staple
- What April has that no other month does
- Yield
- Frustrated, to a Brit
- \_\_\_ Lingus
- Lure
- Noodle concoction?
- Where Southwest Airlines is LUV
- Fund
- Fiddle stick
- Play part
- Will supplement
- \_\_\_ Paulo, Brazil
- Jersey call
- Helen's mother, in Greek myth
- Disney film featuring light cycles
- President after F.D.R.
- \_\_\_ contendere (court plea)
- Japanese noodle
- Dodgers and Angels org.
- \_\_\_ at the bit
- "Dig in!"
- 180° from NNW
- Winnie-the-Pooh's creator
- \_\_\_! at the Disco (rock band)
- Ed.'s in-box filler
- Big Blue
- Pink Lady, for one
- Bigfeet?
- "...said \_\_\_ ever"
- Some change
- Clicking sounds?
- Kid's parent
- Other, in Oaxaca
- Grimm beginning
- Long, long time
- Free (of)
- Nice water?

## END HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME THROUGH THE CROP HUNGER WALK!

YOU CAN HELP TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES



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FULLERTON CROP HUNGER WALK

SUNDAY, May 17, 2026

Walk Location:  
Fullerton Plaza  
125 E Wilshire Ave  
Fullerton, California 92832

Registration: 12:00 noon  
Send-Off: 12:30 pm



REGISTER BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



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https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/home



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APRIL

21 Tuesday

**FAMILY TIME**

6:00pm - **FREE: Twilight Tales Family Storytime:** Ages 3 to 7. Fullerton Public Library Osborne Auditorium (Room B) 353 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton (714) 738-6333

**MUSIC**

8:00pm-\$10: **Fullerton Jazz Chamber Ensemble and Fullerton Latin Ensemble:** Rodolfo Zuniga & Francisco Torres, directors California State University, Fullerton Meng Concert Hall 800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton (657) 278-3371

22 Wednesday

**MARKET**

8:30 am to 12:30 pm: Certified Farmers Market. Fresh produce, including fruit, vegetables, plants, eggs, flowers, baked goods, tamales, empanadas, kettle corn, nuts, and more. Independence Park 801 W Valencia Dr, Fullerton (714) 738-6575

**MOVIE**

4:00pm - **FREE: Monthly Classic and Musical Movie Matinee!** "North by Northwest" A New York City advertising executive goes on the run after being mistaken for a government agent by a group of foreign spies, and falls for a woman whose loyalties he begins to doubt. Step into the world of timeless cinema on a massive 184-inch screen with surround sound for an immersive feel. Fullerton Public Library Main - Conference Center Room 353 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton (714) 738-6333

**FAMILY TIME**

11:15am to 12:15pm - **FREE Stay and Play:** Join us for an early literacy STORYTIME and PLAY program for infants and toddlers up to age 3, and their caregivers. Fullerton Public Library Osborne Auditorium (Room B) 353 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton (714) 738-6333

23 Thursday

**LECTURE**

11:00am- \$38: **Gustavo Arellano will speak on "A Political History of Orange County":** Enjoy lunch with the League of Women Voters and a speech by Gustavo Arellano, a Los Angeles Times columnist and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist. Coyote Hills Golf Club 1440 E. Bastanchury, Fullerton RSVP to [LunchwithLeague@LWVNOC.ORG](mailto:LunchwithLeague@LWVNOC.ORG)

**LECTURE**

6:00 - 8:30pm: **Sips & Stories with Art Trippin':** A four-part lecture series led by art historian Dr Megan Lorraine Debin. This series explores the power, creativity, and resilience of women artists and thinkers in Mexico—from ancient civilizations to modern art. Price includes admission to all four lectures. Fullerton Museum Center 301 N Pomona Ave, Fullerton (714) 519-4461 [www.fullertonmuseum.com](http://www.fullertonmuseum.com)



**SENIOR CLUB**

3:00 to 6:00pm - \$7 - **Fullerton Senior Club's Spring Fling Social:** 5 Star Band Sponsored by Ophiana Insurance Complimentary refreshments. Dessert provided by 1 Heart Caregiver Services Drawing and lots of dancing! Fullerton Community Center 340 W. Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton (714) 738-6575

24 Friday

**SPORTS**

6:00pm - \$16: **Softball vs Long Beach State** The Titans will host crosstown rival Long Beach State on April 24-25 at Anderson Family Field. Get tickets here: <https://fullertontitanstickets.com/tickets/events/softball-vs-long-beach-state-1777251600000-50024> California State University, Fullerton Anderson Family Field 800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton (714) 738-6333

25 Saturday

**FESTIVAL**

10:00am to 5:00pm - **65th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show:** The show features displays of members' work, demonstrations by Searchers of lapidary work, stone carving, jewelry making, wire wrap, geode cutting, faceting and many other rock and jewelry related skills. There will be a children's area where children can make a piece of jewelry, spin a wheel of fortune, and have a treasure hunt. Brookhurst Community Center 2271 W. Crescent Ave, Anaheim (714) 475-9508 [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)



**FAMILY TIME**

8:00am to 12:30pm - **FREE: Arbor Day:** A morning of tree planting, educational activities, and opportunities to connect with your community. Bring your family and friends, and mark your calendars to take part in this green initiative! Sign up to help with Arbor Day 2026 at Love Fullerton's City-Wide Volunteer Website! [lovefullerton.org/Volunteer/Sign-Up/ID/468](http://lovefullerton.org/Volunteer/Sign-Up/ID/468) Byerrum Park 501 N Raymond Ave, Fullerton

26 Sunday

**MUSIC**

4:00 to 7:00pm - **The Soda Crackers:** The Soda Crackers celebrate the unsung heroes of the Bakersfield Sound High Horse Saloon 102 N Harbor Blvd, Fullerton (714) 384-7400

27 Monday

**FAMILY TIME**

10am - \$60 per 4 week session (includes 1 child and 1 adult): **My Little & Me Craft Time:** Fun and interactive crafts hosted by Fullerton's Parks and Recreation. Your toddler will have the opportunity to touch, push, pull, and create art. For those between 2-5 years old. Hunt Branch Library 201 S Basque Ave, Fullerton (714) 738-6575

28 Tuesday

**FAMILY TIME**

10:00am - **FREE: Family Storytime:** Interactive storytime that will have you clapping, moving, and reading silly stories and rhymes! All ages welcome. Hunt Branch Library, 201 S Basque Ave, Fullerton (714) 738-6365

29 Wednesday

**MARKET**

8:30 am to 12:30 pm: Certified Farmers Market. Fresh local produce. Support farmers that live close by. Independence Park 801 W Valencia Dr, Fullerton (714) 738-6575

30 Thursday

**FAMILY TIME**

11:15am to 12:15pm - **FREE Preschool Storytime:** Ages 3 to 6. Fullerton Public Library Osborne Auditorium (Room B) 353 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton (714) 738-6333

FULLERTON LOVES ART & PRIDEFEST FULLERTON PRESENTS

# LOVE BLOCKS OUT HATE

FRIDAY, MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 5:30PM - 10:00PM

HOSTED AT **FULLERTON MUSEUM CENTER** 301 N POMONA AVE. FULLERTON, CA 92832

"Love Blocks Out Hate" features one of a kind 6"x6" art blocks donated by local artists. The money raised will be used to help fund our Pride Fest Fullerton on June 6th. Each block will be auctioned starting at \$100

Arts Orange County & Media Arts Santa Ana Present

# DÍA DEL NIÑO

ORANGE COUNTY DAY OF THE CHILD FESTIVAL

**HUNT BRANCH LIBRARY & EVENT CENTER**  
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**SAT., APRIL 25, 2026 • 10AM-5PM**

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**TWINKLE TIME**  
**MISTA COOKIE JAR**  
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SPECIAL GUEST **EMCEE HERBERT SIGUENZA (COCO)**

**MAY**

**1 Friday**



**STAGE**

**8:00pm-\$38: Joy in Uncertainty: A Glory Chicken Adventure:** An irreverent black comedy at the intersection of identity, pop culture and contemporary American society. The Itchy Bugs have invaded 9-year-old Joy's town. School is closed, the talent show is canceled, and 28 days of lock down and pudding baths are ordered to combat the plague. Joy doesn't know what to do. Things are very scary and weird. So, what do you do? You call Glory Chicken – a superhero who will teach you how to be cool and kind when things are scary and weird. With Glory Chicken, everything's gonna be all right.

California State University, Fullerton Grand Central Theater  
800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton (657) 278-3371

**MUSIC**

**8:00pm-\$10: Fullerton Jazz Orchestra:** featuring David Binney Bill Cunliffe, director  
California State University, Fullerton Meng Concert Hall  
800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton (657) 278-3371

**STAGE**

**8:00pm-\$38: The Return of ZORRO!:** ZORRO! A hero whose many adventures took place here in Orange County. Zorro is a hero for the people, a champion for justice. His blade, feared by his enemies. His mark a symbol against tyranny.

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

**2 Saturday**

**MUSIC**

**3:00pm-\$10: University Symphony Orchestra**  
**Kimo Furumoto, conductor:** featuring David Binney Bill Cunliffe, director  
California State University, Fullerton Meng Concert Hall  
800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton (657) 278-3371

**STAGE**

**8:00pm-\$38: The Return of ZORRO!:** Zorro is a hero for the people, a champion for justice. His blade, feared by his enemies. His mark a symbol against tyranny.

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

**STAGE**

**8:00pm-\$38: Joy in Uncertainty: A Glory Chicken Adventure:** An irreverent black comedy at the intersection of identity, pop culture and contemporary American society.  
California State University, Fullerton Grand Central Theater  
800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton (657) 278-3371

**3 Sunday**

**GARDENING**

**10:00am to 2:00pm - Fullerton Arboretum's Plant Sale on May 2 & 3:** Shop a variety of vegetable and herb plants. We also have ornamental plants available that will surely make your garden sprout with life.  
Fullerton Arboretum  
1900 Associated Rd, Fullerton

**4 Monday**

**MUSIC**

**8:00pm-\$10: Vocal Jazz Ensembles: Innervisions and Blue Note:** California State University, Fullerton Meng Concert Hall  
800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton (657) 278-3371

**MUSIC**

**8:00pm-\$10: May the 4th Be with You Star Wars Karaoke:**  
•PHOTOBOOTH  
•COSTUME CONTEST  
•LIGHT SABRE SHOTS  
•SPECIALITY DRINKS  
• Age 21+  
The Late Lounge at The Eliot  
110 E Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton (714) 626-0050

**5 Tuesday**

**TAKE A HIKE**

**6:00pm-FREE: Sierra Club Fullerton Evening Hike:** Hike with our social group on this weekly easy conditioning hike of 4-5 miles in the gentle hills of Fullerton. Steady medium pace provides a nice workout. Each week we rotate through numerous trails in the area to provide new experiences. On the last Tuesday of the month we hold a potluck after the hike. Meet at the east end of Laguna Lake in Fullerton (from Harbor Blvd, W on Hermosa Dr, L on Lakeside Dr and park on the street).

Look for hikers on east side of Lakeside Dr. Wear sturdy boots/shoes; bring water, flashlight. Rain cancels. Check latest Angeles Chapter Schedule for exact start time as we adjust it throughout the year.  
Laguna Lake  
501-511 Lakeside Dr, Fullerton  
jfftowndsend@yahoo.com  
bbonem@gmail.com  
margeehills@gmail.com

**6 Wednesday**



**MARKET**

**8:30 am to 12:30 pm:** Certified Farmers Market. Fresh local produce. Support farmers that live close by.  
Independence Park  
801 W Valencia Dr, Fullerton (714) 738-6575

**MUSIC**

**8:00pm-\$10: Titan Voices & Singing Titans - Kimberly Nason, conductor:** featuring David Binney Bill Cunliffe, director  
California State University, Fullerton Meng Concert Hall  
800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton (657) 278-3371

**HITS & MISSES**



by Pamela Mason Wagner © 2026

**THE DRAMA:**

**A HIT AND A MISS**

As a filmmaker who made a documentary about the travails from engagement to marriage ("Brides: A Tale of Two Weddings," 1990), and who loves a good wedding-themed story, "The Drama" struck this reviewer as a bleak comment on nuptials in an anxious era. No wonder fewer young people are walking down the aisle.

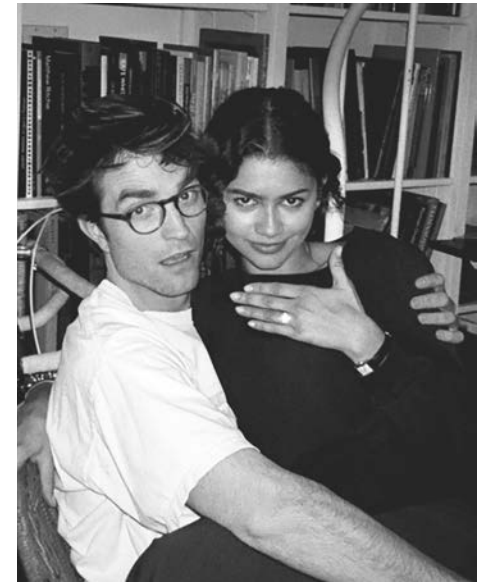
A luminous Zendaya ("Dune, Challengers," "Euphoria") plays Emma, the bride, a spunky, smart, bookish clerk in a high-end bookstore. Robert Pattinson ("Twilight," "Mickey 17") portrays her intended, Charlie, who works at a fictional art museum in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Both are major stars at pivotal moments in their careers, both known for choosing risky material.

"The Drama," written and directed by Norwegian filmmaker Kristoffer Borgli ("Dream Scenario"), contains enough style, imagination, fantasy, a heroin-snorting wedding DJ, and projectile vomiting (three scenes) to qualify as risky material.

The film hinges on a revelation during a wine tasting at the proposed wedding venue. Bride, groom, best man, and matron of honor, deep in their cups, play a version of truth or dare: "What's the worst thing you've ever done?" When Emma goes last, her confession stops everyone cold and sends the movie careening into horror-comedy.

Ultimately, the film asks an intriguing question: Do you believe people can change? The matron of honor, Rachel (a wicked Alana Haim), thinks not. Her decision to essentially cancel her friendship with Emma says more about her own hypocrisy than about Emma's revelation. Without giving anything away, it's worth being clear: a 15-year-old Emma only thought, fantasized, and rehearsed doing something reprehensible. She didn't act on it.

More interesting is Charlie's reaction. Pattinson plays him as a bumbling metrosexual, hiding his good looks behind nerdy glasses. He oscillates



between fear (might Emma be violent?) and anxiety (how could he not have known this?). The impression left is of a couple who fell in love with surfaces and never bothered to truly get to know each other.

They meet when Charlie spots Emma reading in a coffee shop. One assumes he's drawn to her looks—and that she's a reader—but the creep factor in his pickup lingers throughout the film. He never seems to grasp why Emma didn't carry out her dark fantasy. By the end, he resembles a nightmare version of Hugh Grant.

Emma undergoes less of an arc, and both characters lack much backstory. We never meet Charlie's parents, and learn only that Emma's father was in the military and her mother was often absent. We glimpse Emma being bullied as a teenager, but see little of how she became the confident young woman who deserves a better best friend than Rachel.

Instead, the director lavishes attention on high-end interiors (could they really afford that swanky duplex? Who's paying for this ultra-luxe wedding?). There are insider cinephile nods—Louis Malle's Lacombe Lucien, Brian De Palma's "Carrie"—signaling indie director cred. Still, the most compelling reason to see the film is how it grapples, however imperfectly, with the moral and emotional anxieties of contemporary life.

- TWO HITS: Don't Miss it!
- A HIT & A MISS: You Might Like it.
- TWO MISSES: Don't Bother.

**Art Auction XXVII**



**Saturday, April 25, 2026 6-9pm**  
**Fullerton Community Center**

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Tickets

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For more info or to donate art contact:  
[kw.allthearts@gmail.com](mailto:kw.allthearts@gmail.com)



Solid Waste Management Services RFP - Vendor Scores by Evaluation Criteria

| Rank | Vendor                      | Document Organization and Completeness | SB 1383 Compliance Assistance | Project Team and Resumes | Related Experience and Capabilities | Guaranteed Organic Waste Capacity | Safety and Customer Service Program and Record | Financial Ability to Perform | Exceptions | Other Resources and Equipment | Operation | References | Value Added Services, Programs, or Community Support | Local Commitment | Proposed Rates | Oral Evaluation | Total Score |
|------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|--|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1    | EDCO Disposal               | 4.9                                    | 17.9                          | 4.9                      | 18.6                                | 4.6                               | 18   | 5                            | 5          | 9.4                           | 13.8      | 5          | 12.2   | 4.8              | 31.4           | 14.8            | 170.3       |
| 2    | CR&R Environmental Services | 3.1                                    | 18.6                          | 4.7                      | 18.6                                | 4.8                               | 15.8   | 4                            | 4.8        | 9                             | 14        | 4.3        | 14.4   | 4.1              | 30.2           | 18.9            | 169.3       |
| 3    | Universal Waste Systems     | 4.2                                    | 16.4                          | 4.8                      | 15.6                                | 4.4                               | 17.8   | 4.5                          | 5          | 8.6                           | 12.8      | 4.1        | 12.8   | 4.6              | 36.6           | 16.6            | 168.8       |
| 4    | NASA Services               | 4.6                                    | 17                            | 4.6                      | 14.5                                | 4.4                               | 14.6   | 4.2                          | 5          | 9.2                           | 12.4      | 4.8        | 10.3   | 4                | 39             | 15.2            | 163.8       |
| 5    | Athens Services             | 5                                      | 18                            | 4.6                      | 18.8                                | 4.8                               | 18   | 5                            | 3.2        | 9.4                           | 14        | 4.4        | 12.2   | 4.4              | 20             | 18              | 159.8       |
| 6    | Valley Vista Services       | 3.8                                    | 15.8                          | 4.3                      | 16                                  | 3.5                               | 15   | 4.1                          | 5          | 8.4                           | 13        | 4.4        | 11   | 4.4              | 35.2           | 15.6            | 159.5       |
| 7    | GreenWaste Recovery         | 5                                      | 17.4                          | 4.1                      | 14                                  | 4.6                               | 19.2   | 4.4                          | 3.1        | 8                             | 12.1      | 4.6        | 10.8   | 4.4              | 25.6           | 16.8            | 154.1       |
| 8    | Ware Disposal               | 4.5                                    | 17.4                          | 4.3                      | 15.4                                | 3.5                               | 15.4   | 4.4                          | 4.5        | 7.6                           | 13.6      | 3.8        | 10.4   | 4                | 24             | 10.4            | 143.2       |
| 9    | Republic Services           | 4.3                                    | 13.8                          | 4                        | 15.6                                | 4.6                               | 14.8   | 5                            | 2.8        | 6.8                           | 11.4      | 3.5        | 10.7   | 4                | 27.6           | 11.2            | 140.1       |

## Fullerton Shortlists Six Bidders for Waste Contract as Residents Raise Concerns Over Cost and Compliance

by Saskia Kennedy

The Fullerton City Council voted to increase the number of companies under consideration for the city's next solid waste contract from three to six during a special meeting held at 4 pm on April 14.

City staff had recommended narrowing the field to three top-ranked firms—EDCO, CR&R, and Universal Waste Systems—based on an evaluation process. However, a council majority voted to include three additional companies—Valley Vista, Athens Services, and Republic Services—directing all six to submit revised, more competitive proposals.

Mayor Fred Jung told bidders to "sharpen your pencils" as the process moves forward toward a planned July 1, 2027, implementation. When asked for clearer direction, Mayor Jung merely instructed the staff and bidders to "do better."

City staff will continue negotiations with the six companies and will return to the council with updated proposals. The chosen contract will establish waste collection services and rate structures for Fullerton residents and businesses.

### Public Comments

Public comments were taken before the staff presentation. Residents and several of the nine companies that sub-

mitted proposals addressed the council.

Elijah Manassero, a District 5 resident, urged the council to follow staff's original recommendation to limit consideration to three firms, citing differences in performance across evaluation criteria. He pointed to EDCO's local terminal, CR&R's compliance record, and Universal's pricing. He also raised concerns about Valley Vista's ranking and noted a political contribution the company made to a local political action committee.

Another resident cited concerns about Valley Vista's past rate increases in Cypress and service reductions, as well as its compliance ranking under the state's recycling law, SB 1383.

Jeffrey Otter, representing the Craig Park East Homeowners Association, questioned the evaluation process. He said independent analysis showed different pricing rankings than those presented and noted that detailed scoring was not disclosed publicly. He also raised concerns about shifting approximately 15,000 multifamily units to

commercial rate structures and the absence of a formal cost-of-service analysis to support rate-setting requirements under Proposition 218.

Other residents asked why lower-ranked firms were reconsidered and emphasized the importance of services such as bulky-item pickup and access to hazardous-waste disposal.

Representatives from bidding companies also spoke. Valley Vista acknowledged gaps in its proposal and emphasized its investments in technology and compliance. CR&R highlighted proposed service enhancements, including handling residential billing, street sweeping at no additional charge, local infrastructure, union workforce readiness, and \$2 million in additional services.

Speakers also stressed the importance of balancing cost with service quality.

### Council Discussion

Councilmember Dr. Shana Charles, participating remotely, asked whether firms had the opportunity to revise proposals. Staff confirmed that all nine

companies submitted best-and-final offers, including updated pricing linked to changes in landfill rates.

Charles also asked about potential conflicts of interest related to campaign contributions. Special Counsel Patrick Munoz said contributions to political action committees are not disqualifying under the Levine Act, though direct contributions above certain thresholds could require disclosure and recusal.

Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra asked several other questions. He asked for clarification on the selection process and committee structure. Staff said a five-member evaluation committee reviewed proposals using 15 criteria, including cost, service, compliance, and experience, while an ad hoc committee, consisting of Mayor Fred Jung and Councilmember Jamie Valencia, evaluated and made recommendations to add to the selection rather than narrowing it down.

Zahra also questioned how pricing disparities were evaluated. Staff indicated that lower residential rates from some companies were offset by higher commercial rates, impacting overall equity. Under the proposed system, multifamily housing with five or more units would be classified as commercial.

*Continued on page 15*

**All proposers indicated they would absorb union workers from the current provider, Republic Services, and offer local hiring opportunities.**

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# Orange County Board of Supervisors Takes Action on Olympic Planning, Infrastructure, Health Outreach, and Housing

**Item #S43B (Chairman Chaffee) Creation of LA28 Olympic Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee:**

The Chair, Doug Chaffee, appointed Vice Chair Foley and Supervisor Sarmiento to lead the OC-LA28 Olympic Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee. The committee will coordinate Orange County departments, regional partners, hospitality businesses, and community stakeholders to ensure the County capitalizes on and benefits from Olympic-related activities – prioritizing economic development, viewing activations, resident access, and team recruitment across Orange County.

**Item #S43C (Internal Audit Department) Approval of County’s Ethics Program Audit Contract:**

The Board voted unanimously on a contract approval with Macias Gini & O’Connell LLP, allowing the Internal Audit Department to outsource an audit of the County’s Ethics Program from April 15, 2026, through April 14, 2027 for an amount not to exceed \$71,000.

**Item #S43K (OC Public Works) Adopt Resolutions and Approve Revised OC Traffic Committee Bylaws:**

The Board voted unanimously on the approval of the Orange County Traffic Committee’s March 12, 2026, report, including assigning a crossing guard in Las Flores and establishing a 25-mph speed limit on Saddle Way in Rancho Mission Viejo.

**Item #S43M (County Executive Office) Approve 2026 State Budget Request Priorities:**

The Board voted unanimously on the approval of the County’s 2026 State Budget Request Priorities, allowing staff to advocate at the State level for funding to support critical safety net services for vulnerable residents, including children, seniors, and low-income individuals with disabilities.

Vice Chair Foley added, “Orange County is working with other large counties on a coordinated strategy. At the local level, we continue to limit discretionary spending, reduce costs, revise the County budget, protect core mandated services, and identify additional departmental savings. Even so, these combined external pressures are too large for counties to absorb without reducing services residents

rely on. That is why I urged the Governor’s May Revision to backfill any federal funding losses.”

**Item #9 (CEO) North Strand Beach Access Improvements Quitclaim Deed with Headlands Reserve LLC:**

The Board voted unanimously to approve a quitclaim deed to transfer ownership of improvements from Headlands Reserve LLC to the County of Orange, supporting County efforts to provide beach access and amenities for the public at Strands Beach, as well as vital storm drain infrastructure for Dana Point Harbor.

**Item #17 (Health Care Agency) Contract for Behavioral Health and Public Health Outreach Campaign:**

The Board voted 3-2 on the approval of the Behavioral Health and Public Health Outreach and Strategic Marketing Campaign with Angels Baseball LP.

“I opposed funding this contract due to a lack of evidence showing effectiveness in driving residents to mental health resources, as well as value for the funding,” said Vice Chair Katrina Foley.

**Item #30 (OC Public Works) Acting as the Board of Supervisors and Orange County Flood Control District:**

The Board voted unanimously to aggregate contracts for Channel Cleaning Services to allow OC Public Works to provide necessary resources for the County of Orange and Orange County Flood Control District regarding flood control maintenance, clearance of debris and encampments in the public rights-of-way, and run-off water pollution reduction.

**Item #35 (Social Services Agency) Memorandum of Understanding with In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority:**

The Board voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Orange County In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority for the Administration of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

**Item #36 (CEO) Primary and Secondary Developer Selection for 1725 West 17th Street Development:**

The Board held a robust discussion on selecting a

primary developer to negotiate an Option and Lease Agreement with the Chief Real Estate Officer for redeveloping the Health Care Agency facility. The Board ultimately voted 4-1 to begin negotiations with C&C/ Waterford as the primary developer for property located at 1725 West 17th Street in Santa Ana.

**Item #44 (OC Community Resources) Approve Orange County Housing Authority Administrative and Annual PHA Plan:**

Conducting a public hearing and adopting the OC Housing Authority’s updated Administrative Plan and Annual PHA Plan for FY 2026-2027 ensures compliance with federal requirements to document statutory, regulatory, and local discretionary policies that govern the Housing Choice Voucher program.

**Item #45 (OC Public Works) Adopt Resolution to Perform 2026 Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Program:**

The Board voted on the adoption of a Resolution to abate weeds and combustible vegetation in the unincorporated areas on properties where the owners failed to remove weeds and vegetation by the April 14, 2026, deadline. If the County performs the cleanup, it charges all costs, including inspection and administrative fees, back to the property owner through the tax bill. The County will clear the property using mechanical and hand removal methods – no pesticides will be used. This resolution aims to improve fire safety in the unincorporated areas of the County of Orange.

**Resolution recognizing “Fly Friendly Program” Honorees for 2025:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Tier 1</b><br>1st: Baker Aviation<br>2nd: Wheels Up<br>3rd: NetJets Aviation | <b>Tier 2</b><br>1st: Air Transport (ATI Jet)<br>2nd: Jet Edge<br>3rd: Air share                                    |
| <b>Tier 3</b><br>1st: Charter Airlines<br>2nd: Sun Air Jets<br>3rd: Bell Air    | <b>Tier 4</b><br>1st: Newport Sea Pines, LLC<br>2nd: Avmax Aircraft Leasing, Inc.<br>3rd: Mount Olive Holdings, LLC |

The Board also issued resolutions April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month, and April 6–12, 2026, as Public Health Week.




**Gustavo Arellano,**  
Los Angeles Times columnist and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, will speak on  
**“A Political History of Orange County”**  
**At April’s Lunch with League**  
 Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 11 AM  
 Coyote Hills Golf Club,  
 1440 E. Bastanchury, Fullerton  
 RSVP by 4/19 to [LUNCHWITHLEAGUE@LWVNOC.ORG](mailto:LUNCHWITHLEAGUE@LWVNOC.ORG)

## THE HUMAN COST OF WAR: BY THE NUMBERS

by the Institute for Middle East Understanding Policy Project

**GAZA:** 736 killed since the beginning of Trump’s Gaza plan (Palestinian Ministry of Health); 2,073 Israeli violations of Trump’s Gaza plan (Gaza Government Media Office); 72,333 killed during Israel’s genocide (Palestinian Ministry of Health)  
**IRAN:** 3,375 killed (Iran Forensic Medicine Organization)  
**LEBANON:** 2,089 killed (Lebanon Ministry of Health); 1.1 million displaced (UN)  
**ISRAEL:** 26 killed (Israel Ministry of Health)  
**US:** 13 servicemembers killed (US Military)

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## City Council Notes by Saskia Kennedy

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

### April 7 City Council meeting

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

##### Preservation Zone Not Being Preserved

My name is Helen Cummings, and I live on North Cornell Avenue in the historic preservation zone of College Park. I am in a Mott's district.

A multi-unit structure is being built across the street from me. When construction began, I reviewed the building requirements within the preservation zone and felt reassured that the character of my neighborhood would be preserved, but I was wrong.

The new structure does not adhere to what I read in the City of Fullerton guidelines. It is essentially a two-story square box in a neighborhood of one-story bungalows. They are also expanding the original structure from a two-bedroom to a three-bedroom home.

My concern is parking. There will be a total of 3, 6, 9, 10 bedrooms on one lot, and we are very close to the university. I want to read from the City of Fullerton Design Guidelines for Residential Preservation Zones, which I believe this property goes against.

The guidelines were adopted by City Council by Ordinance 2886 on March 5, 1996, as part of amendments to Chapter 15.7 of the Municipal Code.

The guidelines were developed to streamline review processes and ensure new construction and modifications are designed to maintain the traditional character of these neighborhoods. Public workshops were held, and there was overwhelming support for these guidelines.

The city has identified 16 historic districts, with four more proposed. A historic district contains residential buildings from similar time periods that retain original design features.

The residential preservation zone is intended to ensure that new development and additions adhere to the established historical character of the district.

Research shows that preserved residential districts attract greater investment and encourage neighborhood stability.

##### Youth and Community Leaders Call for Tobacco Retail License in Fullerton

In a recent presentation, local youth advocate Jadelyn, a 15-year-old freshman at Rosary High School, reported alarming findings from a project by the America On Track Tobacco Retail License work group. The group examined 50 tobacco-selling stores in Fullerton, including gas stations and smoke shops, between December 2025 and January 2026.

The survey revealed that 56% of stores were selling flavored tobacco products, banned in California since January 2023. Notably, 100% of smoke shops surveyed offered flavored varieties targeting youth with candy, fruit, and dessert flavors. In a follow-up visit to 45 stores in January, five were found to be selling tobacco products to minors, directly violating state law.

Jadelyn highlighted the danger of these appealing flavors, stating they lure teenagers into tobacco use, leading to a higher risk of addiction and long-term health concerns. She advocates for implementing a tobacco retail license in Fullerton to enhance accountability among retailers and reduce youth access to harmful products.

Maria, a 25-year resident of Fullerton and another America On Track member, presented findings from a public opinion poll that included responses

from 1,148 residents over the past year and a half. The poll showed that 94% of respondents believe teenagers can easily access tobacco products. Additionally, 90% support a tobacco retail license policy, while 92% favor stronger enforcement against illegal tobacco sales.

Maria also collected 664 signed endorsements from parents and residents urging local leaders to take action to protect youth from tobacco access. She called on the City Council to consider a comprehensive tobacco retail license policy to combat this issue.

Claire Bradburn, Executive Director of America On Track, backed the proposed tobacco retail license. She explained that such licenses regulate tobacco sales in a city, noting that 97% of tobacco marketing occurs at the retail level. A tobacco retail license requires businesses to obtain a license and follow consistent regulations, creating a citywide framework for accountability.

Bradburn cited that over 230 cities in California have established tobacco retail licenses, allowing tailored regulations to address problems such as retailer density and proximity to schools. She expressed a commitment to supporting Fullerton in advancing this critical public health measure.

##### Public Hearing for Fullerton Municipal Code

The Fullerton City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chamber to discuss the adoption of a recodification of the Fullerton Municipal Code. This important update aims to improve the Code's format for better usability while maintaining its existing content.

##### Impacts of Construction Tax Fraud

Giovanni Flores: I am a carpenter with the Western States Regional Council of Carpenters. I live in Fullerton and work in construction across Orange County.

I am here because construction tax fraud directly impacts workers like me and the community I live in. When contractors misclassify workers or pay them off the books, they avoid payroll taxes, workers' compensation, and other legal obligations. That harms workers.

That is not all. It also hurts responsible contractors who follow the law. Companies doing the right thing are

forced to compete with businesses that cut costs by breaking the rules.

It also impacts our city. When taxes go unpaid, our community loses revenue that supports public services like roads, schools, and public safety. Workers are also harmed when they are denied proper wages and benefits, and many families end up relying on public programs. That means taxpayers in our city are effectively subsidizing contractors who are breaking the law.

As someone who lives here and works in this industry, I believe everyone benefits when the rules are followed and businesses compete fairly.

##### City Sends Cease and Desist Letter to Volunteer

Jensen Hallstrom: Following my past two comments at City Council meetings, in which I described my community service restoring the Sequoia World War II memorial in Hillcrest Park, I received a cease-and-desist letter from the city.

I will read an excerpt from it: at the February 17, 2026, City Council meeting, it was stated that I admitted to jumping over the wrought iron railing protecting the World War II memorial on multiple occasions to repaint names on the memorial. I did not admit to anything. I described my acts of community service in response to years of neglect of this memorial honoring 55 men who lost their lives.

Many of the names were not legible. If the city is more concerned about me crossing a fence to restore names than addressing long-term neglect, that

reflects poorly on the city.

This monument is made from a 2,000-year-old Sequoia slab and is the only one of its kind in Southern California. It has been neglected despite my repeated complaints over nearly 10 years to councilmembers, staff, and commissioners.

I regret receiving the cease-and-desist letter. I provided photos in previous comments showing the memorial's condition, including degradation from carpenter bees and vandalism. I also showed before-and-after photos of the restored names.

This was a simple act of community service. I do not see it as self-righteous. I care about my community and take action where I see a need. If the city wants to work with me, I am willing to work with the city, but a cease-and-desist letter is not the right approach.

##### Budget and Council Training

Karen Lloreda: This evening I wish to address two issues.

First, a clarification regarding the budget issue. Most of us understand that certain monies were received as designated or allocated funds, meaning they were intended for specific purposes but were incorrectly logged into the general fund, and from there some were credited to City reserves.

My questions are: Have those funds actually been spent, or are they still in the budget?

If they were spent, were they used according to their allocated purpose?

As of today, how much is in the general fund that is unspent—not unallocated, but simply unspent?

Is there anything currently in the City reserves?

Second, I wish to address councilmember behavior at the March 17 meeting. On February 3, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution 2026 XXXX, adopting the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order as the city's official rules of procedure and decorum.

The resolution also requires councilmembers to observe civility, decorum, and good behavior, attend ethics training required by Assembly Bill 1234, and complete harassment prevention training every two years.

The referenced training identifies behaviors that are prohibited, including belittling, interrupting, bullying, yelling, and behavior perceived as threatening.

At the March 17th meeting, Mayor Jung interrupted, intervened, belittled, and bullied Councilmember Zahra. The Mayor Pro Tem raised his voice at Councilmember Zahra, slammed his hand on the dais, and displayed behavior perceived as threatening.

This behavior was uncomfortable for the targeted councilmember, other councilmembers, staff, and members of the public. It embarrassed the city and added to its undignified reputation.

I believe Mayor Jung and Mayor Pro Tem Dunlap should complete refresher training in sexual harassment prevention or face potential censure or other penalties.

#### CITY MEETINGS 2026

**April 21 at 5:30pm**  
City Council

**April 22 at 6:30pm**  
Planning Commission

**April 23 at 6:00pm**  
Library Board of Trustees

**April 27 at 6:00pm**  
Youth Advisory Committee

**April 28 at 6:00pm**  
Fiscal Sustainability Ad Hoc

**May 4 at 4:00pm**  
Transportation & Circulation

**May 5 at 5:30pm**  
City Council

**May 11 at 6:00pm**  
Parks and Recreation

#### How to contact your District Representative

• **District 1: Fred Jung**  
Council Chair  
(714) 738-6311  
[fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com)

• **District 2: Nicholas Dunlap**  
Council Vice Chair  
(714) 738-6311  
[nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com)

• **District 3: Dr. Shana Charles**  
(714) 738-6311  
[shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com)

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

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



## Council Divided Over Traffic Signal Proposal Despite Dangers To Public

A divided City Council voted 3-2 to reject a proposed traffic light at Euclid Street and Valley View Drive, then directed staff to explore other ways to address safety concerns along Euclid.

The debate unfolded after Mayor Fred Jung opened the meeting by asking to move public comments to the end so the council could take up the traffic signal item first.

Councilmember Dr. Shana Charles objected, arguing that residents who had planned to speak during the normal comment period might not be present later.

After a brief procedural exchange, the council voted on the mayor's proposal, and the motion failed, forcing the meeting back to the regular agenda order.

The council also briefly discussed an email error disclosed by Jung before taking up the intersection item. City Attorney Dick Jones told the council that Jung's accidental "reply all" message to a constituent was inadvertent, did not advocate a vote position, and did not amount to a Brown Act violation.

Traffic Engineer Dave Roseman then presented the staff report, saying the city had spent about 13 months revisiting the intersection after an earlier council discussion sent the matter back to the Traffic and Circulation Commission. Roseman said the commission voted 3-2 to recommend installing a signal and seeking grant funding.

He told the council that the intersection met state traffic signal warrants, largely based on traffic volume on Valley View, though he acknowledged that the crash and pedestrian warrants were not met. He also said the city had already studied alternatives and imple-

mented other measures, including restriping, resurfacing, speed display signs, and enforcement.

Roseman said the signal could be designed to reduce its visual impact and limit speeding, and he said engineers did not find enough additional data to justify further study.

Councilmembers and residents sharply disagreed over whether the signal would improve safety or worsen cut-through traffic in the neighborhood.

During public comment, opponents argued that the light would draw more traffic into residential streets, increase speeding, and shift the burden onto neighbors. Several residents said the intersection did not meet crash or pedestrian thresholds and urged the council to focus instead on broader street safety and infrastructure needs across the city.

Supporters countered that the intersection had documented safety problems, including speeding on Euclid and difficulty making turns at the curved roadway. They said the city should rely on its traffic engineers and act before a serious crash or fatality occurs.

After hearing from residents, the council debated whether to reject the signal outright or send the issue back for more study. Some members argued the city needed a clearer directive on other safety options, while others said the staff had already done enough work and should be allowed to move ahead with alternative measures.

The council ultimately voted to reject the traffic light and direct staff to explore other options for Euclid, including striping and signal timing changes. Jung, Valencia, and Dunlap voted yes. Charles and Zahra voted no. The motion passed 3-2.

## Fullerton Shortlists Six Bidders for Waste Contract *continued from page 12*

Service levels were also discussed. Staff said the current unlimited bulky-item pickup could shift to a quarterly service for single-family homes, while hazardous waste disposal would continue through county programs. SB 1383 requirements for organic waste collection would remain in place.

Valencia proposed prioritizing service quality over pricing in early evaluations, while Jung suggested focusing on pricing. Jung also cited the lack of comparable experience as a reason for disqualifying one bidder (NASA).

### Process Background and Next Steps

The city began the procurement process in 2025 to comply with state recycling mandates and avoid penalties. Nine proposals were received and

evaluated following interviews in early 2026.

The evaluation committee initially ranked EDCO, CR&R, and Universal Waste Systems as the top three firms. However, the ad hoc committee later recommended expanding the list to six firms to provide more options.

The council was asked to decide whether to negotiate exclusively with the top-ranked firms or to continue comparing multiple proposals. The council majority voted to proceed with the six firms.

City staff will now negotiate with the selected companies and will return with updated proposals before awarding a contract by the 2027 deadline or be fined \$10,000 per day.

Watch the meeting: <https://fullerton.granicus.com/player/clip/2243>

## Fullerton to Hold Public Hearing on Water Management Plans

Fullerton City Council will conduct a public hearing on May 5 at 5:30 pm to discuss updates to the city's Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP). The hearing will take place in the Council Chamber at Fullerton City Hall, located at 303 W. Commonwealth Ave.

Residents can attend in person or watch online via the city's website, Spectrum Cable Channel 3, or AT&T U-verse Channel 99. Remote participation will also be available.

The updates are required under California's Urban Water Management Planning Act for water suppliers serving more than 3,000 customers or delivering over 3,000 acre-feet annually. The UWMP and WSCP detail long-

term water supply planning and strategies for addressing water shortages.

City officials aim to collect public input before the council considers adopting the updated plans. Draft documents will be available at [www.cityoffullerton.com/UWMP](http://www.cityoffullerton.com/UWMP) after finalization.

According to state law, any legal challenges to the council's decision must address issues raised during the public hearing or submitted in writing in advance.

For more information, residents can contact the Public Works Engineering Department at (714) 738-6895. Accommodations for individuals with disabilities can be arranged through the City Clerk's Office upon request at least 48 hours before the meeting.

## PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR TUES, MAY 12: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

The City of Fullerton will host a public hearing to discuss the allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funding for the upcoming fiscal year. This important meeting is set for Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chamber, located at 303 West Commonwealth Avenue.

Residents and stakeholders interested in the development initiatives are encouraged to participate either in person or by tuning into the live stream available on the city's website at [www.cityoffullerton.com/agendas](http://www.cityoffullerton.com/agendas), as well as on Spectrum Cable Channel 3 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99.

The Community Development Citizens' Committee (CDCC) will make recommendations on funding for fiscal year 2026-2027. This meeting

marks an opportunity for community input as it forms part of the city's Consolidated Plan. Non-profit agencies and other interested parties are specifically invited to share their views on the proposed projects.

As of early 2025, the CDCC is chaired by Patricia Hanzo, with José Trinidad Castaneda serving as vice chair. Additional members include Tiffany N. Blay and Mindy Kim, whose terms will expire in 2028.

Due to limited seating in the Council Chamber, attendees are advised to arrive early, as seating will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information or to submit comments before the public hearing, the Housing Division can be reached at (714) 738-6544 or via email at [Housing@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:Housing@cityoffullerton.com).

## FULLERTON TAKES STEPS TOWARDS STRICTER CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT

Fullerton City Council convened April 7 to consider new enforcement measures targeting illegal cannabis dispensaries, signaling a potential shift in how the City of Fullerton addresses unlicensed operations.

During the meeting, the Fullerton Police Department presented a plan aligned with Assembly Bill 1684, which is intended to strengthen local enforcement authority as state cannabis laws continue to evolve.

Police officials said illegal dispensaries remain a persistent issue despite existing zoning restrictions. The police chief told the council that enforcement efforts have been limited in effectiveness, noting that operators often reopen shortly after being shut down due to relatively low civil penalties.

Under the proposed amendments, the City would be authorized to impose administrative fines of up to \$1,000 per violation and up to \$10,000 per day for ongoing unlicensed cannabis activity. The proposal also expands accountability to property owners who lease space to illegal operators.

Council members broadly expressed support for stronger enforcement, citing ongoing community concerns and the limitations of current policies. The discussion, however, also highlighted continued debate over the City's broader approach to cannabis regulation.

Several residents urged the council to reconsider its longstanding prohibition

on commercial cannabis activity, pointing to potential tax revenue for the City and safe regulated access.

Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra questioned whether increased enforcement alone would resolve the issue, arguing that persistent consumer demand would continue to drive illegal sales just as prohibition on alcohol did. He agreed that a regulated framework for licensed dispensaries could provide safer access while generating revenue for the City.

City staff noted that the nearby city of Costa Mesa implemented enforcement mechanisms prior to opening legal cannabis businesses, presenting a potential model for Fullerton.

The council ultimately moved forward with the enforcement updates, directing staff to continue examining policy options. Officials said further analysis of cannabis regulations and enforcement strategies is expected as the City evaluates next steps aimed at improving compliance and the public's safety.

The public may view the proposed ordinance in the Fullerton City Clerk's Office, 303 W. Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton, during regular business hours.

For more information, contact the Fullerton City Clerk's Office at 714-738-6350 or at [cityclerksoffice@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:cityclerksoffice@cityoffullerton.com).



## OPINION: Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2026 [Jonathandobrer.substack.com](http://Jonathandobrer.substack.com)

### CMy Hope for Humanity Projecting Empathy Across Tribe and Space

My heart was beating rapidly with both excitement and anxiety as I watched the countdown for the launch of Artemis. We were finally returning to space, reaching beyond, in both vision and mission, our half-century self-imposed exile in the limbo of low earth orbit.

I write “we” were returning because these four astronauts were not truly alone. I was with them and I believe that many of you also joined them. We projected ourselves into their lives and fates.

In our contemporary world, so filled with anger, hate and division, we still maintain the ability to project empathy from our too often selfish selves onto others. This ability may be our saving grace, countering at least some of our isolation and tribalism.

The plaque that Apollo 11 left on the moon said, “We came in peace for all mankind.” Indeed, people of many nations, not only Americans, felt a sense of triumph and were uplifted. I was living and working in Tunisia in the Peace Corps at the time and my students, colleagues and friends celebrated this achievement as their own. It was not simply two Americans who

crossed space and landed on the moon. They represented all humankind. They represented my Tunisian friends as much as they represented me.

When you ask people what events are so vivid and so powerful in their minds that they knew exactly where they were when the news of such an event reached them, most will recount 9/11, or the Space Shuttle blowing up, the assassinations of JFK, RFK or MLK. All traumas and tragedies. When pushed to find a positive unifying event, if they are of a certain age, there is seldom anything beyond the moon landing. It brought us together as we reached for the heavens. We blasted off, travelled, landed back on earth in the largest and grandest ride-a-long in human history.

There are other examples of projecting real empathy from ourselves to others—even others who share relatively little with us. I’m remembering the story of Kathy Fiscus, the three-year-old girl who fell into a well in 1949. She captivated the entire nation. Her

**Our ability to project empathy across tribe and space allows us to find common cause with others.**

story was broadcast nation-wide by local channel 5, KTLA. Stan Chambers’ narration captured both a human sense of urgency and somehow also a calm journalistic professionalism. Through this entire event we drew together in a kind of virtual human family in fear, in hope and eventually in mourning.

I also recall how we gathered across this nation and around the world eager to follow the story of the young Thai soccer players who became trapped in a flooding cave. Were they alive or dead, we wondered? When found alive

but trapped by flood chambers with rising water, would they drown or freeze, would they starve or asphyxiate? The world tuned in with caring and empathy. They became not simply rural Thai children but our children too.

Our empathy was not chosen but instinctual and natural and is, as in Hamlet, “sweet commendable” in our, so often fierce and brutish, nature.

We may try to discount this projection of empathy because, after all, they were children and we could sense their vulnerability. However, remember also the thirty-three coal miners in Chile who were trapped by a cave-in 2,300 feet below earth. Would they have food? Would they have enough air?

Would rescuers arrive in time or, like Kathy Fiscus, would they too perish in the cold and dark? The world stood by with great interest and a shared sense of real caring, with a personal investment in their fate. The world held its collective breath hoping that they hadn’t drawn their last breaths. Happily, they were all rescued.

I am inspired by our human ability to reach out beyond our usual narrow definitions of family, tribe and nation to see ourselves in the fates of others, to feel their peril personally and to share in the joy of their achievements.

This evening my heart will again race. In a few hours, my heart will be transported from my comfortable and secure world into a small object that is hurtling towards earth at 27,000 mph. I will be holding my breath, particularly during the six-minute anticipated communications blackout. My earthbound body will tremble as my human spirit rides and resides with four astronauts.

There is much in our nature that works against us and our survival. However, for all our instinctual moral deficits, we have a radical ability to project empathy across tribe and space and find common cause with other human beings. We have the ability to ride along, not only with astronauts but also with the hungry and homeless, the downtrodden, the unloved and the abandoned. We can bridge the gaps that separate us and feel the anxious joy of having our hearts beat together.

## OPINION: AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2026 [WWW.PATREON.COM/C/THEEOPINIONATOR](http://WWW.PATREON.COM/C/THEEOPINIONATOR)

### How do you help people? Listen to them.

I once knew a very wise man named Stanley van den Noort. He was Jen’s doctor until an accident ended his practice in 2007. But he was better known world-wide as a pioneering researcher in the treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS). UC Irvine medical students will remember him as a professor and chair of neurology, the dean of UCI’s medical school from 1973-1985, and the first chief medical officer of the national MS Society from 1997-2001. Stanley summarized his approach to treating patients thus: “Listen carefully to patients, and they will usually tell you their diagnosis. I may not make a lot of money, but that’s the way I did it in 1954 and that’s how I’m doing it in 2004.”

That quote came to mind when I was contemplating for the nth time why homeless shelters are so unpopular. Why would so many unhoused persons rather stay on the sidewalks than have a roof over their heads, a decent bed, 24/7 bathrooms, a place to park their

vehicles and an occasional warm meal? It boils down to four things: lack of available housing, feeling unsafe in shelters, lack of free movement, and boredom.

The greatest obstacle to going from sheltered homelessness to independent or supportive permanent housing is the lack of same, as has been documented repeatedly by Voice of OC and CalMatters, and a Grand Jury impaneled last year to study the issues causing homelessness in Orange County. This results in even the most deserving unhoused waiting years for a place to become available.

And if you have any questions about the federal view, this recent statement from HUD Secretary Scott Turner should answer them: “(HUD) remains committed to reforming the misguided ‘Housing First’ approach that for years

**They treat houseless people like children. They don’t give people agency.**

funded the self-serving homeless-industrial complex (!), rewarded activists, and ignored solutions.”

This pack of howlers and pathetic neologisms, what my instructors in logic and semantics would call “loaded language,” can be disproven in five minutes by a search on Housing First initiatives in the US and Europe. There one will discover, as I’ve pointed out ad nauseum, that Housing First programs have a success rate of around 70-80 percent—even without requiring sobriety and mental health treatment, which Secretary Turner seems to think are essential prerequisites to shelter. Observing the obvious won’t put this BS to rest, but “facts are stubborn things,” as John Adams once said to a jury.

If you believe that you have little or no chance of getting suitable housing, and you feel unsupported by staff, time can hang heavy in shelters. Depression becomes entrenched. Hope is a bad joke. And it’s all too easy to passively sit in front of a TV or computer until mealtime, as happens in assisted living facilities. Shelters aren’t disrupting the cycle of homelessness—they’re merely extending it.

Then there is the continuing insanity of the “lock-in/shut-out” rule, which keeps shelter residents at the mercy of vans provided by shelters to local transportation hubs—unless they are fortunate enough to have a motorized vehicle. And the history of sexual and physical assaults in shelters, as documented by the ACLU’s Southern California branch in their discovery for *Uzman v. County of Orange*, clearly doesn’t inspire confidence.

All of this can be boiled down to one simple statement, courtesy of Paisley Mares: “They treat houseless people like children. They don’t give people agency.”

So here’s an idea: What if we tried asking the homeless what they want

and need, instead of bringing in a bunch of psychiatrists and social workers to design the interiors of shelters—how they think they should look, replete with generic uplifting murals and PosiThink posters that wear out their welcome in a week? You might assume that the end result would look like the “white elephant” car that Homer Simpson designed: Barcaloungers for every client, huge flat-screen HDMI plasma TVs in every room, a 24-hour kitchen, maid service, an exercise room with state-of-the-art equipment, and other perks normally associated with five-star hotels. You’d be wrong.

Most people naturally want to be physically and mentally active—not just with an occasional visit from an art therapist, or a weekly Bingo game, or Bible study—but actual classes geared to all education levels. Tutorials in managing finances given by CPAs and financial advisors. Healthy meals three times a day. General meetings once a week, where staff and residents can freely discuss issues within the facility. Book clubs, where people can talk about whatever book(s) they’re currently reading and what they’re getting out of them. Engagement is the key. TVs and computers are wonderful tools, but they don’t have the capacity for emotional depth that one-on-one interactions with human beings can bring. If you offer people help, and aren’t condescending, they will listen to you.

The good news is that many shelters in the county have some of these features in place. The bad news is that they don’t have all of them, and the ones that have some but not all tend to have a laissez-faire attitude towards maintenance, due to lack of staff and funding. There’s never enough of either. But Stanley’s lesson is still relevant: Listen carefully to people, and they will usually tell you what’s wrong—and maybe even how to fix it.

## Balance & Change

by Michelle Gottlieb, Psy.D., MFT, LPCC © 2026

### Listening to Our Bodies: The Crucial Art of Slowing Down

I have been feeling tired lately. Nothing is terribly wrong other than perhaps my doing too much. So, I am tuning into my body to see what I need.

What I need is to literally move more slowly. Anyone who knows me knows that I do not move slowly. So, this is very odd and different for me. However, as I listen to my body and move more slowly, I can feel myself recovering.

If you were to slow down and listen to your body, what would it be telling you?

Does it need more sleep?

Healthier food? Exercise?

Being in sunlight?

Or, like me, simply to move more slowly?

We tend not to listen to our bodies. There are consequences to this behavior, which is our body starting to yell at us. This can look like a myriad of health problems, up to and including serious issues like heart attacks.



I wish to live a long, healthy life. Therefore, I make it a point to stop and hear what my body is trying to tell me. And then doing it!

Sometimes my body needs to start yelling before I remember to listen. When I get sick, even with a cold, I stop and check in. What is my body telling me? Too much stress? Not enough recovery time?

Stop for a second right now. Listen to your body. What is it trying to tell you?

## Healthy Awareness

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2026



### What Does It Mean to Be Masculine?

I caught that terrible cough and congestion going around, so I watched 26 of the 27 James Bond movies on Netflix, from the early '60s onward.

Several actors have portrayed James Bond over the years. Sean Connery and Roger Moore hold the record for the most films, while Daniel Craig is the most recent. The other Bonds are George Lazenby, Timothy Dalton, and Pierce Brosnan.

Watching the films was unexpectedly entertaining, thanks to the fascinating, dated technology and spectacular settings, especially the recognizable San Francisco scenes in "A View to a Kill." The stunts were incredible and the gadgets created by "Q" felt ahead of their time. But as I watched film after film, one theme stood out: The image of the ideal man.

Bond represented a very specific version of masculinity. He was courageous, powerful, fearless, and always in control. As a spy, he was trained to kill and to accept the possibility of death himself. Yet he remained impeccably dressed in a tailored suit, polished shoes, and the confidence of someone who never doubted his place in the world.

Alcohol, particularly martinis ordered "shaken, not stirred," was a staple for Bond. The women in his films were glamorous but fleeting, with Bond showing little emotional attachment, even amidst their tragic fates. Authority came from "M," the stern head of the intelligence service, whose approval Bond constantly sought.

Bond's creator, Ian Fleming, mirrored aspects of his own life in the character. Charming, confident, and somewhat arrogant, Fleming enjoyed martinis and had a reputation as a womanizer, drawing from his experiences in British naval intelligence during World War II. However, his relationship with his wealthy, domineering mother, who pressured him in his personal life, reflects Bond's need for approval from authority figures like "M."

Over time, the Bond character

evolved. When producers Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli brought the series into the modern era with Daniel Craig as Bond, the character became more human.

In these newer films, Bond falls in love, discovers he has a daughter, and ultimately sacrifices his life to save his family. The invincible bachelor spy suddenly became a man capable of vulnerability and devotion.

For decades, the Bond films reflected what many believed masculinity should look like—strength, confidence, control, and emotional distance.

### What does masculinity mean today?

Research shows that the lives of boys and men are changing significantly. Girls now outperform boys in reading and writing, and graduate from high school at higher rates, while women earn the majority of college degrees. These shifts are altering expectations for both genders.

Many boys, however, struggle with identity and purpose. They often fear being seen as weak and feel pressured to appear strong and successful, similar to characters like James Bond. Yet real life is much more complicated.

Today's boys face rapidly changing roles, as women pursue education and careers in greater numbers, and families redefine parenting. Emotional intelligence and collaboration, once labeled as "soft skills," are now valued more than ever.

While some young men adapt to these changes, others struggle to find their place. The focus is not on whether masculinity is disappearing, but rather on its evolution.

Modern masculinity may not be about being a fearless spy. It could be about combining strength with empathy, confidence with humility, and independence with responsibility. The true measure of masculinity today may lie in living thoughtfully and finding strength in responsibility and compassion.

## The Science Behind It

by Yuvika Salman © 2026



### Cancer Therapies Research

For many people, cancer is something encountered through headlines, statistics, or personal connections, rather than something they fully understand at a biological level. It is often simplified as uncontrolled cell growth, but this definition only begins to capture the complexity of the disease. The processes that drive cancer development and how cells adapt to survive are far more intricate, which is part of what makes studying cancer both challenging and essential.

What makes cancer so difficult to treat is also what makes it fascinating to study. This is its ability to adapt, survive, and exploit the very systems meant to protect our cells.

I've come to understand this firsthand through my own experience working in a cancer research lab. Over the past few months, I've been studying how cancer cells respond to damage and, more importantly, how they manage to survive it.

Much of what I've learned initially felt overwhelming as it consisted of layers of molecular pathways, unfamiliar terminology, and complex interactions that don't always follow a straightforward logic. But the more I read and researched, I began to see a pattern: cancer isn't just growing uncontrollably; it's constantly problem-solving.

At its core, cancer is a disease of DNA. Our cells are constantly experiencing damage to their genetic material, whether from environmental exposures, normal metabolic processes, or simple errors during replication. Fortunately, our bodies are equipped with intricate DNA repair systems that act like internal maintenance crews, fixing damage before it becomes harmful. These systems are essential for maintaining cell health and function.

Cancer cells operate differently. They often have defects in one or more of these repair pathways. At first, this may seem like a disadvantage, but it can actually help them survive. By relying more heavily on alternative repair mechanisms, cancer cells can adapt and continue to grow even under stress from treatments designed to kill them.

This is where modern cancer research is beginning to shift its strategy. Instead of trying to destroy cancer cells outright, scientists are learning how to exploit the specific vulnerabilities that make these cells different.

One approach that I've been studying involves a concept called "synthetic lethality." While it sounds complicated, the idea is surprisingly intuitive. Imagine a cancer cell that already has one broken repair pathway. It survives by relying on a backup system. If we can selectively block that backup system, the cancer cell loses its ability to

repair itself entirely, thus leading to its death. Meanwhile, healthy cells, which still have their primary repair systems intact, are less affected.

BRCA1 and BRCA2 are genes that play a critical role in repairing double-strand breaks in DNA through a process known as homologous recombination. When these genes are mutated, this repair pathway is impaired, forcing cells to rely more heavily on alternative mechanisms. One of these involves the PARP family of proteins, which helps repair single-strand DNA breaks. PARP inhibitors block this function, leading to an accumulation of damage that eventually results in double-strand breaks or damage that BRCA-deficient cancer cells are unable to effectively repair, ultimately leading to cell death.

This concept is already being applied in treatments known as PARP inhibitors, which target specific DNA repair processes in certain cancers, such as those with BRCA mutations. Rather than acting as a broad, aggressive attack like traditional chemotherapy, these therapies are more precise. They take advantage of weaknesses that are unique to cancer cells and offer a more targeted and effective approach to treatment.

What's striking to me is how strategic this approach feels. Cancer treatment is no longer just about attacking the disease but rather about understanding it well enough to outmaneuver it.

That said, this progress doesn't come easily. Cancer is not a single disease but a collection of hundreds of different conditions, each with its own set of mutations and behaviors. Even within a single tumor, cells can vary widely. They are constantly evolving and sometimes developing resistance to treatment. This complexity is part of why there isn't a single "cure" for cancer and why advances in this field often take time.

Working in this space has given me a new appreciation for that process. The science behind cancer treatment deals with an immense amount of persistence, iteration, and a willingness to sit with questions that don't have immediate answers. It's also about translating incredibly complex biology into something that can ultimately help patients.

I'm still in the process of learning and trying to fully grasp the pathways and mechanisms I encounter every day. But being part of that process and understanding it in simple terms for myself has made me realize that the goal isn't just to fight cancer harder, but to fight it smarter.

That shift may be one of the most important developments in modern medicine.

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**Rachel Silva 1934-2026**



Rachel Silva of Fullerton passed away peacefully on March 26, at the age of 91.

Rachel was married to Vincent Silva and was the devoted mother of five children, two of whom survive her, Darlene and Vicky. She was a loving grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother whose warmth, laughter, and vibrant spirit touched everyone around her.

She is lovingly remembered by her 13 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren, who will carry her light and legacy in their hearts forever.

Memorial services was held Thursday, April 9, at McAulay & Wallace Mortuary, with interment at Loma Vista Memorial Park.

**Celebration of the Life of June Perez**



remained a pillar of strength and compassion. She rallied everyone together, delivered food to those in need, provided rides to neighbors without cars, and showered residents with thoughtful gifts on birthdays. June also initiated a program to sterilize the many feral cats at the park.

Residents remembered June's commitment to residents' health, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, when she helped ensure older neighbors received their vaccinations.

She helped with every social and fun event, always with a smile, always thinking of ideas for fun events.

"Today with our coffee, donuts, and prayers, we say thank you June Perez. We will miss and remember her. Friends and family from various states and many new forms of housing remember Rancho La Paz mobile park and the love and caring we all felt for one another," said Lupe.

Residents honored June's legacy by nurturing the bonds she helped create in the community.

"Today, I hope we continue to understand the necessity of preserving communities for seniors. These places should never be revamped or become more valuable as pieces of land for new developers. This is who we are. So today, we say thank you and goodbye to June Perez of Rancho La Paz. Your spirit will live on in our hearts," Lupe concluded.

Residents of Rancho La Paz Mobile Home Park gathered on April 4 in love and remembrance for June Perez, a cherished resident of Rancho La Paz for over 20 years, who passed away over a month ago due to complications from a car accident.

Lupe Ramirez shared, "We recognize June as the giving, thoughtful, kind neighbor we all loved. We all lived in the mobile park, most of us no longer do. We came together not in mourning, but to celebrate the vibrant life of June. She was not just a neighbor; she was a beacon of light in our community. Her spirit of love and dedication touched the lives of everyone around her."

When the mobile park was bought by John Saunders, a predatory investor buyer, he raised the residents rents by 48%. As many residents were displaced by rising rents and the threat of losing their homes, June

**Rego Anthony Bulone 1935-2026**

Rego Anthony Bulone, age 90, of Fullerton, passed peacefully at home, with family by his side April 5. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the eighth, last surviving, and youngest child of Italian immigrants. He designed industrial models for his business, Rego Bulone Designs. In the army, he sculpted the "Follow Me" statue at Fort Benning. Later, he sculpted the statue of Saint Cecilia in Tustin. His art touches thousands because he sculpted identifiable trophy pieces.



Many believe his greatest accomplishment was his work with individuals experiencing emotional situations. He led Emotions Anonymous and other groups, demonstrating his

caring and honest approach.

He is survived by his children Wendy Kieffer, Timothy Bulone (Susan Chaney), Chris Bulone (Beth), and Monica Schwaniger (Robert), as well as 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A viewing will be held at McAulay and Wallace Mortuary in Fullerton at 6 pm on Thursday, April 23. A funeral mass will be celebrated at St Philip Benizi Catholic Church in Fullerton at 10 am on Friday, April 24 with interment following at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Orange.

To share a memory, or send flowers or visit: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/fullerton-ca/rego-bulone-12820156>

**Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. (Psalms 51)**



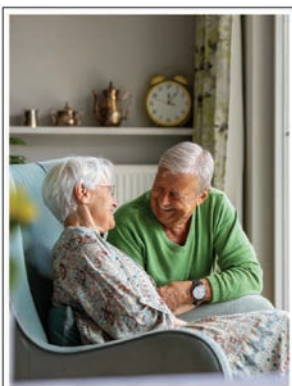
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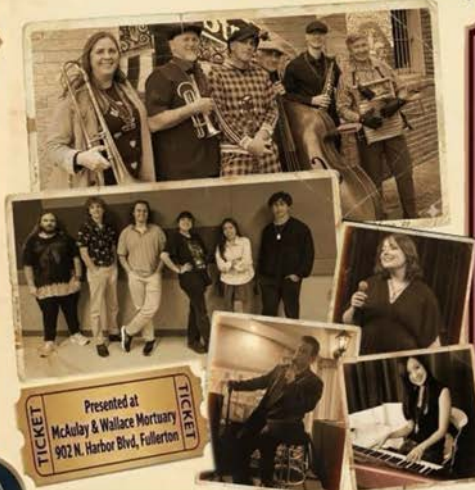
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## OUR TOWN CROSSWORD

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### A Duckless Duck Pond with a History in Hillcrest Park

Early on an April morning, I was hiking through Hillcrest Park. Following park trails northwest of the fountain facing Harbor, I made my way to the duck pond, which dates back to 1934. Now a much smaller body of water, it is surrounded by thriving riparian vegetation and a network of walkways. Benches and informational signs line the edges of this earthy embankment, but oddly enough, there are no ducks in this pond. While this part of the park has been fixed up significantly since I started coming here in the early 2000s, I decided to ask around the Fullerton community to see what people remember about the duck pond's past, and find out how it is being maintained today.

On my morning walk, I navigated the pathways that loop around this pond, and learned more about the different types of plant life growing here just by reading signs installed by the city's Parks and Recreation Department. There are California Sycamore trees, White Alder, Arroyo Willow, and Coast Live Oak around the pond as well as ornamental grasses and shrubs, such as Purple Three Awn, California Gray Rush, Small Cape Rush, Dwarf Coyote Bush, California Buckwheat, Island Bush Snapdragon, Cleveland Sage and California Fuchsia.

I was curious as to how Fullerton maintains this pond, so I emailed the city and received a response from David Bishop, Landscape & Tree Manager for the City of Fullerton's Public Works Division, who wrote via email, "The Duck Pond is visited weekly by our landscape maintenance staff. Work activities vary and may include trimming shrubs, weeding, and trash pickup. Each year, after the winter rains have subsided, staff also enter the center water area to remove silt and debris that accumulate among the rocks and soil. This area can be labor intensive due to the water and rocks that staff must work around."

According to signs around the pond, "Riparian vegetation acts as a natural biofilter by resisting the flow of floodwaters and increasing the time available for water to infiltrate into the soil,

reducing pollution in surface runoff and recharging groundwater... Restoring this native vegetation to the Duck Pond will encourage the return of native wildlife, such as ducks, pollinating birds, lizards, insects, and other wildlife that benefit from native riparian environments."

Underneath one tree close to the stone bridge, I found a city plaque that commemorated when this version of the Hillcrest Lily/Duck pond was dedicated: November 2020. Local author and Fullerton Heritage research historian Deb Richey remembers serving on the Hillcrest Park Advisory Committee, which was started in 2009 to prepare a master plan for the park. Richey recalls that when the grant came down from the government, those funds were used by the city; however, by the time the committee was formed, the area was in bad shape.

Richey said, "When the Hillcrest Park Committee met with nearby residents, nearly all remembered the ducks. I know that it got too expensive to keep draining the water for the ducks...a lot of people remembered feeding them as children. There are postcards in the Fullerton Public Library's Local History Room of the long-gone duck park. A few others remembered that it was used as a shooting range by law enforcement."

Based on archived photos viewed in the Fullerton Public Library's Local History Room, it seems that the duck pond dates back to as early as 1934. Cheri Pape, Local History Room Archivist, used the photos to show me how water from the duck pond may have initially led under the park's stone bridge to a Japanese garden with lily pads, before heading into the county flood control channel; this garden on the opposite side of the bridge from the duck pond was removed once World War II started.

Kay Miller, who has been attached to Hillcrest Park one way or another since the 1950s, includes these types of historical anecdotes on the tours she now

leads for Fullerton Heritage.

"The pond came painfully into my 8-year old life when I ran down the trail and fell, scraping my hands and knees, but I saved my sack of bread to feed the ducks," said Miller. "I was just one of thousands of people to feed the ducks over those years, but this was the beginning of the evolution to the duckless duck pond we see today."

"In its early days, the pond was a depository for all the ducks that kids received at Easter," she said. "As the cute ducklings grew into noisy and messy adult ducks, they were 'gifted' to the Hillcrest pond, and these ducks stayed. This was a maintenance issue for the city, which had to institute population control. Unbeknownst to park users, periodically there was a duck roundup very early in the morning.

Those ducks were donated to a church-affiliated boys' school and became duck dinners! For maintenance reasons, the earthen and gooey-sided pond became a concrete-lined wide swale leading to the Orange County Flood Control channel. By that point, it was generally known that feeding ducks bread and chips not only makes them stay, but is harmful to their health.

Interestingly, she saved a duck pond postcard from the 1950s. In this photo, there's a bunch of turquoise-colored cars, plenty of ducks, and a palm tree at the water's edge, which is still there today.

One tour attendee on Miller's park walks recounted to her that she lived adjacent to the park with her husband, who was a judge at the nearby County Courthouse, so he would walk through the park to work most days. This resi-

dent was worried about her husband's safety due to some sketchy park users, and one day, he called her saying, "You're right! I was attacked this morning. I dropped my briefcase and papers flew. I had to run." She was really shaken until he explained that it wasn't people, but pond geese and ducks that had chased him off their territory.

"In about 2020, some grant money became available for riparian restoration projects," said Miller. "The city redirected park dwelling funds from the Hillcrest lower picnic area to become the needed matching money for the grant to 'redecorate' the duck pond as it's seen today. Using the existing concrete swale, holes were punched in it to plant vegetation to attract migrating fowl. The surrounding area was planted and augmented with interpretive signage and complementary seating. The stone bridge on the western end was restored and as an homage to the original use of branches for the sides, the new metal siding mimics that look."

This duck pond area is now easily accessible by pulling into a turnout off Brea Boulevard (found on the opposite side of the street from the Fullerton Towers parking lot). I have to say that on my morning walk through the area, there were quite a few dog owners taking a stroll next to the duck pond, so despite there being no ducks in the pond, this part of the park is still used by many. Hopefully the ducks return some day.

For anyone interested in learning more about the duck species or other wildlife at the Hillcrest Park pond, visit and observe the park or call the city's Parks and Recreation Department at (714) 738-6575.



*Above: Historic stone bridge over Hillcrest Park Duck Pond was part of a series of New Deal Projects constructed in the 1930s to create Hillcrest Park.*

**The duck pond  
dates back to  
as early as 1934.**



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