

# I read it in the **Fullerton** **Observer.com**

KNOW FULLERTON, SUBSCRIBE TODAY  
AND SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

NEWS FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE  
contact@fullertonobserver.com • (714) 525-6402 • PO Box 7051, Fullerton, CA 92834 • Daily Stories at: [www.fullertonobserver.com](http://www.fullertonobserver.com)

Est. 1978 • YEAR 48 #08

EARLY MAY 2026

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

## 1,900 Volunteers Showed up to Love Fullerton

For the 13th consecutive year, the Love Fullerton event brought together approximately 1,900 volunteers, united under a shared commitment to improve the city. Spearheaded by UnitedOC, the day kicked off at Fullerton College Quad, where enthusiastic participants gathered before dispersing to various projects across the city.

The event, designed to foster community spirit, encourages residents to roll up their sleeves and contribute to a range of service projects. With the involvement of organizations, companies, and civic groups, Love Fullerton aims to create a noticeable and lasting impact in just a few hours.

Volunteering not only benefits the city but also promotes personal well-being. Participants reported improvements in stress levels and mood, highlighting the therapeutic effects of community involvement. Such gatherings offer a unique opportunity for personal growth and healing, reinforcing the importance of creating supportive learning environments.

The annual Love Fullerton Day continues to see a strong turnout, illustrating the community's dedication to civic engagement and improvement. Residents and organizations alike are encouraged to participate, ensuring that next year's event is even more successful.

For more details on this year's activities and future volunteer opportunities, visit [lovefullerton.org](http://lovefullerton.org).



## City Staff Warns Ad Hoc Committee, "Budget Cuts Threaten Essential Services"

by Saskia Kennedy

City staff told the Fiscal Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee on April 28 that further budget reductions could affect public safety, development

services, maintenance, and community programs as Fullerton prepares its preliminary fiscal year 2026-27 budget.

During the meeting, department leaders outlined the city's financial outlook and described the effects of past vacancy holds, staffing reductions, and cost-saving measures. Several warned that additional cuts would likely require service reductions rather than simple administrative tightening.

Administrative support departments, including the City Manager's Office, Administrative Services and Human Resources, reported that they are operating with limited staffing flexibility. Those departments have 56 budgeted full-time positions, with seven currently vacant. Department heads said the departments are fully utilizing existing staff and have limited ability to absorb more work without adding positions.

The Community and Economic Development Director Sunayana Thomas also said additional cuts could slow permit processing and reduce

customer service. The department, which handles building and safety, planning, code enforcement, housing and economic development, has 37 budgeted positions and multiple vacancies. Staff said it manages a heavy workload compared with peer cities and warned that further reductions could increase turnaround times, delay inspections, and affect revenue-generating development activity.

Fire Chief Adam Loeser said the fire department has made major progress since the City Council began rebuilding staffing in 2022, but warned that a 5% reduction would be difficult to absorb without affecting operations. The department now operates six stations across the city and recently launched an in-house ambulance program. He said further cuts could jeopardize a federal SAFER grant, reduce advanced life support coverage, increase response times and threaten the department's recently improved ISO Class 2 rating.

Continue reading on page 13

## Public Hearing Set for May 28 on Amendments to California's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Regulation

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is making changes to two important programs: the Cap-and-Invest Regulation and the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MRR). A public hearing to discuss these changes will take place on May 28.

The Cap-and-Invest program sets limits on how much pollution companies can produce. If companies go over these limits, they have to pay for the extra pollution they create. The MRR program requires businesses to measure and report their pollution levels.

These efforts are designed to reduce pollution and improve how emissions are tracked in California. While the impact on everyday people may not be obvious, it is still important. Consumers might face higher costs because companies that use a lot of energy, like fuel suppliers and utility companies, could have to pay more due to these rules.

Reducing pollution should help improve air quality, especially in areas with serious pollution problems like Southern California. Additionally, the money collected from companies that exceed pollution limits will be used for state projects, such as public transportation, wildfire prevention, and clean energy programs.

PRESORTED  
STANDARD U.S.  
POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1577  
FULLERTON CA

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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

FULLERTON  
OBSERVER  
PO BOX 7051  
FULLERTON CA 92834

## Mosquito Season is Here

In early April, mosquito traps collected 43 mosquitoes per trap night, compared to the five-year average of 17 for this time of year. If you'd like help checking your property or have questions, feel free to reach out and schedule an inspection.

For property inspections or questions, contact or visit [www.ocvector.org](http://www.ocvector.org) for more information.

### CORRECTION

The date in the article *Video Observer: A Duckless Duck Pond with a History in Hillcrest Park* that ran in the med-April 2026 issue was incorrect. The correct date is 1924 not 1934.



Thank you! You keep us printing  
by subscribing and advertising.

For \$39 a year you get 21 issues mailed directly to your home.

Mail a check with your name, address, and phone number to PO Box 7051, Fullerton, CA 92834 or sign up through autopay under subscribe at [www.fullertonobserver.com](http://www.fullertonobserver.com)

## Waymakers' raise \$101,000 at Chari-TEA party to support programs and services for Orange County families

Waymakers hosted its annual Chari-TEA Party at the picturesque Spring Tea Garden in Fullerton, successfully raising \$101,000 to support essential programs for families throughout Orange County.

The event attracted numerous supporters and community partners, all united by a commitment to making a positive impact in the region.

Ronnetta Johnson, CEO of Waymakers, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support.

The Chari-TEA Party is one of Waymakers' signature fundraising events, aimed at raising awareness about the organization's mission while fostering community engagement. Proceeds from this event will directly fund a range of services, including emergency youth shelters, counseling for families and victims of violent crime, and prevention education.

The event was emceed by Jenny Dinnen from Mackenzie Corp, who



Ann Stawicki, Liz Bear, Megan Brown, Tammy Chernow, Diane Laird, Barbara Eklund Horn, Kimberly Telfer-Radzat, Calli DeSanto, Darby Gallagher

highlighted the importance of collective action in tackling local challenges. "This work matters, and together we are making change," Dinnen remarked, reinforcing the message of community solidarity.

Waymakers expressed its heartfelt thanks to sponsors, floral and raffle donors, table hosts, volunteers, and attendees, all of whom played a crucial role in reaching this fundraising milestone. The generous support from the

community will continue to help transform lives and create pathways to safety, stability, and hope.

For those interested in supporting Waymakers' mission and for more information go to [Waymakersoc.org](http://Waymakersoc.org).

## Community Rallies for Immigrant Rights in Vigil for Abducted Individuals

A diverse group of twenty-five residents gathered on May 2 to honor and remember immigrants who have been detained by ICE in a poignant Pilgrimage of Solidarity. The vigil started at a parking lot on Placentia Avenue, where seven individuals were taken by ICE, including one U.S. citizen.

The group visited Ellis Place, recognizing four people who were disappeared by ICE and local gardeners affected. They then moved to Raymer Avenue, where eleven were taken, and then went to Orangethorpe Avenue near Woodcrest Elementary, where ICE took two people.

Participants shared prayers, songs, and personal stories, fostering community solidarity. City Council members, including Dr. Shana Charles and Dr. Ahmad Zahra, attended to support their constituents and faith communities. The event addressed ongoing immigration enforcement concerns and highlighted unity among diverse faiths. Other community leaders were Father Dennis Kriz, Pastor Jennifer Garcia, Pastor Jason Phillips, and Ana Leticia Hernandez.

The pilgrimage was organized by Orange County Congregation Community Organization and members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Fullerton.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### OPEN LETTER TO: Senators Padilla and Schiff and Congressman Tran

I just sent this to Senators Padilla, Schiff and Congressman Tran:

I just read in the Fullerton Observer (Fullerton, California), Mid-April 2026, Safety Protocol Update with Fullerton Police Department that, "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 (Fullerton Police Department) when it is active in the area. However, if police are monitoring ICE activity near an FSD (Fullerton School District) school, they will inform the district where the activity is occurring."

I believe this is plainly wrong.

ICE activities can disrupt schools, especially when students and staff members are suspected of not being U.S. citizens. This may mean that children and staff members may be arrested and detained by ICE officers without explanation or notification to family members. It could mean children could be snatched from schools and the streets without notifying parents and family members. That is scary!

Schools should be notified of ICE activities so students and staff can be prepared for potential arrests and detentions. ICE is a law enforcement organization that, so far, has operated outside the law, without judicial arrest or search warrants, in various locales across this country.

Families should be warned ahead of time of the possibility of extrajudicial arrests. Children could go missing without notifications of ICE arrests. That could be terrifying for parents. This is but another reminder of how the Trump administration, Homeland Security, and ICE want to deprive residents of this country of their constitutional rights. This is unacceptable!

This is not an indictment of FPD Chief Radus and the Fullerton Police Department. I believe that the Chief Radus and FPD do fine work for the City of Fullerton.

I believe that the FPD and all police departments should be allowed to report ICE activities near public schools for the peace of mind of parents and family members. This is well within constitutional rights.

*Don Waterbury Fullerton*

# Fullerton Observer

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

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

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

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

#### HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

Send \$39, name, & address to:  
Fullerton Observer, PO Box 7051,  
Fullerton, CA 92834-7051  
Or sign up and pay with autopay at  
[www.fullertonobserver.com](http://www.fullertonobserver.com)

#### HOW TO ADVERTISE

Email: [ads@fullertonobserver.com](mailto:ads@fullertonobserver.com), or call:  
(714) 525-6402

Distributed on the first and third  
Monday of every month except only once  
in January, July & August.

#### • STAFF •

- **CEO & EDITOR:** Saskia Kennedy
- **COO:** Mehul Desai
- **COPY EDITOR:** Stephen O'Connor
- **PROOF READER:** Randy Bradley
- **DISTRIBUTION:** Linda Gardner, Jere Greene, Sue Harliss and David Spargur
- **SHIPPING:** Irene Kobayashi, Marjorie Kerr, Leslie Allen and Barbara Meyer
- **SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER:** Jennifer Romero
- **YOUNG OBSERVERS EDITOR:** Tegan Yoo
- **BUSINESS REPORT:** Breanna Pineda
- **CALENDAR EDITOR:** Heather Shin
- **COUNCIL REPORT:** Amira G. Petrus
- **EDUCATION:** Vivien Moreno

- **HEALTH:** Jo Ann Brannock and Michelle Gottlieb
- **INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER:** Elijah Manassero
- **PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Jere Greene, Mike Ritto, and Gaston Castellanos
- **REPORTERS:** Fullerton city residents
- **ROVING REPORTER:** Mike Ritto
- **THEATRE REVIEWS:** Angela Hatcher
- **AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS:** Andrew Williams
- **OUR TOWN CROSSWORD:** Valerie Brickey
- **HITS & MISSES MOVIE REVIEW:** Pamela Mason Wagner
- **OUT OF MY MIND:** Jon Dobrer
- **SCIENCE BEHIND IT:** Yuvika Salman
- **SENIOR LIFE:** Edith Harvath
- **VIDEO OBSERVER:** Emerson Little

Created & Published in Fullerton by local volunteers since 1978  
Published by Fullerton Observer LLC



Pat Gilbert and Tom Dorch



Candace Kline and Norman Hansen

### Spring Fling at Fullerton Community Center

by Edith Harvath

Spring means warmer weather, blooming flowers and new life coming into being. It's a time of renewal after the cold and rain of winter. Seniors celebrated this beautiful season with a Spring Fling held at the Fullerton Community Center, Thursday afternoon, April 23. Hosted by the Fullerton Senior Club, seniors wore colorful outfits and danced to the music of the popular 5-Star Band.

Sitting at tables with pink tablecloths, which added to the spring-like atmosphere, attendees enjoyed refreshments of fruit plates and cupcakes with plenty of coffee and water available. A raffle drawing with some lucky ticket holders winning coveted prizes added to the fun and excitement of the event.

Thanks to the Fullerton Senior Club and the Fullerton Community Center for giving seniors the opportunity to gather together with friends to share the uplifting Spirit of Spring!



### Woman's Club of Fullerton Donates \$2,300 in Clothing to Recovery Road

The Woman's Club of Fullerton (WCOF) has made a significant contribution to the local community by donating \$2,300 worth of clothing to Recovery Road, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals in addiction recovery. During a heartfelt presentation, Robin Rush, Executive Director of Recovery Road, received a selection of new t-shirts and sweatpants from WCOF members.

Recovery Road, based in Anaheim, is a volunteer-run resource center and Recovery Community Organization (RCO) that provides essential services such as food, hygiene products, clothing, and housing navigation to those in need throughout the region.



The paint-and-sip fundraiser on April 23 at Bootleggers wasn't just about drinking beer; it was about rescuing dogs.

### Doggie Night Out

by Mike Ritto

What would it take to unite a fractured planet? It starts at home—with community. For one evening, people gathered on the same page, or canvas, to support the rescue of dogs through the organization FIX'N FIDOS.

Founded and run by Kacey Montoya—yes, that Kacey Montoya, a 13-year veteran of local Channel 5—the organization made giving back approachable and fun through events like its "Paint & Sip Fundraiser." This installment was hosted by Bootleggers Brewery in downtown Fullerton, where aspiring artists turned out in large numbers.

The sold-out event drew more than

40 participants, all lured by the promise of a cozy night filled with art, laughter, and community spirit. Each brushstroke contributed to giving a dog a second chance. Others attended for the food, drinks, and silent auction, with many also donating to the cause.

FIX'N FIDOS works to make animal care services accessible to families, seniors, veterans, and underserved communities facing financial hardship. The organization provides critical spay and neuter services and helps reduce the number of pets surrendered to city and county animal shelters.

See more photos on our website at [www.fullertonobserver.com](http://www.fullertonobserver.com).



### Art Brings More Good Vibes to the Community

by Mike Ritto

Art Auction XXVII kicked off April 25, as more than 150 local artists donated their work to benefit the All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation. Held at the Fullerton Community Center, the popular annual event drew a large crowd. Attendees were met with an expansive variety of artwork and a well-received food spread.

Nearly 30 sponsors and numerous volunteers supported the event, contributing to its polished and elegant atmosphere. The foundation's mission is to champion arts education for every child in the Fullerton School District and the broader community.

Just days later, the momentum con-

tinued with the Love Blocks Out Hate art show and fundraiser at the Fullerton Museum Center. Local artists created works on 6-by-6-inch plywood blocks, using a wide range of materials—from paint and wood to metal, beads, carvings, and even bread.

The pieces were offered through a silent auction starting at \$100, raising funds for the 5th Annual Pride Fest scheduled for June 6 at the Fullerton Museum Center Plaza. Submissions were collected at Allison's Goods and the museum before being curated and displayed for the event.

See more photos on the website at [www.fullertonobserver.com](http://www.fullertonobserver.com).



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

### Why the Election of California State Superintendent of Education Matters by Vivien Moreno

California voters will narrow the field of candidates for state offices during the June 2 primaries. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is a nonpartisan position responsible for overseeing the California Department of Education (CDE) and serving as the chief spokesperson for public schools. The two candidates who receive the most votes in the primary will advance to compete in the midterm election on November 3. Only nine states elect their State Superintendent of Public Instruction; in other states, the governor makes this appointment. In California, the Superintendent earns an annual salary of \$210,000, which is lower than many district superintendents' salaries.

The Superintendent leads the CDE, which educates over 5.7 million students and manages an annual budget exceeding \$149 billion for the 2025-26 school year. In that year, California's spending averaged \$27,418 per student. As the executive of the CDE and the leader of the State Board of Education (SBE), the State Superintendent works closely with the SBE to establish departmental priorities and direction. This collaboration also involves implementing policies set by state legislators.

The CDE provides guidance to Local Education Agencies, such as school districts, and serves as a reliable resource for legislators seeking current educational research and data. The department is led by professional educators, lawyers, and specialists who enforce and oversee the Education

Code (the legal framework governing education) while implementing the priorities established by the State Superintendent, the SBE, and state legislators.

The California State Board of Education (SBE) consists of 11 members appointed by the governor. Ten of these members serve 7.5-year terms, while a student board member is selected annually by the California Association of Student Councils.

Together, the Superintendent and the SBE establish standards for public schools, decide on curriculum choices, determine testing dates and criteria, oversee teacher credentialing reviews, implement facility upgrades for safety, and update the Local Control Accountability Plan templates. They also receive and allocate federal funds, including Title I through III, the Every Child Succeeds Act, and COVID-19 relief funding. Furthermore, they are responsible for all state education funding as defined by the Local Control Funding Formula, as well as specialized state funding for transportation and special education.

The Superintendent serves on all statutory boards, commissions, and task forces related to public education. Various state committees focus on areas such as charter schools, public

safety, special education, ethnic studies, career and technical education, early education, attendance, mental health, standards, and teacher credentialing. As the spokesperson for public education, the Superintendent is accountable to voters for state education policies.

Recently, the State Superintendent and the SBE prioritized expanding TK (Transitional Kindergarten) to include all 4-year-olds, implementing universal lunch for all TK through 12th-grade students, and enhancing mental health services. Last year, they clarified policies to protect students from ICE raids on school grounds and to prevent the data mining of student records, ensuring student privacy and limiting cell phone use during the school day.

The primary election on June 2 features ten candidates for this office, including local State Senator Josh Newman, who has served on the state's education committee and identifies as an educator and advocate for public education. Other notable candidates include Al Muratsuchi, a State Assemblyman from Torrance and a dedicated education advocate, and Anthony Rendon from Long Beach, who has previously served as the Speaker of the State Assembly.

Governor Newsom is proposing a

state ballot measure for November that would create a governor-appointed commissioner to lead the SBE. This measure would significantly reduce the Superintendent's power and eliminate the public's ability to directly vote on the direction of public education. A similar approach was attempted as recently as 2023, but California voters rejected efforts to diminish their agency.

From March 26 to April 3, the Public Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank for California, conducted a poll on education in the state. The results showed that 57% of parents are satisfied with the public education their children are receiving.

A majority of likely voters support limiting screen time in schools, securing affordable housing, ensuring adequate pay for high-quality California teachers, and establishing regulations for AI and chatbots, given that the federal government is not addressing these issues. They also favor incorporating environmental and climate change education, maintaining ethnic studies in the curriculum, and continuing to fund community schools that provide wraparound services for students.

Voters need a direct voice in supporting priorities that improve overall education outcomes and prevent harm to many children who experience economic hardship or require special educational services. The state system may be slower, but it allows voters to directly voice preferences in the state's education future.

*Together, the Superintendent and the State Board of Education establish standards for public schools, oversee teacher credentialing, and implement policies that shape the future of education in California.*

### Fullerton School District Board meeting April 14 by Vivien Moreno

#### Board News

At the April 14 board meeting, FJUHSd said goodbye to Trustee Dr. Chester Jeng, wishing him well after his 7 years of service. Superintendent Dr. Steve McLaughlin said the board will announce at the next meeting if they plan to appoint an interim trustee or conduct a special election to fill the spot.

There was no public discussion concerning costs or procedures for these options, so the assumption is that the board will conduct a "memo" consensus where they email the superintendent, who informs the board of their decisions. In a recent public FSD discussion the cost of a special election for FSD to replace a trustee was priced minimally at \$200,000 up to \$750,000.

The appointed trustee would serve until November when FJUHSd Area 1 comes up for election. Area 1 covers the La Habra region of the district and is joined by Area 4, which cuts through central Fullerton, and Area 5, located in north east Fullerton area. All three areas will be decided on in November.

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

#### Bond Issuance and Refinance

The trustees authorized the sale of the next Measure "L" bond series for a potential \$82 million to finance facility construction. FJUHSd maintains a "AA" credit rating status, allowing the district to receive better interest rates.

The board authorized the possibility of refinancing one series of Measure "I" bonds that are close to the refinancing minimum interest rate of 3% over the remainder of the loan. This series will expire in 2040 and if refinanced at the 3%, it would save property owners \$1 million in interest cumulatively until the loan is paid off in 2040. Bonds are only refinanced for the original duration of the loan; they are not refinanced to extend original loan dates.

This authorization allows the finance company to make the call, which is tricky due to fluctuations in the market and the length between board meetings, which is why the trustees authorized to refinancing when the interest rates are favorable.

### SUPPORT THE FULLERTON OBSERVER

No Time to Volunteer? You Can Still Help.

"I saw you in the Fullerton Observer."

Say it when you visit restaurants, shop local, or attend community events.

Small words. Big impact.



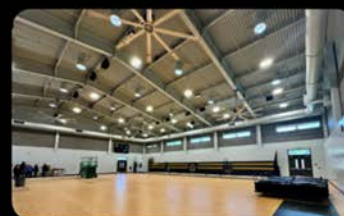
You are cordially invited to

D. RUSSELL PARKS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S ARTS & RECREATION CENTER

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

3:30 p.m. | Thursday, May 7, 2026

1710 Rosecrans Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833



Funded by Measure N, the ARC is a new space designed for students, families and the community to come together. This 10,000-square-foot facility supports athletics and the arts with courts, a performance stage, and modern sound and lighting. With energy-efficient features and flexible space, the ARC will serve as a hub for connection, creativity and recreation.



FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT | Great Schools. Successful Kids.

Kindly RSVP to [suptoffice@myfsd.org](mailto:suptoffice@myfsd.org)

**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 [fullertonaquatics.org](http://fullertonaquatics.org) or follow us on Instagram @fullertonswimshere

Sign up here!




## Celebrating our Mothers

by Young Observer Olive, 10th Grade



Did you know that Mother's Day is also the busiest day of the year for restaurants? Millions of families skip the dishes to treat mom to a special meal out!

Besides flowers, it is a huge day for greeting cards, with over 150 million sent annually, making it a top card-sending holiday. While white carnations represent those who have passed, pink or red carnations are worn to honor a mother who is still living. It's a day packed with love, tradition and well-deserved appreciation for everything they do.

On May 10, we honor the person who gave us life. Our mothers! Sunday, May 10 is Mother's Day, a day

of celebrating our moms, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers in society. Mother's Day is the third most popular holiday, after Christmas and Easter. Over \$3 billion is spent on flowers on this special day. Over 122 million phone calls are made on Mother's Day in the U.S. The first official Mother's Day was on May 10, 1908 in Grafton, West Virginia and it featured white carnations, which became the traditional flower. It was founded by Anna Jarvis, who held the first service to honor her own mother. So look out for May 10, and do something special for your mom!

## Teen Raised Over \$2,200 for Challenger Little League Program

Henri Vasquez, a 14-year-old from Parks Jr. High, has raised over \$2,200 for the District 56 Challenger Little League Program, which supports special needs children in baseball. A volunteer coach for three years, Henri raises funds by cleaning trash cans, inflating tires, and soliciting donations from community groups. He actively assists during games at Portillo Park in La Habra, helping the kids warm up and play safely.

This year, the league is facing challenges, including the cost of updating equipment and the potential loss of the baseball field due to city expansion plans. Henri's goal is to surpass last year's fundraising total of \$3,000 by June. Donations can be made to California District 56 Challenger League, PO Box 964, La Habra, CA 90633, with reference to Henri Vasquez. See full story on the website at [www.fullertonobserver.com](http://www.fullertonobserver.com).



## Troy Preparedness Club

by contributing writer Alicia, 8th Grade



### Evacuation Plans

You never really get a heads-up when disaster strikes. Earthquakes, floods, fires, hurricanes, or power outages can just show up and throw your day into chaos. That's why lining up an evacuation plan before the worst happens is solid advice.

When panic hits, clear thinking usually flies out the window. If you've already worked things out, you stand a much better chance of keeping yourself, your family, and even your neighbors safe.

Start by figuring out what sort of trouble you actually face in your area. California's got wildfires and earthquakes; Florida's more about hurricanes. Folks on the coast should probably factor in tsunamis, too. If you have no idea what might hit, go ask your local emergency services, schools, or neighborhood groups—they usually have the scoop. Once you know what you need to be ready for, build your plan around it.

If you've got a family, talking about how to stay in touch should be at the top of your list. Sit together and hash out where you'll meet up, how you'll get out, and what to do if you're separated.

Pick out two places—one nearby, one farther out in case your usual spot is out of reach. Don't just rely on your phone; jot down key numbers for relatives, friends, emergency contacts, and neighbors you trust. When cell networks go down, old-school lists are gold. Make sure your kids can actually call for help without needing prompts.

On your own? You still need a plan. Know at least two exits at home or work, since sometimes the door you expect to use won't be an option. Pack a basic go-bag: water, snacks, your meds, a flashlight, batteries and important documents. If you've got health needs, disabilities, or pets, set up extra help before things get bad. Look up transportation, pet-friendly shelters, and anything you might need to make it out safely.

Trying to go solo only gets you so far. Community matters—a lot. Neighborhoods, schools and workplaces, having a few practice runs keeps everyone calm when the time comes. Local leaders really need to share maps, shelter info, and alert systems so people aren't caught off guard. Watching out for each other, especially kids, seniors, or anyone who needs a hand, makes all the difference.

Don't let your plan gather dust. Life moves fast—people come and go, numbers change, roads shut down. Check your plan at least once a year and run through it to make sure it still works. When things get ugly, stick to official sources for updates instead of whatever's buzzing around online. The right information keeps you ahead.

Here's what matters: you can't stop a disaster, but prepping increases your chances of staying safe and recovering. Know your risks, talk things through with those close to you, stock your essentials, and keep your community connections tight. So when everything suddenly turns upside down, you know what to do.

## Restaurant Review: Pho Lily and Mongolian BBQ

by Robin, 5th grade

Pho Lily and Mongolian BBQ is a family-friendly, family-run Vietnamese and Mongolian barbecue restaurant located in La Habra. Although it is not located in Fullerton, this restaurant is often frequented by Fullerton families. Upon stepping out of the car, I observed many decorations and lights on the building. We were immediately seated, and menus were available at the table. There was a Mongolian barbecue bar to the left of the door. The waiter came to take our order.

We ordered spring rolls and rocket shrimp. We forgot to order the pho, so the waiter kindly asked if we were having any tonight (we go there so often that they knew our order).

While we waited for our food, we watched the television. They have two televisions, one above the Mongolian barbecue bar and one next to the door. When the food was delivered, I sampled the spring rolls. They were packed



with vegetables. I would have personally liked a bit more meat. Then I ate some rocket shrimp, which was the perfect mix between crunchy and soft. Then I devoured my pho. It was amazing!

They have a "kid's pho" that is just meat, noodles, and broth—perfect for families with picky kids. The meat was just the right texture, the noodles perfectly thin, and the broth was the perfect mix between salty and meaty. It was extremely filling as well.

For vegetarians, the meat can be replaced with tofu. All in all, this is a hidden gem with amazing service, nice people, and delicious food. This is a must-go if you are in La Habra or Fullerton!

The address is 126A Harbor Blvd, near Armstrong Garden Center. They are open 10:30 am to 9:00 pm Sunday to Thursday, and 10:30 am to 9:30 pm Friday and Saturday. They typically close on Tuesday.



## Celebrating Día Del Niño at Hunt Library

Media Arts Santa Ana (MASA) was excited to partner with Arts OC to co-present and curate the 2026 OC Día del Niño Festival (Children's Day) at the Hunt Branch Library on April 25. This day is dedicated to recognizing the rights and well-being of children. Families from the local community gathered for the occasion, enjoying a range of fun-filled activities that highlighted the significance of this cherished day.

The library provided a welcoming environment that encouraged both cre-

ativity and celebration, reminding everyone of the importance of nurturing and supporting young lives.

Instituted in 1924, Día Del Niño aims to honor childhood through a variety of engaging activities, gifts, and special events designed to promote joy and awareness about the importance of children's rights. As this tradition continues to thrive, it serves as a reminder of the joys of childhood and the collective responsibility to protect and uplift the youngest members of our society.

For more info: [www.masamedia.org](http://www.masamedia.org)

## Broken Sprinklers?

**We'll Find Them & Fix Them**

Sprinklers • Valves • Timers & Settings  
Trouble Shooting • Emergency Shut-off Valves

**46 years experience**

**PACIFIC COAST LANDSCAPING**  
EST. 1979

**3730 W. Commonwealth**

**REPAIR • SERVICE • INSTALLATION**  
No Job Too Small - From Sprinkler Head to Entire System

# (714) 773-4865

Across from Fullerton Airport  
[www.PacificCoastLandscaping.com](http://www.PacificCoastLandscaping.com)  
Contractor's Lic. #1097870

FEATURING: WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES IN FULLERTON

### Allison's Goods: Candle Maker and Community Changer

by Breanna Pineda

On the busy street of Harbor Boulevard, tucked in between local restaurants and other storefronts, sits Allison's Goods. When one walks into the store, the smell of fragrances becomes prominent, along with a sense of calmness, with the pine-green walls and thrifted decor around the store.

After seven years, the owner, Allison Ritto's effort to create a comfortable environment where customers can buy candles, soaps and trinkets is a full-fledged reality.

It all started with Allison's hobby of making health care products nearly twenty years ago, when she began making her own eczema cream, or "Rad Balm" as she calls it, after extensive research on ingredients that could help her flared skin. This eventually grew into her interest in making homemade candles and skin care products, which she gifted to friends. Once she started Allison's Goods, her candle-making interest became serious as she bought higher-quality materials and better protection.

Allison formally started her business in 2019 and specializes in making non-toxic, safe-for-the-environment items as someone concerned with the environment and the products people use for their bodies. "Everything that I make is something that I would use myself, that I felt safe using, and was as high-quality as I could make them," Allison said.

However, the road to eventually owning her own shop was a long one. She initially had a career as a college professor before deciding to start selling her homemade care products as a side project on weekends. From there,

she turned her garage into her makeshift store, where she both made and sold her candles and soaps.

It was not until 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, that she stopped teaching and focused on her independent business. With community support, Allison grew her business from her garage to her spare bedroom to a commercial unit where she manufactured products herself.

Finally, she found a location that was affordable and in a busy area, where her current storefront is. Allison credits her company's growth to her choice to take her time.

"I had never run a business, and it seemed like a gamble, but I did things slowly enough that step by step it was not a huge risk."

Now, Allison makes her candles with an electric wax melter that can make over several hundred candles, along with handling precise scales for ingredients. She has also recently trained an employee on how to make candles, putting less of a burden on her shoulders to make everything herself.

"It's nice to have that extra help because for the first five years I was making 100% of everything," Allison explains. "It is a huge relief for me not to have to struggle with inventory."

Allison also makes a point to include her own DIY accessories, such as earrings and pins, for customers to purchase. These small trinkets are colorful, bold, and eccentric, such as the burger earrings or 'Rocky Horror Picture Show' pins she sells.

"A lot of people will buy a candle for a gift, so I wanted things that would round out to make a whole gift set,"



**Allison's Goods 815 N Harbor Blvd, Fullerton**  
**Thursday & Friday 4-7 pm & Saturday & Sunday 12-5 pm**  
**Closed Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday**

she explains. "Quirky things that you couldn't find just anywhere that would make a really nice presentation [for gifts] or to treat yourself."

Allison's Goods on Harbor Boulevard has now been open for around three years, but Allison attributes the business's success to Fullerton's community. This is why she continues to donate to local charities with her company's profits and attends local Fullerton events.

"I want my business to speak to its value in my community," she says. "You can advertise that you support your friends and neighbors, but you really have to prove it."

As Allison looks ahead to the future of local business in Fullerton, she has

noticed in recent months the uptick in local businesses closing. She emphasizes the importance of people supporting small businesses if they have the means to.

"It does sound a little desperate, like you're begging people to come in because you're afraid of closing, but that's the reality of a lot of small businesses right now," she says.

While she does not see a clear trajectory for what will happen to small businesses in the future, she encourages locals who want to see unique small businesses thrive to support these stores.

"Spend your dollars aligned with what you believe and who you believe in," she says.

## INTRODUCING ORANGE COUNTY'S NEWEST SUMMER CAMP



### Airman Summer Camps \*

- June 15 - 18
- June 22 - 25
- July 6 - 9
- July 13 - 16
- July 20 - 23
- July 27 - 30
- Aug 3 - 6
- Aug 10 - 13
- Aug 17 - 20

\* Long Beach and Fullerton dates  
 \*\* Visit our website for Riverside dates

Experience an unforgettable summer adventure at our Aviation Summer Camp! Join us to explore the fascinating world of aviation, learn from experienced pilots, and even take to the skies yourself. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity - sign up today!

- 📞 (562) 424-7317
- ✉ tom@flighttestprep.com
- 🌐 www.aviationsummertcamp.com
- 📍 4119 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton, CA 92833
- 📍 2601 E Spring St, Long Beach, CA 90806
- 📍 4130 Mennes Ave, Riverside, CA 92509



Sign Up!



# 70 YEARS OF LOIS ELLYN BALLET STUDIO

CELEBRATING OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOUVEAU CHAMBER BALLET  
SHEREE KING, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

AT 3:00 PM & 7:00 PM

BREA CURTIS THEATER  
1 CIVIC CENTER CIRCLE, BREA, CA 92821

VISIT NOUVEAUCHAMBERBALLET.COM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

## A Legend among Us by Xiaoling Wang

In October 2019, in order to get fit and pursue my ballet dream, I signed up for a trial ballet class at "Lois Ellyn Ballet School" in Fullerton. I had heard it was the oldest ballet studio in Orange County.

The moment I stepped into the studio, I saw a petite, silver-haired elderly woman standing firmly in the center of the room, holding a microphone, ready to teach the class. She turned back and gave me a gentle smile—clear features, exquisite makeup, and a hint of pride in her demeanor.

She said, "It's your first time here. Just watch more, no rush."

Her beauty, transcending generations, instantly left me stunned. She was Lois Ellyn, a very famous ballerina from the 1950s and a former principal dancer of the New York City Ballet. She opened her first studio in Orange County in 1956.

Since then, dancers in Orange County have not had to go all the way to Los Angeles to get professional ballet training. By my rough calculation, Lois was already 95 years old. I told myself, I am so coming back. But unfortunately, the pandemic kept me from returning to class.

Not until early 2022 did I finally go back to the studio, only to find a different teacher. Sheree King, with decades of college dance program education experience, had succeeded Lois Ellyn as the artistic director.

Lois had passed away the previous

summer at the age of 97. Just weeks before her death, she was still teaching and choreographing. A longtime student told me that Lois had nurtured generations of dancers. She had also coached some Hollywood movie stars, like Arnold Schwarzenegger, in ballet techniques. She had always lived alone, with no children, and had adopted a few cats. Her entire life was this ballet studio she had founded almost 70 years ago.

In the small room next to the rehearsal space, her belongings were being auctioned off—from Eastern-style folding screens and French classical chairs to delicate jewelry boxes and tea sets. Each item seemed to glow softly, telling the story of her life.

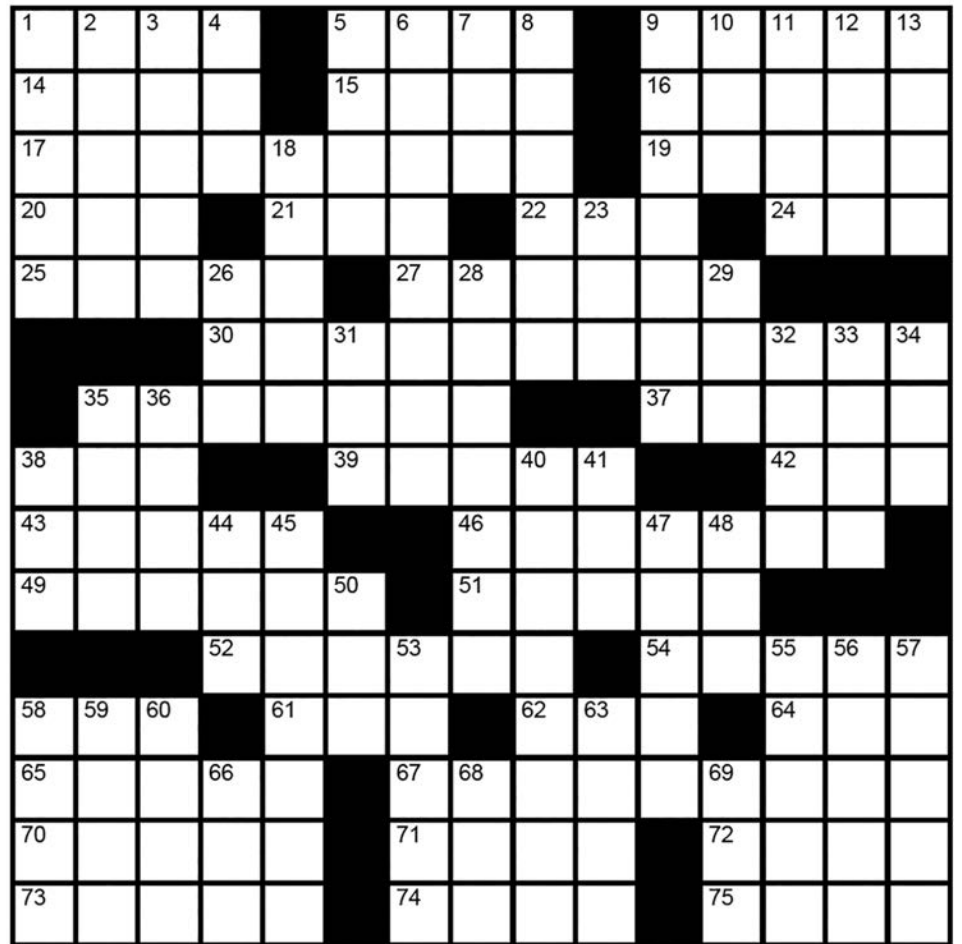
Standing in the large, somewhat empty studio, I looked around carefully. A few students were already warming up at the barre. The three cats Lois left behind lay lazily in a corner, and sunlight still streamed in through the slats of the blinds. Everything was the same as before—except that Lois was no longer there.

This year, Lois Ellyn Ballet Studio celebrates its 70th anniversary. To love one thing for a lifetime, persistently pursue excellence in promotion of the art of ballet until the very last second... This is what makes a legend.

*In memory of Lois Ellyn,  
whom I had the honor  
of meeting once.*

## OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2026

"MAY CELEBRANTS" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 15)



### ACROSS

- 1. Potato or yam
- 6. Deal with
- 10. Gibbon, for one
- 13. Blood disorder
- 15. Palindromic pop group
- 16. Dodger Ron nicknamed "The Penguin"
- 17. Watchbands
- 18. Loch \_\_\_ monster
- 19. \_\_\_ kwon do
- 20. High-waisted denim pants
- 22. The Beach Boys' "Fun, Fun, Fun" auto
- 24. Never, in Nuremberg
- 25. Org. with Cavs and Mavs
- 26. Common name for nacre
- 33. Weak poker hand
- 34. In need of a massage
- 35. It's cap. is Abu Dhabi
- 38. "I called it!"
- 39. 2014 Winter Olympics locale
- 41. Olive and canola
- 42. Batman and Robin are a "dynamic" one
- 43. Gab
- 44. Famed restaurant guide
- 45. Dessert maker of the frosted Circus Animal
- 49. "Awesome!"
- 50. Vietnamese soup
- 51. Garden bulb
- 54. Hit for 15-Across
- 59. Pitching star
- 60. "Leather and \_\_\_" (1981 Stevie Nicks/Don Henley hit)
- 63. \_\_\_ and abetting
- 64. PreCheck org.
- 65. Cannes concept
- 66. Nastier
- 67. Put 2 and 2 together
- 68. Cozy corner
- 69. St. Francis of \_\_\_

### DOWN

- 1. Island off Aust.
- 2. Golden rule preposition
- 3. Road shoulder
- 4. Key of Vivaldi's "Spring Concerto": Abbr.
- 5. Aging agent
- 6. Swifties, e.g.
- 7. Japan's longest-serving prime minister
- 8. "60 Minutes" network
- 9. Locale of Oakland and Berkeley
- 10. Broadway opening
- 11. Prickly \_\_\_ (variety of cactus)
- 12. Gave the once-over
- 14. Light \_\_\_ (weightless)
- 21. "The Matrix" hero
- 23. Setting for many a joke
- 25. Classic grape soda
- 26. Org. formed in 1980 to stop traffic fatalities
- 27. Poppy product
- 28. Verboten
- 29. Casual greetings
- 30. '80s TV show "The \_\_\_ of Life"
- 31. Main hwy. through Malibu
- 32. Super Mario brother
- 36. Wings, in botany
- 37. Ballpark figs.
- 39. Outbuilding
- 40. Dinghy propeller
- 41. Symbol of might
- 43. "Modern Times" star
- 44. Pet's sudden burst of energy
- 46. Prefix with angle
- 47. Tax pro, for short
- 48. "Wowza"
- 51. "Bye-bye!"
- 52. La Jolla sch.
- 53. Its symbol is Pb
- 54. Docile
- 55. "Law & Order" figures, for short
- 56. Short skirt
- 57. Chemical suffixes
- 58. Prefix with culture
- 61. Brouhaha
- 62. Title for Costco's Ron Vachris

Get Top Dollar with My Home Prep

**jacki O**  
the first lady of real estate

*I Can Help You!*  
**(714)402-9155**  
**FlipItYourself.com**

Orzechowski DRE Lic. #o1115908

**Golden Stitches Embroidery**  
Transforma cualquier artículo con bordado exquisito y personalizado. Llámanos hoy y permítenos dar vida a tu visión en hilo.

**714.213.1192**  
golden61@sbcglobal.net

**MAY**

**4 Monday**

**MUSIC**

**8:00pm-\$10: Vocal Jazz Ensembles: Innervations 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:** 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  
jfftownsends@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 who live close by.  
Independence Park  
801 W Valencia Dr, Fullerton (714) 738-6575

**7 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

**HEALTH**

**3:00 to 4:00pm: Alzheimers OC: The Importance of Sleep for Cognition**  
Join Alzheimers OC as they focus on how sleep affects the brain, how much sleep is needed, and what kind of sleep adults need for optimal health. Come out to develop your own sleep hygiene for better brain function.  
Fullerton Public Library  
Conference Center Room  
353 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton (714) 738-6333

**ADULT CRAFTS**

**3:00 to 4:00pm: The CRAFT HOUR:** Join the Hunt Library on the FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH for an afternoon of special or seasonal crafting specifically designed for adults. The program is free for attendees and materials are included.  
NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Hunt Branch Library,  
201 S Basque Ave, Fullerton (714) 738-6365

**MARKET**

**4:30 to 8:30pm: Fullerton Night Market:** Every Thursday local farmers, artisans, merchants, and non-profit organizations offer their unique products and services in a fun and festive atmosphere. The market includes a variety of features including fresh produce, prepared food, arts and crafts, jewelry, novelty and gift items, live entertainment, as well as family and children's activities.

**BAND LINE UP**

May 7: The Here and Now Band  
May 14: The Showkillers  
May 21: Sonic Gold  
May 28: The Alter Billies  
June 4: Soundbytes  
June 11: Johnny Ramos & The Doowopdeathboys  
June 18: The Belairs  
June 25: Superlark  
July 9: Hot Rod Trio  
July 16: The Answer  
July 23: Orange Whip Band  
July 30: The Mike Taylor Band  
Museum Plaza  
125 E Wilshire Ave, Fullerton (657) 683-4661

**8 Friday**

**ON STAGE**

**8:00pm - \$38: THE RETURN OF ZORRO!** A hero whose many adventures took place here in Orange County. A hero for the people, a champion for justice. His blade, feared by his enemies. His mark a symbol against tyranny. (Rated PG 13)  
Maverick Theater  
110 E Walnut Ave, Unit B, Fullerton (714) 526-7070  
mavericktheater.com

**9 Saturday**

**HEALTH**

**9:00 to 11:00am: Healthy Living Day**  
Join CSUF Arboretum for expert-led workshops and learn about how to keep your mind and body in tip top shape.

**Workshops include:**

- Heart Health
- Healthy Mind/Stress Management
- Meditation and Yoga
- Longevity Stick
- Cognitive Fitness and more

CSUF Arboretum  
800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton (657) 278-3371

**FAMILY TIME**

**1:00 to 3:00pm - \$45: Mother's Day Weekend Creative Co-Op:** Celebrate Mother's Day Weekend with a special artist-led workshop with Catherine Montoya for a creative hands-on activity making paper orchid flowers. All materials are included, plus each guest receives one drink ticket.  
Fullerton Museum Center  
301 N. Pomona Ave Fullerton (714) 519-4461

**10 Sunday**

**ON STAGE**

**7:00pm - \$38: THE RETURN OF ZORRO!** A hero whose many adventures took place here in Orange County. Created by pulp novelist, Johnston McCulley back in 1919. Zorro is the masked cape crusader that DC's Batman was based on. A hero for the people, a champion for justice. His blade, feared by his enemies. His mark a symbol against tyranny. (Rated PG 13)  
Maverick Theater  
110 E Walnut Ave, Unit B, Fullerton (714) 526-7070  
mavericktheater.com

**WALKING TOUR**

**7:00pm - \$38: Fullerton Ghost Walk**  
In the late Victorian era, many towns started to sprout up from the gold rush and of course, the railroad. These industrious individuals would carve lives for themselves and become entrepreneurs and business owners. They will make the rural area north of Anaheim prosper and will be named after the man who helped make it happen, George Fullerton. And among these historic businesses, restaurants and theatres, they left a portion of themselves behind, as ghosts. Haunted Orange County presents their seventh tour bringing you the historic and dark stories of this bustling college town. Spectral actors inhabiting majestic theaters and restaurants, that are the home of phantoms of the past, adorn our 90-minute walk through the streets and back alleys. Bring comfortable shoes and your curiosity of the macabre as we explore downtown Fullerton  
Outside the HopScotch Tavern  
136 E Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton (866) 446-7803

**Fullerton Friends of Music presents**  
*Webern String Quartet*  
**Saturday, May 16 at 3:30pm**

The Webern Quartet, praised in The New Yorker for capturing Schoenberg's essence, takes its name from Anton Webern, a Schoenberg student. Next to their dedication to the works of the composers from the Second Viennese School, the Webern Quartet is known for its committed and intimate interpretations of works from the classical repertoire to newly written music. Its members hail from Italy, Japan, South Korea, and the US.

Fullerton First United Methodist Church, 114 N. Pomona Ave.  
**All concerts are free.**  
For more information, visit our website:  
**FullertonFriendsOfMusic.org, or call (562) 691-7437**

**ALL DAY DISCOUNTS**

**Taco Tuesday**  
10 tacos for \$20  
Dine in or Take out

*Wicked Wednesday*  
20% off Cocktails  
50% off Appetisers

**THIRSTY THURSDAY**  
Half off Wine Bottles  
Only applies to wine bottles \$40 or less

**Live Music Line-up Every Saturday**  
May 9: The Ron Kobayashi Trio  
May 16: Private Event  
May 23: The Ron Kobayashi Trio  
May 30: The Dixiedelics Jazz

**Live Music Every Night in Chapter 4 Lounge**

**LIVE JAZZ MUSIC**  
AN EVENING WITH AVERY

**11 Monday**

**MUSIC**

**7:30pm-FREE:** **Percussion Ensemble:** The Percussion Ensemble is a chamber music group performing new works for percussion. The ensemble provides a chance for students to apply the technical skills they learn in lessons/classes to explore art and decision making with fellow percussionists.

Fullerton College  
Recital Hall  
321 E Chapman Avenue, Fullerton  
(714) 992-7142

**12 Tuesday**

**FAMILY TIME**

**10:00 to 11:00am - FREE: Family Storytime:** All Ages. Who knew learning could be so much fun? Come join us for an interactive storytime that will have you clapping, moving, and reading silly stories and rhymes!

Hunt Branch Library  
201 S Basque Avenue, Fullerton  
(714) 738-6365

**MUSIC**

**7:30pm-\$12: Symphonic Winds Ensemble:** The Symphonic Winds ensemble is the major performing group for wind, brass and percussion music majors at Fullerton College. This ensemble performs standard band literature as well as commissioning new works from both students and established composers. Entrance in the ensemble is by audition. Non-majors are also welcome to join this ensemble.

Fullerton College  
Campus Theater  
321 E Chapman Avenue, Fullerton  
(714) 992-7142

**13 Wednesday**

**MARKET**

**8:30 am to 12:30 pm:** Certified Farmers Market. Fresh local produce. Support farmers live close by.

Independence Park  
801 W Valencia Dr, Fullerton  
(714) 738-6575

**14 Thursday**

**FAMILY TIME**

**3:00 to 4:00pm - FREE: Crafternoon:** Join the Hunt Library on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the Month @ 3pm for an Afternoon of Arts and Crafts.

The Arts and Crafts are for all ages.  
Hunt Branch Library  
201 S Basque Avenue, Fullerton  
(714) 738-6365

**MUSIC**

**7:30 to 9:30pm-\$35: Fullerton Jazz Orchestra with Clay Jenkins:** Clay Jenkins' experience as a performer began at an early age playing with the Stan Kenton Orchestra, Harry James, Buddy Rich, and the Count Basie Orchestra.

Muckenthaler Cultural Center  
1201 W. Malvern Ave, Fullerton  
(714) 738-6595  
[themuck.org](http://themuck.org)

**MUSIC**

**7:30pm-\$12: Fullerton College Men's Chorale:** The Men's Chorale performs both on and off campus and provides students an opportunity to perform a broad range of music from a variety of genres.

Fullerton College  
Wilshire Auditorium  
321 E Chapman Avenue, Fullerton  
(714) 992-7142

**HITS & MISSES**  
by Pamela Mason Wagner © 2026

**MICHAEL:**

**A HIT AND A MISS**

If reports are to be believed, fans are dancing in the aisles at what has become 2026's biggest box-office opening weekend (domestic gross topping \$100 million). "Michael" delivers memorable music, several standout performances, and—at its best—a backstage glimpse of Michael Jackson's musical genius. Still, viewers enter knowing this will be hagiography: a sanitized version of a deeply troubling story, sanctioned (and produced) by the estate.

Escapist? Yes. And is that necessarily a bad thing? Not entirely. We live in turbulent times, and revisiting the highlights of an entertainment legend's career offers genuine pleasures.

Jaafar Jackson, the singer's nephew, stars as his famous uncle. His uncanny resemblance, exceptional dancing, and confident acting debut largely carry the film (the vocals are Michael's). And yet. In the climactic moments, we're placed inside a massive stadium concert—but we're not actually watching Michael Jackson. For all the nephew's talent, some stars are simply too large to be impersonated.

The story is well known: five gifted boys from Gary, Indiana, shaped into The Jackson Five by their ambitious, often tyrannical father, Joseph. Colman Domingo nails the role, capturing the manipulative, striving patriarch whose refrain—"I just want something better for you than what I had"—rings with menace. Michael's struggle to escape this abusive relationship provides the film's central tension.

We follow the group's rise after signing with Motown's Berry Gordy, who becomes a surrogate father and encourages Michael's interest in the production side of the business. Gordy's songs—"I'll Be There," "ABC," "Never Can Say Goodbye"—perfectly match the group's energy, topping the charts and financing the Encino estate Havenhurst, along with its supporting staff.

One employee, Bill Bray (a terrific Keilyn Durrel Jones), emerges as a figure of loyalty and grounded wisdom,



serving as Michael's bodyguard, driver, and confidant.

Another father figure arrives in Quincy Jones, who collaborates with Michael on Off the Wall. The studio scenes vividly convey how difficult Jackson's work actually was and rank among the film's most engaging moments. We learn that Michael loved Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire, Greta Garbo and Charlie Chaplin, folding lessons from their movies into his choreography. "Get the feet," he insists to the cinematographer during the "Beat It" video. "That's how the audience knows where the beat is."

It's easy to forget that MTV was largely segregated before Jackson and his attorney, John Branca, pressured CBS executive Walter Yetnikoff into forcing the network to play "Thriller." Unfortunately, the film's final third lacks this kind of behind-the-scenes tension, instead ending with the 1988 "Bad World" Tour—four years before the first child sexual-abuse allegations emerged. This is, in fact, a replacement ending, reportedly funded by the Jackson family after lawyers determined the original ending violated a lawsuit involving alleged sexual abuse of a minor.

That compromise neatly captures the film's central dilemma. Why make this film now? The filmmakers—and the estate—took the bet, "Why not?" A sequel is hinted at, but it would have to confront the darker chapters of Jackson's life. More honest—but far less fun.

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

**INTERFAITH  
JAZZ VESPERS**




FEAT.  
THE RON KOBAYASHI TRIO

VOCALIST  
CRYSTAL CLULEE

\* MAY 17  
6PM START

FREE EVENT  
ALL DONATIONS GO TO  
THE FULLERTON OBSERVER

300 E IMPERIAL HWY

*88th Annual*  
*Avenue of Flags*

**MEMORIAL DAY  
COMMÉMORATION**

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026  
★  
10:00 A.M.

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

## Balance & Change

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

### Small Actions Make a Big Difference

I recently spoke with someone who was struggling to stay positive because of all the trauma in the world. I get it. There is a great deal of trauma in the world around us.

It does seem like every single day there is a new shooting, war, major earthquake or drought. Yes, it is overwhelming.

If we look at the whole, we may want to go back to bed, pull the covers over our head, and never come back out. However, there are some other options.

First, we need to do self-care. Eat healthy foods, exercise, get sunshine on our faces, meditate, connect with our communities, and so many other ways to keep body and soul functioning well.

Find the small moments of joy that are available. It can be stopping to lis-

ten to birdsong or literally smelling the roses. When was the last time you heard the laughter of children? Every single day, find some small joy. Notice it. Be truly mindful of what you are experiencing. Be thankful for being able to be present in the moment.

One of the ways that can help us cope is to find some way to take action to make the world better. It may be a small thing, like sitting with a friend who is going through a challenge. Or maybe it is trying to change bigger issues by getting involved in a political movement. When we feel we are making a difference, it helps us cope with the present moment.

If nothing else, remember that things are always changing. Yes, bad things are happening-- but good things happen too! Please take care of yourself!

## Healthy Awareness

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2026



### Navigating Difficult Conversations

Last month, my daughter Nancy and I attended a conference at California State University, Fullerton, hosted by its College of Humanities & Social Sciences. The event focused on a crucial topic: how to engage in difficult conversations across differences. It was part of the college's initiative, "Teaching Through Polarization," which aims to help students effectively interact with individuals holding diverse viewpoints.

Dr. Alissa Ackerman from the Department of Criminal Justice guided the audience through practical exercises to enhance these essential skills. She highlighted that, in today's environment—where fear and judgment are often amplified by social media—many students hesitate to voice their thoughts when faced with differing opinions. This reluctance has significant consequences for our society and democracy.

A thriving democracy relies on open dialogue. It requires individuals to take risks, embrace vulnerability, and speak candidly, even in the face of disagreement. We need to be able to argue and disagree civilly for our democratic institutions to remain strong. Dr. Ackerman provided several communication tools to help navigate challenging conversations:

#### 1. Be Self-Aware:

Stay attuned to your body's reactions. If you notice your heart rate rising or feel tense, acknowledge that your autonomic nervous system is responding. Practice breathing techniques to help ground yourself.

#### 2. Use "I" Statements:

Frame your thoughts with "I feel..."

or "I experienced..." instead of diminishing the other person's perspective by implying they are wrong.

#### 3. Notice What is Not Being Said:

Recognize that communication extends beyond spoken words. Pay attention to facial expressions, body language, eye contact, and head nods.

#### 4. Ask Open-Ended Questions:

Foster deeper conversations by using prompts like, "Tell me more about that," or "How do you feel about this?"

#### 5. Use Reflective Questions:

Seek clarity by asking, "Can you explain what you mean?" or "Could you clarify that for me?"

#### 6. Practice Active Listening:

This involves several steps:

- a. Affirm the speaker:  
"That must have been difficult to share."
- b. Validate their feelings:  
"I understand."
- c. Reflect back what you heard:  
"Did I hear you correctly?"
- d. Reframe if necessary:  
"Could you say that another way?"

These techniques do not require agreement with the speaker; instead, they promote genuine understanding of one another's perspectives, potentially leading to deeper insights.

In our divided world, the ability to communicate across differences stands as one of the most vital skills we can teach and practice. Listening doesn't mean conceding your beliefs; it signifies valuing another person's humanity enough to truly hear them.

## The Science Behind It

by Yuvika Salman © 2026



### Menopause

For many women, menopause is something they know is coming, but don't fully understand until they begin to experience it themselves. It's often talked about in passing. Women know they'll experience hot flashes, mood swings and aging, what is actually happening inside the body is rarely explained. In reality, menopause is not a sudden event, but a gradual biological transition that affects multiple systems, from the brain to the bones.

I began to think about this more closely, as I watch my own mom navigate this stage of life. She described changes, such as feeling more forgetful or mentally foggy at times. It seemed subtle at first, but they raised questions for me about what was actually happening beneath the surface. It made me realize how little we tend to talk about the biology behind these experiences.

Menopause marks the end of a woman's reproductive years and is defined by the point at which menstrual cycles permanently stop. But the changes leading up to it, known as perimenopause, can begin years earlier.

During this time, levels of hormones such as estrogen and progesterone begin to fluctuate and eventually decline. These hormonal shifts are responsible for many of the symptoms women experience, and they extend far beyond what is commonly discussed.

Estrogen and progesterone are the two key hormones that help regulate many functions in a woman's body. Estrogen plays a role in maintaining bone strength, supporting brain function, and regulating the menstrual cycle, while progesterone helps prepare the body for pregnancy and supports sleep and mood stability.

Together, they act as part of a larger hormonal system that keeps different processes in balance. When levels of these hormones begin to fluctuate and decline during menopause, that balance is disrupted, which is why changes can be felt across multiple systems rather than in just one area.

One of the more overlooked effects of menopause is its impact on the brain. Many women report experiencing "brain fog," difficulty concentrating, forgetfulness, or a sense of mental slowing. While this can feel concerning, it is often linked to changes in estrogen levels, which play a role in supporting cognitive function, memory, and even mood regulation. As estrogen declines, these processes can become less efficient, leading to the mental fatigue that many women describe.

Another major area affected is bone

health. Estrogen is essential for maintaining bone density by helping to regulate the balance between bone formation and breakdown. As estrogen levels drop, this balance shifts, and bone loss can occur more rapidly.

Over time, this increases the risk of osteoporosis, a condition in which bones become weaker and more prone to fractures. This is why menopause is often considered a critical period for long-term skeletal health.

Beyond the brain and bones, menopause can also influence sleep patterns, metabolism, and cardiovascular health. Some women experience disrupted sleep due to night sweats, while others notice changes in energy levels or weight distribution. These shifts are not simply a result of aging, but are closely tied to the underlying hormonal changes occurring in the body.

While these changes can sound overwhelming, there are ways to support the body through this transition. Maintaining bone health, for example, becomes especially important. This includes ensuring adequate intake of calcium and vitamin D, as well as engaging in regular weight-bearing exercise, which helps strengthen bones and reduce the risk of fractures.

Cognitive health can also be supported through consistent sleep, mental stimulation, and stress management. Activities that challenge the brain, such as reading, learning new skills, or social engagement, can help maintain cognitive function over time.

Additionally, regular physical activity has been shown to benefit both brain health and overall well-being. Most importantly, menopause highlights the need to shift how we think about health as we age. Rather than reacting to symptoms as they arise, there is value in proactively supporting the body through lifestyle choices that promote long-term stability and resilience.

Watching my mom go through this stage has made that idea feel more real to me. It is a natural part of life that deserves more attention, understanding, and conversation.

Menopause is often framed as a decline, but it is more accurately a transition that reflects changes in the body's hormonal environment rather than a loss of function. Understanding the science behind these changes can make the experience feel less unpredictable and more manageable.

As with many areas of medicine, the more we understand what is happening beneath the surface, the better equipped we are to respond to it.

**Menopause is a natural transition that reflects changes in the body's hormonal environment.**

## INDIVIDUAL & COUPLES THERAPY



Resolving issues from your past that block your future.

**MICHELLE GOTTLIEB** Psy.D., MFT, LPCC

305 N. Harbor Blvd. Ste 202, Fullerton

714-879-5868 ext 5

www.michellegottlieb.com

## Rene Perez Senior Fitness Specialist

One-on-One In-Home Personal Training  
Exercises to improve activities of daily living (ADL)

Trusted and recommended by families for over 15 years.

Call me to schedule an assessment.

951.384.1137 | 714.395.2002



**LEGAL INSIGHTS** by Kathryn, 9th grade



**Donoghue v. Stevenson**

May Donoghue joined a friend at a small café on an August evening in 1928 in Paisley, Scotland. Her friend ordered her a bottle of ginger beer, served in an opaque glass bottle that concealed its contents. Donoghue drank some of it and poured the rest over ice cream to make a float. As the remaining liquid spilled out, so did the alleged remains of a decomposed snail. Shocked and disgusted, Donoghue soon fell ill, suffering from stomach pain and emotional distress.

Determined to seek justice, Donoghue brought a legal claim against the manufacturer, David Stevenson. But there was a problem: she had not purchased the drink herself. Under the law at the time, a person typically needed a direct contract with a seller to sue for damages. Since her friend had bought the ginger beer, Donoghue's case seemed unlikely to succeed.

The issue reached the House of Lords, where the judges were asked to decide the broader and more important question of whether a manufacturer owes a duty of care to the final con-

sumer, even without a contract.

In a groundbreaking decision, the court ruled in Donoghue's favor. Lord Atkin delivered the leading opinion, introducing the "neighbor principle." He explained that people must take reasonable care to avoid actions that could foreseeably harm others who are closely affected by their conduct.

This ruling transformed the law. For the first time, it clearly established that companies have a legal responsibility to consumers beyond contractual relationships. Manufacturers could now be held accountable for unsafe products that cause harm.

The impact of Donoghue v. Stevenson has been enormous. It laid the foundation for modern negligence law and the concept of "duty of care," which remains central in courts today. Donoghue v. Stevenson ultimately reshaped how the law understands responsibility and accountability, making it a key case in the United Kingdom as well as its influence on other policies.

**Know the Law** by Curtis Gamble

**California Penal Code § 849**

In Fullerton, California, police officers exercise significant discretion in handling arrests under California Penal Code § 849, which allows for "849(b) releases." Officers can release individuals without bringing them before a magistrate if there are insufficient grounds for a criminal complaint, if the arrest was solely due to intoxication, or if medical or mental health treatment is needed. Notably, § 849(b)(1) specifies that if there is insufficient evidence, the individual is considered "not to have been arrested," treating the encounter as a mere detention, which has crucial legal implications.

While other subsections allow for releases based on intoxication or medical needs, they do not carry the same "no arrest" legal status. Individuals released under § 849 receive a certifi-

cate of release detailing their circumstances, but these events may still appear in law enforcement databases and do not automatically clear a person's record.

In practice, 849(b) releases are commonly used in low-level or non-violent incidents, particularly public intoxication cases. Though a release usually means no charges will be filed, it does not eliminate the possibility of future legal action, which is rare when based on insufficient grounds.

Those seeking to expunge their records may need to file additional petitions under California Penal Code § 851.8. As the application of § 849 continues to influence police practices, understanding these legal nuances is essential for residents and those involved in the justice system.

**POLICE ACTIVITY**

by David Spargur

**Suspect Arrested Following Kidnapping and Assault Investigation**

In Southeast Fullerton, bordering Anaheim, an alleged assault and kidnapping took place on Sunday, April 19.

The Fullerton Police dispatch received a 911 call at 4:09 pm from a woman. According to the alleged male victim who was with her, the following events occurred prior to and after this 911 call:

The (alleged) male and female victim were sitting together in his parked vehicle in Anaheim. The suspect approached and started banging on his car. The female victim told the male victim to drive the car to Fullerton Police Station, which they did, going north on Acacia Avenue.

The female victim called 911. The suspect rammed the victims vehicle with their car. The male victim continued driving down Dawn Way, which he may not have known was a cul-de-sac.

The suspect rammed their vehicle with their car a second time. The suspect exited his car and vandalized the male victim's car.

As the male victim left his car, the suspect assaulted him, demanded his wallet, and threatened to get a firearm and kill him.

The male victim defended himself with a hammer, and the suspect swung a metal sign at him. Then the suspect went to the female victim, grabbed her

phone and threw it on the ground (she had been talking to 911).

The suspect dragged the female victim into his car and fled with her. About one hour later, a Fullerton officer spotted the suspect's car on the 57 freeway shoulder near Ball Road. At which time the suspect fled on foot across traffic lanes. The police closed the freeway and started a perimeter search.

At 5:30 pm, the police located and apprehended 42-year-old Anaheim resident, in the City of Newport Beach. He was booked at the Fullerton City Jail on multiple charges, including kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon, criminal threats, vandalism, and domestic violence.

**Arrest Overview for April 7 through April 24**

**There were 335 arrests made.**

- 30.45% Drug-related arrests
- 10.15% DUI-related
- 22.39% Miscellaneous
- 0.60% Sex Offender-related
- 3.58% Theft-related
- 20.60% Trespassing, including unlawful camping:
- 0.60% Vandalism-related
- 11.64% Violence-related

**Note:** Arrestees are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

**SUPPORT THE FULLERTON OBSERVER**

No Time to Volunteer? You Can Still Help.

**"I saw you in the Fullerton Observer."**

Say it when you visit restaurants, shop local, or attend community events.

**Small words. Big impact.**  
Read it. Share it. Talk about it.



**Jodi Balma,**  
Professor of  
Political Science  
at Fullerton  
College,  
will speak on



**"Ranked Choice Voting and Other Electoral Changes Needed to Improve California Elections"**

at May's Lunch with League

Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 11 AM

Coyote Hills Golf Club,

1440 E. Bastanchury, Fullerton

RSVP by 5/23 to LUNCHWITHLEAGUE@LWVNOC.ORG

Know Fullerton by subscribing to the *Fullerton Observer*.  
Give yourself or someone else the gift of Local Journalism.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street Apt #

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Check enclosed (\$39) Plus Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**For \$39 you get 21 issues mailed directly to your home.**

Pay online by going to [www.FullertonObserver.com](http://www.FullertonObserver.com)

Pay online by going to [www.FullertonObserver.com](http://www.FullertonObserver.com) or mail check with name, phone number

(in case we can't read your writing), and address to

Fullerton Observer, P.O. Box 7051, Fullerton, CA 92834.

## City Council Notes by Amira G. Petrus

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 21 City Council meeting

#### Public Comments

##### WRONGFULLY DISQUALIFIED

Dillion argues that a contractor, Mr. Nieves, was wrongfully disqualified from city project number 44087 despite submitting the lowest bid. The city's invitation did not set a mandatory requirement for participation by disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs), only encouraging it.

Dillion contends that Nieves, a minority business owner, planned to complete 100% of the project himself and therefore should be considered responsive. He believes disqualifying Nieves would contradict the intention of supporting minority businesses. Dillion is open to further questions from the city attorney.

##### THANKFUL FOR STAFF

Helen Higgins expressed her appreciation for Councilman Dunlap's comments on tasks 1 and 2 and emphasized the importance of the presentation discussed. She also gave a shout-out to the Fullerton staff, noting her positive experiences since 2002 when dealing with various city issues, including Coyote Hills. She praised the courteous and informative help she received at City Hall and mentioned her preference for interacting with staff over City Council members.

##### CANNABIS REVENUE

Jay encourages the council to rethink its approach to cannabis dispensaries in light of the city's \$10 million deficit. He suggests that embracing cannabis sales could generate much-needed revenue through sales tax, which is currently being lost to other cities. He advises against relying on fees and fines, as it disproportionately affects lower-income residents, and emphasizes the need for a more sustainable solution to address the deficit.

##### LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

Karen Lloreda expresses concerns about the lack of transparency and accountability in Fullerton's city governance, particularly criticizing the current mayor for not effectively collaborating with city staff on budget management. She questions the clarity of financial practices and the status of city reserves, urging the council to be more responsive to public inquiries.

Lloreda highlights the importance of fiscal training for council members and requests more transparent reporting of their meetings. She acknowledges the diligent efforts of city staff while calling for improvements in communication and governance. Additionally, she thanks Councilman Dunlap for addressing the redevelopment agency's impact.

##### NEW BUSINESS IN TOWN

The owner of Uptown Burger in Fullerton, announced the opening of the restaurant three months ago and expressed gratitude to the city council for a quick permit process. They will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 30 at 2 PM at Commonwealth, inviting the community to enjoy complimentary food and celebrate together.

##### IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY

Steven Sherry: District Two. I strongly believe that a forensic audit is necessary, and that the city manager should oversee that process, rather than the council, as it presents a conflict of interest. It's akin to a restaurant experiencing a fire, and the solution being to find more patrons for the next dinner service without addressing how the fire occurred or how to prevent it from happening again. The public's trust has been compromised, and we cannot move forward without first conducting an audit.

Nick requested that we consider three companies at most, but you chose six, which sidelined and confused staff, as Stephen Vice pointed out last week. He was seeking clarity that was not provided. I bring this up because Tony Bouchard, a major political donor in Fullerton and a key funder of the mayor and his voting block, is also on the city's Budget Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee.

This issue affects every aspect of the city, including our roads. How can we discuss increasing CIP spending when we can't even balance the budget? How can committees or staff effectively serve the public when we know there's no funding available compared to cities like Buena Park or Placentia?

A few weeks ago, I attended that meeting where Mr. Bushala suggested that the city impose a \$10 million loan request in our trash hauling RFP. My research shows that none of the companies listed in the city's RFP have taken such an approach, except for Valley Vista Services with the City of Industry, which was right before a massive fraud investigation. It seems logical to conclude that the only company to agree to this would be Valley Vista, which has made significant political contributions to the council majority.

Currently, Mayor Jung has held the position for four of the last five or six years. While a rotational system could protect any one council member from patterns of abuse, the fact that Mayor Jung has served consecutive terms makes him significantly responsible for the current situation. The largest donor to the mayor and his council majority is also a personal friend of the beneficiary of a significant donation from Valley Vista Services, an unqualified trash hauling company that has received an inaccurate promotion by the mayor and the council.

This loan would inevitably include interest for Valley Vista Business Services, which would profit from Fullerton's crisis. This is not a conspiracy; it is a pattern of public statements and actions from the council that appears to prioritize political donors over the residents of Fullerton. Given this trend and the lack of transparency, and with the mayor primarily responsible for the city's actions, I believe a forensic audit is absolutely required.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

Elijah Manassero: I want to start by requesting some changes to the invocations. In watching numerous meetings, I've noticed that the invocations are predominantly Protestant or Catholic. Given that we have a Muslim council member and a Jewish council member, and our city is diverse, I believe the invocations should be more inclusive.

Fred has requested an email update, but I think the public deserves to know whether this situation will be resolved, as we shouldn't allow cars to end up in people's backyards. It's essential for the council to take action to prevent that.

I also want to briefly respond to Dunlap's recommendation about expanding the committee. If he's referring to the ad hoc committee, we should evaluate whether expanding its scope and size is feasible, as ad hoc committees have strict regulations.

Additionally, I want to highlight that some blame has been placed on the commission and staff for the delays regarding this item. Although you all voted on it in March, it wasn't sent to TCC until June. This delay was largely due to the committee not being fully appointed until May.

I also want to address the signal light that was denied in the last meeting. This is a safety issue, and the reasons for its denial were not related to safety but rather traffic concerns. In my opinion, safety should take precedence over traffic considerations, especially since cut-through traffic can be managed effectively. Nick and Ahmad both requested that this issue be brought back to the council to share what actions are being taken.

In June, when it was finally on the TCC agenda, both Ahmad's and Shayna's representatives were present, but no one else could attend, resulting in a canceled meeting due to a lack of quorum.

I believe it's important for this matter to be revisited by the council so we can determine if the safety issue will be

Lastly, I want to note that many committee meetings have been canceled after June. It's crucial for committees to meet, as they play an important role in refining policies and providing legitimacy to those policies. Anjali was here advocating for bike rules because the police department engaged stakeholders, and that kind of engagement should continue.

#### UNNECESSARY COMMITTEE

The speaker praises the city staff of Fullerton for their education, experience, and courtesy, highlighting a positive recent interaction with the water billing department. They express concern about the reputation of the city being affected by unpopular policies and urge for fairness and transparency in processes, particularly regarding the selection of a waste disposal company.

The speaker criticizes the addition of an unnecessary committee that interfered with the staff's thorough selection process and objects to Valley Vista's request for another chance. They stress that the process should be fair and transparent and express concerns regarding a council vote, claiming that a council member was incorrectly reported as absent during the vote due to a technical issue. The speaker insists that rules should not be broken for convenience and calls for adherence to proper procedures.

#### OUTDATED MUNICIPAL CODE

Curtis Gamble, an activist, addressed the Fullerton City Council, highlighting concerns about the outdated municipal code booklet available at local libraries, which is from 2024. He emphasized that this outdated information hinders public access to crucial legal details, particularly affecting vulnerable populations like the homeless.

Gamble pointed out the importance of having current codes for understanding enforcement of laws, especially regarding emergency shelters. He urged the city to distribute updated copies of the code booklet from the clerk's office and called for immediate action to make the latest legal information accessible in public spaces. Currently, there is no clear timeline from city officials for this update.

#### NEGLECTED MEMORIAL

Jensen expresses his desire for collaboration with the city council regarding the neglected Redwood Grove surrounding the Sequoia monument, which originally had a living tree for each name on the memorial. He highlights the historical significance of the grove, revealing that 55 trees were planted in the past, but all have since died due to neglect. Jensen mentions his efforts to discuss these concerns with city staff and his hope for replanting and caring for the trees, emphasizing the grove as an important tribute that should not be forgotten.

### AGENDA FORECAST (Tentative)

#### Tuesday, May 5, 2026

- Urban Water Management Plan
- Appeal for the 111 West Hermosa Drive Project
- Presentation on Traffic Safer Streets for All
- Amendment Number Two to the Street Sweeping Contract
- Implementation of Phase I for the City Fleet Electric Vehicle Transition
- Expansion of Participation in the Medi-Cal Voluntary Rate Range Program
- Compliance Attributes for Recovered Organic Waste as per SB 1383

#### CITY MEETINGS 2026

<b>May 5 at 5:30pm</b> City Council	<b>May 18 at 5:00pm</b> Infrastructure and Natural Resources
<b>May 11 at 6:00pm</b> Parks and Recreation Commission	<b>May 19 at 5:30pm</b> City Council
<b>May 12 at 11:00am</b> Senior Advisory Committee	<b>May 20 at 5:30pm</b> Active Transportation
<b>May 13 at 6:30pm</b> Planning Commission	<b>May 27 at 6:30pm</b> Planning Commission
<b>May 14 at 6:30pm</b> Fiscal Sustainability Ad Hoc	<b>May 28 at 6:00pm</b> Library Board of Trustees

## Fullerton Adopts Ordinance to Bolster Enforcement Against Unlicensed Cannabis Operations

The Fullerton City Council passed an ordinance on April 21 to enhance enforcement actions against unlicensed commercial cannabis activities. This measure is part of the city's ongoing efforts to prohibit all commercial cannabis uses as outlined in its zoning code, even though cannabis is legal in California. Additionally, supporters point out that sales tax revenue from cannabis sales, which could benefit Fullerton, is currently going to other cities.

Since 2017, Fullerton has engaged in coordinated enforcement efforts involving various city departments, including Code Enforcement, the Police Department, and the Building Division. However, challenges remain due to the delays associated with administrative and legal procedures for enforcement, despite collaboration

with the California Department of Cannabis Control.

The newly adopted ordinance incorporates provisions from Assembly Bill 1684, enabling the immediate imposition of administrative fines for unlicensed cannabis operations, which include retail, distribution, and manufacturing activities.

It also establishes a new chapter in the Municipal Code to reinforce the prohibition and expand accountability to include property owners and other responsible parties. Alternative enforcement mechanisms have also been introduced to effectively address repeat violations.

The ordinance aims to strengthen deterrence against unlicensed cannabis activity, minimize repeat violations, and support Fullerton's commitment to upholding local regulations.

## City of Fullerton Files Federal Antitrust Lawsuit Against Fire Truck Manufacturers

The City of Fullerton has filed a federal lawsuit alleging that major fire apparatus manufacturers engaged in anti-competitive practices that drove up the cost of emergency vehicles purchased by cities.

The case, *City of Fullerton v. Oshkosh Corp., et al.* (No. 8:26-cv-00956), was filed April 21 in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. The complaint names Oshkosh Corporation and other companies involved in the production and sale of firefighting vehicles.

According to the lawsuit, the defendants violated the Sherman Antitrust Act by coordinating pricing, limiting competition, and undermining the public bidding process used by municipalities. The city alleges that instead of competing fairly, manufacturers engaged in conduct that kept prices artificially high.

Fullerton officials claim the alleged practices caused the city to overpay for fire engines, ladder trucks, and other specialized emergency response vehicles. These purchases, which can cost hundreds of thousands to over a million dollars per unit, are typically made through competitive bidding intended to ensure fair pricing.

The complaint describes the fire apparatus industry as highly concentrated, with a small number of manufacturers dominating the market. This structure, the city argues, made it easier for companies to coordinate behavior and avoid aggressive price competition.

The lawsuit further alleges that the conduct was not isolated but occurred over a period of years, affecting multiple contracts and purchases. While the case is filed by Fullerton, it could expand to include other public agencies that made similar purchases.

Fullerton is seeking financial damages, which under federal antitrust law could be tripled if violations are proven, as well as other relief to address the alleged misconduct. The city has also requested a jury trial. No court rulings have been issued in the case, and the allegations have not yet been tested in court.

Representatives for the defendants have not publicly responded to the claims as of this writing. The case comes as cities across the country face increasing costs for public safety equipment and infrastructure, placing added scrutiny on procurement practices and vendor relationships.

## Council Hears First Reading of Ordinance to Ban Kratom Sales Due to Health Concerns

The Fullerton City Council is considering an ordinance to prohibit the sale and distribution of Kratom products due to public health concerns. Kratom, derived from the *Mitragyna speciosa* tree, has both stimulant and sedative effects, which can lead to health risks, including addiction and psychosis. The active components, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, raise significant concern, particularly the potent 7-hydroxymitragynine, which binds strongly to opioid receptors. Many California cities have already banned Kratom, and Fullerton's proposed ordinance aims to restrict sales to those over 21, limit the 7-hydroxymitragynine content, and prevent child-attractive packaging. Violators may face misdemeanor charges, fines, or imprisonment. A second reading of the ordinance will be discussed in a future council meeting.

## Special Fiscal Audit

A Presentation at the City Council meeting on April 21 introduced the Special Fiscal Auditor Grant Thornton Risk Advisory Services. Shawn Stewart (Partner) and Charles Mayes, CPA (Director), laid out a three-part task-based approach to the financial budget.

Task One: Budget risk analysis & Transaction interrogation.

Task Two: Budget Optimization & Economic Opportunities

(Potential) Task Three: Forensics Investigation

Stewart assured that Task One and Task Two will be performed in parallel, with live updates given to the City Council. And if potential fraud is uncovered, it will escalate to Task Three for a deep-dive Forensic Investigation. Stewart also mentioned that each Task has its own fixed cost: Task One is \$100,000, and Task Two is an additional \$130,000. If Task Three of the Forensic audit is needed, it can cost between \$400,000 and \$1 million, depending on the findings.

Grant Thornton Advisory Services has already made an initial investment

of time to review financial documents and meet with Mayor Fred Jung, City Manager Eddie Manfro and staff. Based on their initial review, Grant Thornton recommends that the City start with Tasks One and Two, while some Council Members questioned whether it would be cost-efficient to start with a Forensic Investigation rather than steps 1-2.

Stewart clarified that starting with Tasks One and Two would provide more visibility into the accounting and information to avoid misunderstandings and negative press.

Council Member Ahmad Zahra had a concern about why negative press was mentioned in the audit and asked, "Why is that an issue mentioned in the audit? Why would you concern yourself with what's being said in public?"

Stewart's response was, "We are just reacting to what we've been told." Council Member Zahra was seeking clarity to ensure that this audit was not meant to create positive press or some sort of PR movement to sidetrack from the ultimate goal of budget stability and accountability.

## Fullerton Advances \$12.2M Street Repair Plan, Awards Key Contracts

The City Council has approved a \$12.164 million Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27, primarily for street rehabilitation. The funding sources include \$4 million from RMRA/SB1 funds, \$3.2 million from Measure M2, and various grants.

To qualify for certain funding, the city must meet a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement of \$5,898,993, which will be covered through General and Infrastructure Funds. Planned projects will target residential areas, with federal grants already approved for Euclid Street and Yorba Linda Boulevard.

A contract worth \$548,970.10 was

awarded to R.J. Noble Company for street rehabilitation in the Pacific, Wanda, Louise, and Walnut area. This project will address 0.4 miles of residential streets adjacent to Pacific Drive Elementary, funded by \$686,000 from multiple sources.

Nieves General Engineering, initially the lowest bidder for this project, was disqualified for not meeting DBE requirements. However, the company was awarded a separate \$1,781,470 contract for the Firethorne Area Street Rehabilitation Project, which will rehabilitate 1.5 miles of roads near Beechwood Elementary. Construction is set to take place during the summer break to limit disruptions.

## City Staff Warns Ad Hoc Committee, "Budget Cuts Threaten Essential Services"

*Continued from front page*

Police Chief Jon Radus said the police department would also face significant impacts with a 5% reduction scenario. The department reported 196 budgeted positions, more than 82,000 calls for service in 2025 and nearly 2,000 investigation cases closed. He said deeper cuts could require eliminating additional officers, closing specialty units such as gang, traffic and investigative teams, and reducing community outreach and school-based services.

Public Works Director Steven Bise said the department has little room left to absorb more reductions without affecting core services. Public Works has a \$93.5 million budget and about 200 employees, but only about 12% of that total comes from the general fund. Bise said the department has already reduced about \$300,000 and warned that further cuts could slow citywide maintenance, graffiti removal, pothole repair and facility upkeep.

Library and Parks and Recreation officials also described possible reductions in book budgets, programming, security, custodial work and city-run events. Staff raised the possibility of merging some departments or turning certain services over to nonprofit or private partners to lower costs.

Across departments, officials said

one-time savings and vacancy holds are not sustainable long-term and that additional reductions will increasingly affect service levels.

The Fiscal Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee, originally created Aug. 6, 2024, was formed to review Fullerton's short- and long-term financial and economic conditions and recommend improvements. It met monthly between September 2024 and May 2025 before presenting recommendations to the City Council on May 20, 2025.

Council members then directed staff to move forward with two proposed add-on sales tax measures, including a half-cent tax for streets and infrastructure and a separate half-cent tax for public safety. The committee was later reestablished on November 18, 2025, with a narrower scope tied to sales tax measure development.

On April 7, 2026, the City Council directed the City Manager Eddie Manfro to pursue an independent audit of city finances by Grant Thornton Advisors and expressed interest in additional budget optimization and economic opportunity analysis. Staff said updated polling on tax measures will be discussed at the Fiscal Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee's next meeting on May 14 at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

### 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)



## OPINION: Out of My Mind

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

### Trump as Schrödinger's Quantum Mechanic

*Just try to find a good quantum mechanic who works week-ends*

During Trump's first term, I proposed that we see him as the first "Quantum President." With quantum mechanics, we can't locate with any certainty any object or particle in either time or space. We can guess, calculate and predict, but we can't get from prediction to certainty. The mere act of observing it changes it. Not only do we not know where it is, but we don't know where it's going. Our lack of knowledge is so great that it is possible that a particle could be in two places at once. This seems a near-perfect metaphor for our nation and our president.

I thought that Trump embodied this confusing state by being on all sides of nearly every question and changing his soi-disant "deeply held values" seemingly on a whim, without either notice or discernible pattern. He was a Democrat most of his life, then became a Republican. He was pro-choice until some unacknowledged epiphany changed him into being bigly anti-choice. No one in the world was a better friend of "the gays" than he, until he wasn't. He assured us all that he was the least bigoted person in the world,

yet he had settled a number of tenant suits claiming discrimination based on race. And he was quoted as saying, "Black guys counting my money! I hate it. The only kind of people I want counting my money are little short guys that wear yarmulkes every day." He claimed that he was a committed Christian and his favorite book was the Bible, though he admitted that he didn't attend services regularly, but sometimes took communion, which he characterized as "a bite of the cracker." He tried to show his biblical literacy by quoting Second Corinthians, but called it Two Corinthians—as in "Two Corinthians walked into a bar." And who could blame them?

Under the logic of Aristotle and the physics of Newton, these might seem to be contradictions or at least inconsistencies, but now they fit nicely in the unknowability of the world according to Heisenberg, Planck, Einstein and Schrödinger. Now, in his second term, he has moved from Heisenberg's

uncertainty to Schrödinger's radical and counterintuitive view that observation is more than uncertain; it's deceptive. Not only do you not know where we are or where we're going, but we can't know if anything is truly true. Is the cat in the box alive or dead? Depends on the viewer. Is light a wave or a particle? Again, it depends on the test. We are reduced to no objective truths when a phenomenon is standing alone and unviewed. However, once viewed, the phenomenon is no clearer.

This is an epistemological crisis, and we may be transported back to Socrates, who held that he was the smartest man in Athens because the only thing he knew was that he didn't know anything. While that was probably just humility on his part, today it seems to be an article of faith among physicists and philosophers.

Trump, with his lack of fidelity to facts, philosophies and values, is the quantum mechanic for our time. He can be in at least two positions at once. He can assert contradictions that would trouble less sophisticated representatives of Newtonian mechanics. What is the truth? Clearly, we can't handle the truth or grasp it as if it were exclusive and eternal. It just comes into and out of being, depending on the viewer.

In Trump 2.0, our uncertainty is confirmed by logic-defying alternative facts. Trump assures us, regarding the

war with Iran, that it is both a war and not a war. Perhaps it's a special operation, an excursion or maybe a field trip. Which is it, you might futilely demand? Neither. Both. Sorry, can't know. Trump assures us that, "We won on the first day, but have to keep winning." Winning once seemed to mean a completed contest, while the phrase "keep winning" implies it ain't over. Trump asserts in the morning that the new regime in Tehran is much nicer and more flexible than the old one, and we're really close to peace. In the afternoon, he says that they are radically intransigent and we need to eliminate not only their leadership but their civilization. A troubling inconsistency? Naw, just Heisenberg's uncertainty regarding Trump's words and Schrödinger's Paradox regarding the Iranian leadership.

Is the Strait of Hormuz completely open or being blocked by Iran? Depends. This Strait should be renamed The Strait of Schrödinger. Whether it's open or closed depends on how it's being viewed, when and by whom. Are we just days away from peace and the total and absolute unconditional surrender of Iran, or escalation and Armageddon? Depends.

Frankly, I'm shaking with bodily paroxysms, but I can't be sure if I'm laughing or crying. The physical signs are nearly identical. I guess it depends. But the shaking is dramatic enough that I'm shopping for Depends while I look for a Quantum mechanic who works weekends.

## OPINION: AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

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

### Walking the talk—literally

I want to talk about friendship today. Specifically, my friend Tony Cohen.

We first met in junior high school. And I could tell even then there was something different about him. When we were sitting at the lunch tables, digging into cheese pizza squares or looking askance at mystery meat, with conversations going in a dozen different directions, Tony didn't so much talk as listen. Really listen, with real focus. This struck me especially because at the time I was in full ADHD bloom and thus had the attention span of a hummingbird, or a hungry squirrel. But Tony had focus, and concentration. This became especially important later.

Our friendship wasn't a steady thing—we drifted in and out of each other's lives—but whenever we met up, he was always involved in worthy projects. In college, he was one of those responsible for the creation of the school's Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance, and did much to raise awareness on campus about discrimination against gays, lesbians and trans students at a time when AIDS and homophobia were roiling the United States and the world. This was instrumental in yours truly becoming involved with gay and lesbian

causes.

When I moved to California, we pretty much lost touch, although we remained "Facebook friends," so I was able to keep track of Tony's doings in the world. I was especially pleased to read about his spearheading of the initiative to rename the Montrose Parkway in Rockville, Maryland, our home town, after Josiah Henson—a fitting honor long overdue this great man, who was once enslaved on the Riley plantation, which was located less than a mile from where I grew up (now the Josiah Henson Museum and Park).

I'm going to need a brief sidebar here...

Josiah Henson is best known by his alleged fictional counterpart—the infamous "Uncle Tom" in the novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe. Over the century since its first publication, being an Uncle Tom took on a negative connotation—one of servility, conformity. Even as late as the 1960s and 1970s, it was used to refer to African-Americans who were perceived as overly solicitous to white folks.

The real Josiah Henson was the antithesis of that caricature. He escaped several times from slavery,

finally arriving in Canada in 1830, where he finally got to tell his side of the story in his memoir, *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada, as Narrated by Himself*. He was the first African-American to be represented on a Canadian postage stamp. The portrait that was used as the template for his stamp shows a distinguished elder statesman, humble but not humbled. You can see it for yourself in his Wikipedia listing.

The family legacy continued as his nephew Matthew Henson joined Admiral Richard Peary's mission to reach the geographic North Pole and some historians contend—actually reached the Pole before Peary did. And Matthew Henson is believed to be the great-great-granduncle of Taraji P. Henson, who was one of the first celebrities to alert the country about the nefarious doings that Russell Vought and other Trump cabinet members plotted out in the infamous Project 2025 document.

So in large part due to Tony's efforts, Josiah Henson has received his due place in history, just as his nephew Matthew did. And, through Ms. Henson, that family legacy continues.

Now on to Mr. Cohen's latest project. The MoCo Show (online news for Montgomery County, Maryland) announced that, starting on May 4, 2026, "Anthony Michael Cohen of Germantown is set to begin a 750-mile walk retracing Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad route from Maryland to Canada." The walk will begin at the Sandy Spring Slave Museum in Sandy Spring, Maryland, and end in Toronto, Canada. Tony's route will take him through the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York before concluding in Toronto, Canada, on July 4, 2026. Incidentally, this is not Tony's first rodeo: he first completed this walk



30 years ago. This time, it is to honor the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, and therefore it is altogether fitting that it will conclude when it does.

Lots of people wearing red hats and flags love to talk about how much they love this country, but how many of them would be willing to invest the amounts of foot-pounds and shoe-leather that Tony has? That's a rhetorical question, by the way. We all know too many people who will talk the talk, but won't walk the walk. Tony has done and continues to do both. I wish there were more like him. But even if I can't follow in his footsteps, I can at least report them.

Friendship is one of the most important things in life. It keeps us tethered to life. With the right friends, it can provide "a balm of Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul." I'm pretty damn lucky to have the friends I have, friends who care about me and the world. who really do walk the talk, who speak up when things go wrong and won't shut up until they're redressed. Friends like Anthony Michael Cohen.



Your Orange County Plumber

# Seale PLUMBING

Seale Plumbing is a family business.  
Every customer is treated with dignity.

**For Expert Service, Call 714-928-7557**

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER: THURSDAY, MAY 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me. Psalm 66**



Sunday Service & Sunday school at 10:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Testimony Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
 Reading Room: Wed, Fri and Sat from 10 a.m.–1 p.m.  
**First Church of Christ, Scientist**

1300 N. Raymond Avenue, Fullerton 92831  
 Office (714) 525-4062 Reading Room (714) 525-2649  
[christiansciencefullerton.com](http://christiansciencefullerton.com) [csfullerton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:csfullerton@sbcglobal.net)

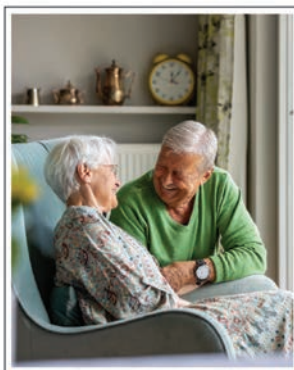
# LOMA VISTA MEMORIAL PARK

CEMETERY • MORTUARY • CREMATORY

Family owned, operated, and cared for since 1914.

*Choosing a final resting place is a very personal decision.*

*At Loma Vista, your family becomes our family as we help you through the process of insuring a lasting legacy.*



**NEW lawns and family estates available now.**  
**Call for an appointment today.**

701 E. Bastanchury Road, Fullerton, CA 92835  
 (714) 525-1575 • [lomavistamemorialpark.com](http://lomavistamemorialpark.com)

## OUR TOWN CROSSWORD

© 2026 from page 7

ANSWER KEY TO "MAY CELEBRANTS"



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

C	I	A	O		E	C	A	R		C	A	B	I	N			
O	D	D	S		L	I	N	E		H	E	A	D	Y			
C	L	O	S	E	K	N	I	T		E	R	I	E	S			
O	E	R		N	O	N		U	B	E		T	A	E			
A	D	E	A	D		A	C	R	O	S	S						
					C	O	M	M	O	N	W	E	A	L	T	H	
				N	U	T	W	O	O	D			D	O	E	R	S
M	O	D			O	N	I	C	E					D	O	T	
L	L	O	S	A				C	H	A	P	M	A	N			
B	O	N	S	A	I			I	O	T	A	S					
					E	M	B	A	L	M		N	S	Y	N	C	
A	G	O			I	M	P		P	O	I		E	O	E		
H	O	T	E	L				P	R	I	N	C	E	T	O	N	
A	A	R	O	N				L	I	N	C			A	I	N	T
S	T	O	N	E				E	D	G	E			U	S	E	S

## Eric Kim, DMD: Family Dentistry

*Thoughtful dentistry in a welcoming environment.*

**501 N Cornell Ave Ste. 1**  
**Fullerton**  
**(714) 992-0092**



## FULLERTON TRANSPARENCY

Fullerton Transparency is dedicated to shining a light on the decisions that shape our city.

We break down complex policies, track political influence, and provide residents with clear, accessible information so that Fullerton's future is guided by its people, not by special interests.

See the video clips on Facebook and Instagram.

## SUPPORT THE FULLERTON OBSERVER

**No Time to Volunteer? You Can Still Help.**

**"I saw you in the Fullerton Observer."**

## Senior Housing Available for Rent \$2,500

One-bedroom, one-bathroom unit located on the first floor in a secure gated community. Close to public transportation and within walking distance of amenities and Downtown Fullerton. Rent includes water, trash, and parking. HUD approved—must be 55 years or older to apply. Tenant is responsible for electricity. Coin-operated laundry on premises. This property is intended and operated in accordance with the Housing for Older Persons provisions of the Fair Housing Act. For more information or to schedule a viewing, please call Lee at (714) 608-2000 today!

## Seeking Employment:

### Proofreading & Bookkeeping Services

**Experience:**

Publishing Assistant (2025–Present)  
 Manager/Bookkeeper (2010–2023)  
 Accounting Clerk (2006–2010)

**Education:**

B.S. in Statistics  
 Reliable and organized. Available for freelance or part-time opportunities.

Detail-oriented and dependable professional seeking opportunities in proofreading and/or bookkeeping services. Strong background in publishing, accounting, and client-focused business operations.

Available for freelance, part-time, or full-time work.

Accurate. Efficient. Trusted.

Call or email today to discuss your needs!

**714-455-8305 | [randy.bradley7227@gmail.com](mailto:randy.bradley7227@gmail.com)**



## MCAULAY & WALLACE MORTUARIES

FUNERALS • LIFE CELEBRATIONS • CREMATIONS  
 LIVE STREAMING • PRE-NEED PLANNING

*We help create remembrances that reflect the unique values, character and traditions of the families we serve. That is our passion, that is our purpose, that is our promise. Guaranteed.*

### MCAULAY & WALLACE MORTUARY, FULLERTON

714-525-4721 FD 190

### MCAULAY—WALLACE MORTUARY, YORBA LINDA

714-777-2692 FD 1304

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/funeral-homes/mcaulay-wallace>

*Every Detail Remembered®* | **Dignity**  
MEMORIAL

**To place an obituary in the Fullerton Observer** send the text and a photo to [ads@fullertonobserver.com](mailto:ads@fullertonobserver.com). We will create a proof and calculate all discounts. Once you approve, we will send an invoice.



Left: Aimee Aul in front of historic Maple Elementary School



Right: Environmental mural painted on Maple School multipurpose room



**VIDEO OBSERVER**

by Emerson Little © 2026

See videos on YouTube @emersonlittle1901

**Admiring Mural Art at Maple Elementary**

At Lemon Park, on a weekday morning in late April, I met with Parks and Recreation Coordinator Aimee Aul, who leads the “Discover Fullerton on Foot” walking tours for the City of Fullerton. We had a conversation about the structures and murals on Maple Elementary’s campus, and discussed how last fall, she was a docent for a historical and mural-focused “Discover Fullerton on Foot” walking tour of the Lemon Park area. Following the same route as the tour, Aul led me on an approximately hour-long walk highlighting the history behind the murals on both the elementary school campus and the bridge above Lemon, as well as the artwork within the nearby public park.

Maple Elementary is one of Fullerton’s oldest schools. Aul showed me a photo of the original structure from 1924. She said, “It was called Maple School because this street (Valencia) used to be Maple... The streets have changed, but the school has remained in this place. The 1924 structure was damaged in the 1933 earthquake, and so that was one of the structures in Fullerton that got on the radar of the federal government for the WPA, Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal. And so we got a New Deal and a new structure.”

When it first opened, Maple School served the south side of Fullerton, which historically was the only place that a non-white family could rent or own a home in the city. According to Aul, although this housing discrimination was deemed illegal by the *Doss v. Bernal* case in 1943, it continued in practice for decades.

“So, by the mid-1960s,” Aul said, “Fullerton had a real segregation problem, which was addressed, to the dismay of just about everybody involved, with one-way busing, and that was very unpopular for a long, long time... The neighborhood didn’t like it, and they wanted to have their own school. It took a long time to reopen. Maple School was closed in 1972. It was still used as a community center and as a headstart program location, but it wasn’t reopened until 1996... then added one class per year until it was fully filled and fully operating as one of our wonderful seventeen Fullerton public schools.”

Maple has since been transformed into an “environmental science and experiential learning” school that is “striving to be at the forefront of environmental education,” according to the Fullerton School District. Fourth through sixth graders now get to go on field trips to places like the Catalina Marine Science Institute and Astrocamp, multi-day experiences students enjoy as an environmental sciences learning community. These ideas are definitely illustrated in the many murals that can be found across the school’s campus, with nearly all of them representing different global biomes.

Driving down Lemon, it’s easy to spot a red-orange hued mural painted on the side of one Maple school building, depicting a southwest desert biome with saguaro cacti, jagged plateaus and desert wildlife coexisting. However, many of the other biome-themed murals can only be viewed within the school’s gated campus.

Fortunately, I was able to obtain permission from the school’s administrators and was allowed to photograph the Maple School murals on the same Saturday that the group Love Fullerton was hosting a volunteer-led event on the campus.

On the back of a building facing East Valencia Drive, there’s a long mural showcasing an ocean ecosystem. The entire wall facing the school’s cafeteria benches is painted in various shades of blue to reflect the underwater landscape. Facing the ball courts area, there are four murals painted on different buildings: two unique forest landscapes with walls painted green, one reddish sub-Saharan desert biome, and one purple tundra.

“Apparently, it was a group of artists under the direction of a commercial sign painting company [that made these murals],” said Aul. “But it is all hand-painted, and custom-designed for this site.”

Near the corner of a Maple Elementary building facing the intersection of Valencia Drive and Lemon Street, there is a stunning three-part mosaic created by Fullerton School District students under the direction of guest artist Katherine England, who is well known in the community for her mosaics and who devotes countless

hours to the All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation.

“This mural was made in an after-school program. The flowers were designed by the children at Maple School and the panels on either side are filled with bugs, animals, and flowers that were made over several days by representatives from all the classrooms of Maple School along with Fullerton firefighters,” said Aul. “So it’s a truly collaborative artwork. I especially love how Katherine used the repeating motif of black and white to sort of echo the vertical lines in the architecture. It’s an example of an art piece really working with the building.”

Lastly, while standing on the stairs to the bridge that crosses Lemon, we discussed a mural from 1998, titled “La Mujer Latina” by artist Emigdio Vasquez Sr., which can be seen from the elementary school’s sports field. It is found on the school-facing side of

the stairs leading up to the bridge over Lemon.

Aul said, “It replaces an earlier mural that was sort of an Aztec design faded by the sun. This mural has had some damage too, but it shows the strong women throughout Mexican and Mexican-American history... in sort of an upward march through history on the side of this wall.”

On Saturday, May 16, Aimee Aul will be coordinating with another school to lead a “Discover Fullerton on Foot” walking tour, this time focused on the historic buildings and murals of Fullerton Union High School’s campus. “Discover Fullerton on Foot” tours are free to the public, and happen every third Saturday of the month, beginning at 8:30am and lasting until 10 or 10:30am at different places throughout the city.

To learn more, call Fullerton’s Community Center at (714) 738 – 6575.

**BRAVE SOULS WANTED:**

Show up for social justice, state your truth, and wrestle with the biggest questions on life’s spiritual path.

Defy society’s stereotypes, stigmas, and systems used to separate us. Let your light shine.

Journey with people who are united in love, fueled by community, and committed to justice.

We are Unitarian Universalists. We are people of many beliefs who are brave, curious, compassionate thinkers and doers. And we want to meet you!



Sundays at 11:30am  
109 E. Wilshire Ave.  
Fullerton, CA 92832

[uufullerton.org](http://uufullerton.org)



**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation in Fullerton**

