

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

EDUCATION

Page 4
FSD budget report, FSD leader honored & Legal Insights

YOUNG OBSERVERS

Page 5
Students write on mental health awareness, West Nile virus & more

CROSSWORD & MOVIE REVIEW

Page 7
“Goden State Rivals” & “Primetime” review

OPINION

Page 12
Out of My Mind: The Billionaire Tax & more

HEALTH

Page 13
The science behind psychedelics & Healthy Awareness

LOCAL POLITICS

Page 14-17 & 20
City Council candidate Q&As for Districts 3 & 5, Follow the Money & the FJUHSD board forum



Dr. Vicki Calhoun and her family, all alumni of Fullerton Union High School, stand together at the induction ceremony for the Fullerton Union High School Wall of Fame. PHOTO BY SASKIA KENNEDY

Dr. Vicki Calhoun and Dr. Karl Zener Inducted into Fullerton Union High School’s Wall of Fame

by Saskia Kennedy

Fullerton Union High School added two names to its Wall of Fame on Friday, October 2, 2026, honoring a longtime district leader and a trailblazing school board trustee in a ceremony at the Fullerton Union High School Gym.

The 2026 inductees are Dr. Karl Zener, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services for the Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHSD), and Dr. Vicki Calhoun, Class of 1982, an FJUHSD Board of Education trustee and the first African American elected to public office in the city of Fullerton. Family, friends, colleagues and district leaders filled the gym to celebrate two alumni whose lives have circled back to the school that shaped them.

Calhoun's story began in Fullerton's elementary schools. She attended Maple Elementary until it closed during district integration efforts in the 1970s, then moved to Laguna Road Elementary. There she was the only African American student in her pri-

mary grade classes, an experience presenters said shaped her lifelong belief in belonging and access to a quality education.

At Fullerton Union, she spent three years on the drill team and was named to the winter formal court. She went on to captain the cheer squad at Fullerton College and serve as lead cheerleader at San Diego State University.

Calhoun’s talent then took her around the world. Calhoun toured and recorded with artists including the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Fishbone, Soundgarden and Pearl Jam, and appeared on the Good Burger film soundtrack.

Presenters described her service as her most meaningful work. For more than a decade, she has supported teen mothers and young people in difficult circumstances, helping with graduation, jobs and community resources. At a local community college, she has connected students from many backgrounds with higher education, and she has helped bring back cheerleaders, homecoming and royal courts to build

school spirit.

In civic life, she has served on:

- The City of Fullerton's Community Development Block Grant Committee
- The Fullerton Public Library Board of Trustees
- Assembly District 87, as a delegate
- The Women's Club of Fullerton, as vice president
- The FJUHSD Board of Education, including a term as board president
- Her election made her the first African American to hold public office in Fullerton.

For Zener, the honor is personal. Fullerton Union, his alma mater, the place he returned to as a teacher, and the center of a district he has served for 26 years.

Zener began his career in 1994 as an English teacher at Edgemont Junior High School in Washington state. There he also chaired the English department, coached four sports, and advised the yearbook and newspaper.

Read more on page 9

DEAR SUBSCRIBERS, IT IS TIME TO RENEW

October is the month when we ask subscribers to renew your suscription.

By Check: For those who pay by check to send in your renewals for continued home delivery of the Fullerton Observer by US Mail.

Please mail your subscription check for \$39 along with your address label to: Fullerton Observer, PO Box 7051, Fullerton, CA 92834

In return, we will send you another year of the Fullerton Observer, which includes 21 issues.

Credit Card Online: If you subscribed through our auto-renewal option on our website at fullertonobserver.com, please ensure that your credit card information is up to date.

New in Town: If you are new to town, now is a great time to sign up! Please write clearly so we can accurately record your name and address.

We welcome your notes and ideas for the paper! Mail them in or email them to contact@fullertonobserver.com
Thank you, The Observer Crew

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Too Many Leaf Blowers

Leaf blowers are ubiquitous in my neighborhood. We hear them all hours of the day, Monday through Saturday. Recently, I watched a leaf blower “clean” a playground at a local elementary school, leaving a dust bowl for children to walk into.

Studies show that post COVID, there is a manic need for tidying one’s property — at the expense of all around it.

Casualties include: 1) Topsoil, nutrients and carbon, all of which replenish soil and tree roots, get blasted from their ecosystems; 2) Trees and leaves. Fire away on trees’ soil cover and you’re increasing their chances of dehydration and disease. Get rid of decomposing leaves and you deprive the ground of its natural carbon storage, moisture retention and fertilization; 3) Clean air and clean lungs; 4) Peace and quiet.

It’s not hyperbolic to say leaf blowers are assaulting the environment as well as our mental health. Victims include autistic people, those with auditory disorders, asthmatics, children, anyone working from home, and, finally, wildlife (especially birds).

Several cities in the Southland have banned the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. A handful have banned electric ones, as well. The people of those cities chose clean air. They chose tranquility. They decided to be good stewards of the environment.

Why don’t we do the same?

Brady Rhoades Fullerton

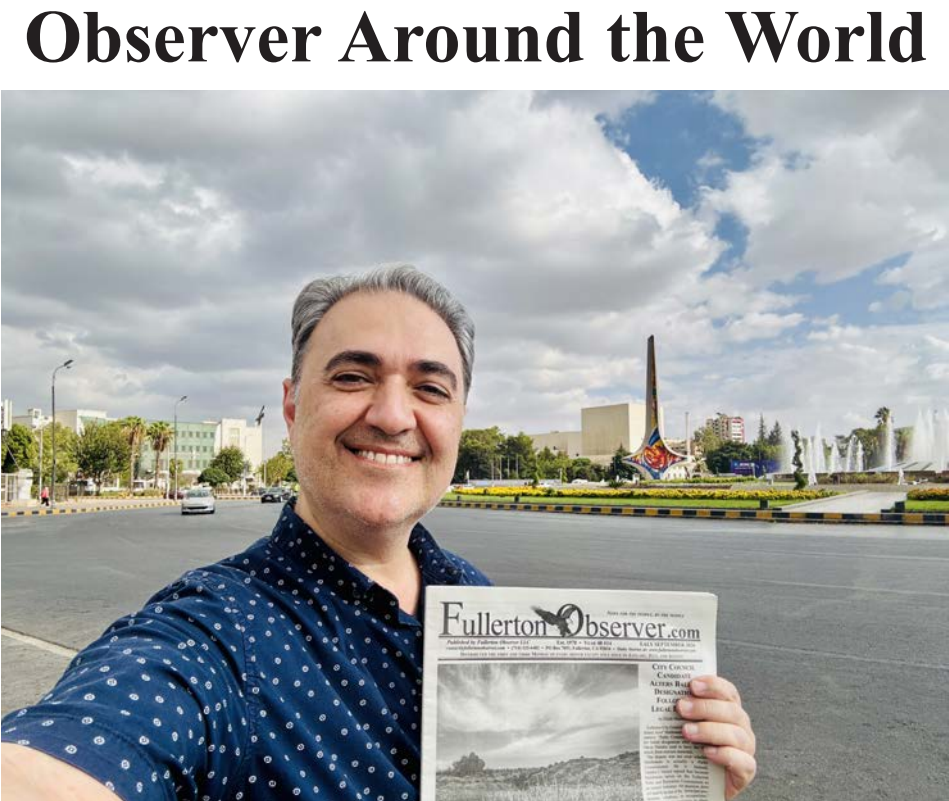
Thank you Observer

Without Fullerton Observer I would not know what is happening with our city council, fire and police department or our school district.

Joann Driggers Fullerton

This publication provides essential coverage, keeping the community informed about local issues, decisions, and events that significantly impact our daily lives. Fullerton is really blessed.

Naona Figuerro Fullerton



The Fullerton Observer at Umayyad Square, Damascus. It was the gathering place of thousands of Syrians to celebrate liberation after the fall of the Assad regime. It’s since become a symbol of freedom.

The League of Women Voters California’s Ballot Measure Recommendations

Support Proposition 1: Veterans & Affordable Housing Bonds	Neutral Proposition 40: Billionaire Tax
Support Proposition 2: Save for California’s Future Act	Oppose Proposition 41: Limits on New State Taxes & Requires Special Tax Audits
Support Proposition 3: Children’s Education & Health Care Protection	Oppose Proposition 42: Limits New State Taxes on Personal Property
Support Proposition 4: California Fair Elections Act	Oppose Proposition 43: Limits Voters’ Ability to Raise Revenues for Local Government Services
Support Proposition 5: Recall Election Reform for Statewide Officers	Oppose Proposition 44: 90% Health Care Spending for Nonprofit Safety-Net Clinics
Oppose Proposition 37: Loan Program for Middle-Income Buyers of New Homes	Oppose Proposition 45: Modifies Environmental Review for Certain Projects
Oppose Proposition 38: Bonds for Immunology Medical Research	Visit the League of Women Voters for more information: https://lwvc.org/
Oppose Proposition 39: Prohibits Voting Without Government-Issued ID	



Don Carlos Mexican Restaurant Closes After 45 Years in Fullerton

Don Carlos, a beloved family-run Mexican restaurant in Fullerton, is closing its doors after 45 years in business.

Located at 300 E. Commonwealth Avenue, at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Lemon Street, the restaurant was known for its affordable, delicious menu, including pozole, menudo, breakfast burritos, and a popular spicy chile verde.

Owner Guillermo Pulido and his son George made the tough decision to close because of rising business costs. They worked hard to keep prices low for the community. Still, after years of absorbing increased expenses, they felt they could no longer continue without compromising the quality and affordability that made Don Carlos special.

Since opening around 1981, Don Carlos has been a staple in the neighborhood, serving early-morning commuters, students, families, and locals. It was a place where everyone felt welcome, from longtime customers to newcomers.

The Pulido family’s personal touch was central to the restaurant’s charm; they knew many customers by name and order. As the community says goodbye, they reflect on the memories created at Don Carlos, from first jobs to family breakfasts.

Don Carlos will be missed for its warm atmosphere, honest food, and fair prices. The Pulido family leaves behind a legacy of dedication to their customers over the years.

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

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
- **CALENDAR EDITOR:** NEEDED
- **DISTRIBUTION:** Linda Gardner, Sue Harliss, and many others
- **PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Mike Ritto and Gaston Castellanos
- **PROOF READER:** Barbara Miller
- **SHIPPING:** Irene Kobayashi, Marjorie Kerr, Leslie Allen and Barbara Meyer
- **SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER:** Jennifer Romero
- **YOUNG OBSERVERS EDITOR:** Tegan Yoo

- **BUSINESS REPORT:** Breanna Pineda
- **COUNCIL REPORT:** NEEDED
- **EDUCATION:** Vivien Moreno
- **MENTAL HEALTH:** Jo Ann Brannock and Michelle Gottlieb
- **OUR TOWN CROSSWORD:** Valerie Brickey
- **THEATRE REVIEW:** Angela Hatcher

COLUMNISTS

- **AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS:** Andrew Williams
- **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

HOW TO ADVERTISE

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

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

THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON OCTOBER 19. NEXT DEADLINE FOR WRITERS & ADVERTISERS IS OCTOBER 12.



When Advocacy Works: Jensen Hallstrom and the Hillcrest Park WWII Memorial

by Saskia Kennedy

The City of Fullerton staff and ten community members gathered at Hillcrest Park on Tuesday, September 29, to rededicate a World War II memorial that was quietly falling apart not long ago. It's a reminder that advocacy often means one person showing up, again and again, to say something is worth saving.

Erected in 1946, the memorial is a sequoia cross section bearing the names of 55 Fullertonians who died in the war. Over the decades, it had weathered badly.

Jensen Hallstrom, a former Parks and Recreation commissioner known for championing Fullerton's heritage trees, raised the memorial's deterioration at an April commission meeting. Public Works then met to assess it.

By July, Hallstrom told the City Council that the restoration was nearly complete,

with decayed wood filled with resin and the structure more sound. He then pressed further: 55 memorial redwoods, one for each fallen resident, are gone from the park, the last dying in 2015. He asked for a public community meeting before any replanting.

His approach worked because it combined expertise, citing a 1996 report on the grove's mismanagement, with a practical model like OC Parks' popular 241-tree redwood grove at Carbon Canyon. Most of all, he kept coming back.

Hallstrom was one voice among many who care about Hillcrest Park. But his persistence shows how a resident can move a city from neglect to action. The restored memorial now stands; the grove is next.

See page 8 for more on the WWII memorial.



NOCCCD Women in Power Spaces Honors Four Women with Inaugural Resilience Awards

by Thea Pueschel

The inaugural “Resilience Awards” were launched by the NOCCCD Women in Power Spaces (WiPS) Initiative in partnership with SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union in 2026 to recognize NOCCCD employees who have shown leadership and ongoing commitment to addressing gender equity disparities, mentoring women leaders, and rejecting patriarchal discrimination. The four recipients were nominated by their peers through an open process and selected by a WiPS subcommittee.

Award winners were announced at the NOCCCD WiPS conference on September 17. They received a \$250 check from SchoolsFirst and a bottle of Good Money Brands champagne.

“Medusa has become a rallying figure, representing the collective anger and resilience of women who refuse to be marginalized and respond with defiant resilience towards their oppressors. That's why we've chosen to put her symbol on the medal,” said Kai Stearns Davis, explaining the design.

The first recipient, Dr. Rosie Kar, is an assistant professor in the Ethnic Studies Department and project director of the APIDA Amplified Team at Fullerton College. Her nominator

wrote, “Students walk out of her classroom with a newfound voice and envision themselves as future leaders.” Kar shared her grandmother’s advice: “Do no harm and take no s--t from anyone.”

Kelly Roberston, professor and faculty coordinator for the Administration of Justice program at Fullerton College, came up through the LAPD when only 7% of officers were women. Her nominator wrote: “Many victims of crime are women who may feel more comfortable speaking and receiving support from female professionals.” Robertson donated her prize money to the Fullerton College AJ internship program.

Cypress College Financial Aid Director, Gabriela De La Cruz, received multiple nominations from colleagues and students. One nominator wrote, “Because of her leadership and example, I made the decision to re-enroll in school to complete my bachelor’s degree.” De La Cruz noted that financial aid is a white, male-dominated space and sees her role as a woman of color as “a very powerful role of change.”

Bridget Kominek is a Fullerton College Professor of English and Faculty Senate President. Her nomina-

tor wrote: “She is unapologetically a mother and embraces that identity while serving as an effective and respected leader. She sets an example that we do not have to sacrifice a part of who we are to achieve our goals.” Kominek shared a moment from earlier in the day when her mother said to her, “When I was working at Vons, I had to pump in the bathroom for you.”

The four women embody the WiPS initiative of lifting other women, leading authentically, and pushing institutions toward equity and inclusion. Kim Nicolas of SchoolsFirst told awardees, “It means a lot to be nominated by colleagues and students. It shows the confidence you’ve built in others around you.”

Learn about our activities in the community and how you can help!

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 14

1:00 PM -

3:00 PM

AL

assistance league

Fullerton

Membership Event

SNACK, SHOP, & JOIN!

AT THE THRIFT SHOP

233 W. AMERIGE AVE., FULLERTON, CA

For more information call or text Sharon Clizbe at 714 801-2567 or email shclizbe@gmail.com

FSD Board Meeting September 15: Unaudited Actuals Report

by Vivien Moreno

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Dr. Rob Coghlan, delivered the 2025/26 school year’s unaudited actual report. This state-mandated report compares the June 2026 projected year-end budget numbers with the actual district income and expenses that an outside auditor reviews next month.

Last June, the district predicted an income and expenditure difference of \$1.03 million, but after closing the books, there was only a \$279,224 deficit. Deficit spending was expected this year due to early retirement offers. The district saved money from shifting special education funds, getting a better benefits deal, and normal year-over-year savings, leaving the district with an unrestricted balance of \$149.29 million. Coghlan also assured the trustees that any special education spending reallocation did not cut any student services, only reassigned funding to restricted use funds.

Dr. Coghlan pointed out that there were no surpris-

es in the budget this year; changes in income and expenditures had been foreseen and planned for.

Trustee Ruthi Hanchett questioned the \$1.3 million projected deficit spending. In reply, Coghlan pointed out that, besides a planned contractual 2% staff raise, the district monitored, but could not pinpoint how much inflation would affect utilities, services, and substitute teacher costs, or exactly how much the early retirement buyout contracts would add to expenditures before knowing exact participation numbers.

Coghlan also mentioned that they accounted for changes and therefore had no surprises at the end of the year with either large debts or surpluses. FSD’s current fiscal policy responsibly spends a majority of their funds to create sustainable programs, compensate staff responsibly, and provide for emergency and restricted funding.

FSD is experiencing straight-line declining enroll-

ment, which means that more 8th graders leave each year than new TK and Kindergarten students enroll. This is happening statewide; however, FSD’s new TK and Kindergarten class this year is larger than initially projected.

Coghlan emphasized that FSD needs to scrutinize all new program spending, new staff hiring, and monitor attendance rates. The business services department is watching world events, inflation, the state economy, declining enrollment, and health care increases, just like the high school district.

Coghlan reassured the trustees that the district had the reserves to weather financial storms, and they are not currently overextended. Trustees approved the unaudited actuals 5-0.

The next FSD board meeting is October 13, starting at 4:45 pm with a PBIS ceremony in the district offices courtyard area, with the regular meeting at 6pm.



FSD Leader Honored with County Award for Elevating Multilingual Voices

Fullerton School District Chief Academic Officer Erlinda Soltero-Ruiz, Ed.D., has received the Orange County Department of Education’s 2026 Language Access Administrator Award of Distinction for her work strengthening opportunities for multilingual students, families and staff.

Soltero-Ruiz was recognized during OCDE’s 10th Annual Interpreters and Translators Conference on September 25. Her approach to language access helps families ask questions, understand school programs and take part in decisions impacting their children.

“I’m truly honored to receive this award, and I share it with the bilingual educators, interpreters, translators, and staff who work every day to make sure our families feel heard, welcomed, and connected,” Soltero-Ruiz said.

“The relationships they build with our families strengthen our school communities and help us better support every student.”

In Fullerton School District, she supports the Spanish and Korean Dual Language Academies, English Language Development and the District English Learner Advisory Committee. In collaboration with Community Schools, she has helped multilingual families connect with staff, access resources and build relationships with their schools. Soltero-Ruiz also advocates for the bilingual staff who connect families with their schools, ensuring their experiences and expertise help inform District decisions.

Her recognition reflects Fullerton School District’s commitment to valuing students’ home languages and cultures and ensuring every family has a voice in their child’s education.

LEGAL INSIGHTS by Kathryn, 10th grade

The Cornell Seven and New York’s Consent Laws



If someone is extremely intoxicated, are they automatically legally incapable of consenting to sex? In New York, the answer is more complicated than many people would expect.

That question is central to the controversy surrounding the “Cornell Seven,” seven current or former Cornell University students accused in a civil lawsuit of sexually assaulting a fellow student at the Chi Phi fraternity house in October 2024. The woman alleges that she became severely intoxicated after consuming alcohol and other substances and was assaulted by multiple fraternity members. The lawsuit remains allegations, not convictions.

The case drew attention because Cornell’s disciplinary process and the criminal justice system reached different stages. Cornell says its investigation resulted in sanctions including suspensions and expulsions, while the Chi Phi chapter was removed from campus. In September 2026, Tompkins County District Attorney Matthew Van Houten reopened the investigation and said prosecutors would prepare the case for a grand jury.

New York law does not simply say that a person who is highly intoxicated cannot consent. Instead, it separates incapacity into legal categories, including “mentally incapacitated” and “physically helpless.”

Under Penal Law §130.00, a person may be considered mentally incapacitated when alcohol or drugs temporarily leave them unable to understand or control their conduct, but the statute generally requires that the substance have been administered without that person’s consent. Someone who voluntarily consumes alcohol or another substance therefore does not automatically meet that definition, even if they later become severely impaired.

Voluntary intoxication can still eliminate legal capacity to consent when a person becomes “physically helpless.” New York defines that as being unconscious or otherwise physically unable to communicate unwillingness.

The question is not only how intoxicated someone was, but whether their condition made them unable to communicate a lack of consent. A person could be heavily intoxicated and unable to make a meaningful decision while still capable of speaking or moving. Critics and some lawmakers have described this distinction as New York’s “voluntary intoxication loophole,” arguing that the statute may offer greater protection to someone who was secretly drugged than to someone who voluntarily drank before becoming similarly impaired.

In *People v. Bjork*, a New York appellate court reviewed a case involving a woman who had voluntarily consumed a large amount of alcohol and had little memory of portions of the night. Witnesses described her as extremely intoxicated and barely conscious. The court upheld the conclusion that she was physically helpless, showing that voluntary intoxication can still satisfy the statute when it leaves someone unable to communicate unwillingness.

A similar issue appeared in *People v. Shevchenko* in 2019. The court found that a jury could conclude that the complainant had been physically helpless even though she later regained awareness and resisted. The decision emphasized that courts look at a person’s ability to communicate at the time of the specific conduct being prosecuted, not simply whether that person was conscious at some point during the encounter.

New York Education Law §6441 requires colleges to use an affirmative-consent policy defining consent as a “knowing, voluntary and mutual decision.”

That means Cornell could determine that its misconduct policy was violated even if prosecutors believed they could not prove a criminal offense. A civil lawsuit uses another standard again. Criminal prosecutors must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, while civil cases generally use the lower “preponderance of the evidence” standard. The same incident can therefore produce different legal and disciplinary outcomes without those results necessarily being inconsistent.

The case highlights a gap between common understandings of consent and the narrower categories in New York’s criminal code. Someone may be considered too intoxicated to consent under a university policy without necessarily meeting the criminal-law definition of incapacity.



REGISTER YOUR PRESCHOOLER TODAY

for the 2026 - 2027 school year

PROGRAM MODEL

- ✓ State Preschool programs free to eligible families
- ✓ Tuition Based programs
- ✓ Full-day & part-day options
- ✓ Low teacher-to-child ratios
- ✓ Play & project based learning
- ✓ Diapering & toilet learning help

Scan for more information & to register



Questions?

Call our office at (714) 447-7499





A Month for Mental Health Awareness by Olive, 11th Grade

October is recognized as National Depression and Mental Health Screening Month. It focuses on early detection and reducing the stigma around mental health conditions. October 10 is World Mental Health Day, which encourages conversations and efforts to improve mental health care worldwide. The first full week of October is Mental Illness Awareness Week, established to raise public awareness about mental illnesses and fight stigma through community action. ADHD awareness runs throughout October to increase understanding of the disorder, while the second week highlights OCD awareness.

Mental health awareness is not only about recognizing these conditions but also understanding how they can affect people’s everyday lives. Learning about mental health can help reduce stigma and make it easier for people to seek support when they need it.

To participate, take advantage of free, confidential mental health screening tools for depression and anxiety. Educating yourself and others is another way to raise awareness. Simply checking in on loved ones and having open conversations about mental health with friends and family can also make a difference.



Student By Day, Rockstar By Night by Erin, 12th Grade



Photo of Amp.mp3 performing for his TikTok fans.

You’d never guess the Troy tech sophomore sitting next to you in class has millions of views and 80,000 followers on TikTok.

Amp.mp3 picked up the guitar at age eight but only started posting faceless guitar cover videos about a year and a half ago, inspired by his cousin who was already gaining traction online with a different kind of content.

As a left-handed guitarist, he’s had to work harder than most to find guitars that fit him since only a small fraction of guitars on the market are made for lefties. Despite that, he’s built a collection of eight guitars, some gifted by small companies and family, and turned his hobby into something much bigger than he expected.

His big breakthrough came when a guitar cover of an Ariana Grande song blew up overnight, racking up two million views and kickstarting his growth on both TikTok and Instagram. Since then, he’s reached 80,000 followers, partnered with guitar plugin company Aurora DSP and even seen fans create tabs based on his arrangements. He balances all of this with a packed schedule of school, baseball and homework, often creating content late into the night.

Looking ahead, he hopes to become an aerospace engineer, treating music as a lifelong passion rather than a career.

To young musicians who want to put their music out there, Amp.mp3 said, “There’s this one quote that I know really well. It’s like ‘day one or one day’... You should start now instead of waiting for that one day.”



West Nile Virus Season by Declan, 11th Grade



If you’ve been participating in outdoor activities during the evening recently, you’ve likely experienced one of the most irritating sensations known to humans: mosquito bites. Within the past two months in Fullerton, many cautionary signs have been placed to warn of the spread of West Nile Virus (WNV). According to the OC Mosquito and Vector Control District, this year’s mosquito season is alarming due to the increase in both the mosquito population and WNV. Around 718 mosquito samples were tested for the virus this year compared to 70 last year, showing a rapid increase in WNV activity and recorded deaths from the virus this season.

West Nile Virus is an illness spread by infected mosquitoes that have most likely fed on infected birds. As a single-stranded RNA virus, it fortunately cannot be spread back to mosquitoes by large mammals like humans because of the virus’s low concentration in our blood. WNV is harmless to most people who are infected, as they do not show symptoms. However, two to six days after exposure, a small percentage of people may develop mild symptoms including a rash, body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea, fever or headache. People are most concerned about neuroinvasive diseases caused by WNV, which can result in aseptic meningitis, encephalitis (inflammation of brain tissue) and acute flaccid paralysis. Although extremely dangerous, these severe symptoms occur in only around 1 in 150 infected people. The risk of developing mild or severe symptoms increases with age, chronic medical conditions and weakened immune systems.

There is no vaccine to prevent WNV. The best way to defend against the virus is to prevent mosquito bites. Mild symptoms can be treated with over-the-counter medications and rest while severe symptoms require hospitalization. Using insect repellent, wearing long clothing and eliminating standing water around residences are effective ways to reduce mosquito exposure and stay healthy during mosquito season.



Chills, Thrills, and Girls by Dahlia, 8th Grade

In the '90s, thrillers such as *Scream* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer* were very popular, but they often featured weak female characters. Damsels in distress were portrayed through characters like Sarah Michelle Gellar’s beauty queen in *I Know What You Did Last Summer* and Drew Barrymore’s helpless victim in *Scream*. These women were often beautiful side characters destined to die.

On the other hand, a “final girl” is a protagonist who survives after everyone else has been killed by the villain. However, even final girls like Jennifer Love Hewitt’s character in *I Know What You Did Last Summer* often spent most of the movie screaming and running, surviving only because the male protagonist, Freddie Prinze Jr., arrives just in time to fight the killer. Rare exceptions included Neve Campbell’s and Courtney Cox’s characters in *Scream*. Today, however, thrillers offer a different portrayal of women.

In modern series such as *Stranger Things* and *Squid Game*, female characters are shown as strong, capable and independent. Eleven from *Stranger Things* is brave and powerful. In a role reversal, she protects her male friends and becomes the savior of the series.

In *Squid Game*, characters like Sae-Byeok, a risk-taker who protects her little brother, Hyun-Ju, a transgender woman willing to sacrifice herself for her friends and care for an elderly woman, and Geum-Ja, an older woman who risks her life for her son, may have died but remained strong-minded and true to their values despite the deadly competition.

In the past, young girls mainly saw voiceless female characters who needed to be rescued. Now, the script has flipped. Girls have strong role models to look up to on the screen. Even when she is screaming and being chased by a huge monster, we know she is capable of saving herself.

And she will.

FRIENDS OF THE FULLERTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

2-DAY BOOK SALE

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

OCTOBER 9 & 10

MAIN LIBRARY - CONFERENCE CENTER 353 W. COMMONWEALTH

FRIENDS MEMBERS ONLY*	OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	\$3/BAG OR \$5/2 BAGS
Friday 10am -11am	Friday 11am-4pm	Saturday 2-4pm
	Saturday 10am-1:45pm	

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

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 or follow us on Instagram @fullertonswimshere

Sign up here!

FEATURING: WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES IN FULLERTON

Brownstone Cafe: restaurant and catering business in the heart of Villa Del Sol

by Breanna Pineda

Villa Del Sol has long remained a landmark in Fullerton history. However, hidden within the courtyard of this historic site sits a café that helped spark the reemergence of the area and remains a staple of local cuisine.

29 years ago, Kimberly Rhynes opened Brownstone Café, a restaurant and catering business. Yet she could not have anticipated the impact her dream business would have on the community.

Prior to arriving in California, Kimberly ran a coffee shop in Northern Michigan, the area where she grew up. After getting a job offer on the West Coast, she decided to trade the harsh Midwestern winters for some sunshine.

With her entrepreneurial spirit, Kimberly said she set her sights on owning her own business in Fullerton. During this time, Villa Del Sol was being refurbished in an effort to make downtown a lively destination.

“This was about 30 years ago and [the city] really wanted to renovate downtown; the area did not have a lot,” Rhynes said. “There were only maybe eight restaurants, so it was very small.”

While this effort to revamp the area made it easier for Kimberly to get a loan for her restaurant, she said that the building needed many renovations to go from dirt floors to her dream business.

“I was part of the construction!” she laughed when she shared her experience putting tiles in the café. “I learned all the construction aspects: electrical, plumbing, architectural plans. That part was a big change for me.”

Aside from learning the ropes on handling a new business, the early months of the restaurant also hold fond memories for Kimberly and her hus-

band, Glen Rhynes.

She shared that towards the end of tiling the building, a man walked in with his resume, hoping to be a chef. Once the café opened, the two worked closely together and got to know one another.

“He was a really good friend; we would complete sentences,” she recalled.

Soon the two fell in love, and four months later they exchanged vows in the courtyard.

Kimberly said that soon after, more weddings and private events occurred in the historic Villa Del Sol area.

Eventually, one of the weddings the Brownstone Café catered got into a bridal magazine, and from there the Fullerton venue soared in popularity.

Since then, catering has also become a major aspect of the café and Kimberly’s life.

“You see celebrations where you have [catered] someone’s wedding, and then you did their bridal shower, and then you are doing their family's celebration of life,” she said. “It just makes me happy when you are celebrating someone’s life and bring together a family [that] can have delicious food.”

All of these experiences occurring at the Brownstone Café have made Kimberly feel a connection to the building.

“Having [the café] in such a nice and beautiful location, it just feels like my second home and my customers feel like family,” she said.

Although the Brownstone café holds a special place in her heart, Kimberly notes that the café has seen hard times, especially with COVID-19.

“We are still struggling after COVID. The people who used to work downtown are now working from home



Kimberly Rhynes with her husband Glen Rhynes.
The cafe is located on 305 N Harbor Blvd #117, Fullerton.
Open Tuesday-Sunday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Call Brownstone Cafe at (714) 526-9123 or (714) 454-3356 for catering.

because everyone has remote jobs; they are watching their bottom lines and not taking out clients for lunch,” she said. “I do not believe it is just our business. A lot of the people in downtown Fullerton are feeling the same way.”

She also said there can be struggles as a direct-operated business and as a business owner having to make difficult decisions.

“We have had to cut our labor and really watch our food costs because [prices] keep going up,” she said.

Despite the hurdles along the way, Brownstone Café proves to be a restaurant that adapts to new changes.

For instance, Kimberly said that she and Glen have had to learn how to navigate the social media landscape as marketing has shifted away from print.

She shared a story where she and her husband finally decided to film a TikTok, a video of Glen showing people how to find Brownstone Café and sharing the restaurant's story. Soon enough, the video went viral on social media.

“I think his sincerity [spoke to people],” she said. “He just spoke from his heart.”

Kimberly said the video continues to introduce people to the café and serves as a guide for customers on how to find the location.

“The funny thing is that people are still finding us, [people who] have lived in Fullerton for years and they do

not know this courtyard exists,” she said. “Because you cannot see our location when driving on Harbor.”

As for the restaurant itself, Kimberly said that every meal is made fresh to order with the highest quality ingredients. All of these recipes are developed by her and her husband through trial and error to perfect the food’s taste. A majority of the café’s food consists of California cuisine with fused flavors.

The café is also known for its tomato bisque soup, a recipe that her husband thought of in his dream.

“Everyone after that started doing tomato bisque all around town, but ours is the original one back before [the soup] was popular,” she joked. “It really put us on the map.”

Aside from the famous tomato bisque, the café also offers a monthly soup club where her husband cooks a mystery soup once a month to serve to guests.

After all these years of operation, Brownstone Café continues to dedicate itself to not only quality food, but also a valuable gathering place for the people of Fullerton, whether it's catering for a celebration or having a sit-down dinner with friends.

“I love that this is a community where people are supportive, and they come together,” she said. “It is a big community, but it feels small because everyone is so intertwined together and helps each other. I feel like I have never lived anywhere else.”

NOVEMBER 3, 2026
ELECTION EVENTS

Your vote matters.
Get informed.
Return your ballot
VOTE

EVENT SCHEDULE	
MONDAY OCT 12 5:30–7:30 PM ROOM 224	MEET THE CANDIDATES Meet the candidates running for Congress, CA Legislature, Fullerton School District, Fullerton Joint Union High School District, Fullerton City Council, OC Board of Supervisors: District 4, and North Orange County Community College District (Areas 1, 3, 6)
MONDAY OCT 19 6:00–7:30 PM ROOM 224	NOCCCD CANDIDATE FORUM The League of Women Voters of North Orange County will host a Candidate Forum for the North Orange County Community College District (Areas 1, 3, 6). Come and ask the candidates questions and hear what they want to do for our college district.
MONDAY OCT 26 4:00–5:30 PM ROOM 224	PROPOSITIONS 101: BALLOT MEASURES There are 14 statewide ballot measures. Come learn about each one including which groups are supporting or opposing the propositions and how much money is being spent on the campaigns. Bring your ballot with you.
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3	LAST DAY TO RETURN YOUR BALLOT Find a Vote Center to vote in person – same day registration. Orange County voters can return ballots at the campus Dropbox. If you live outside of OC, find a dropbox in your county.

**FULLERTON COLLEGE
POLITICAL SCIENCE
2026 ELECTION EVENTS**

MAKE YOUR
VOTING PLAN
CA SECRETARY
OF STATE

Fullerton Observer

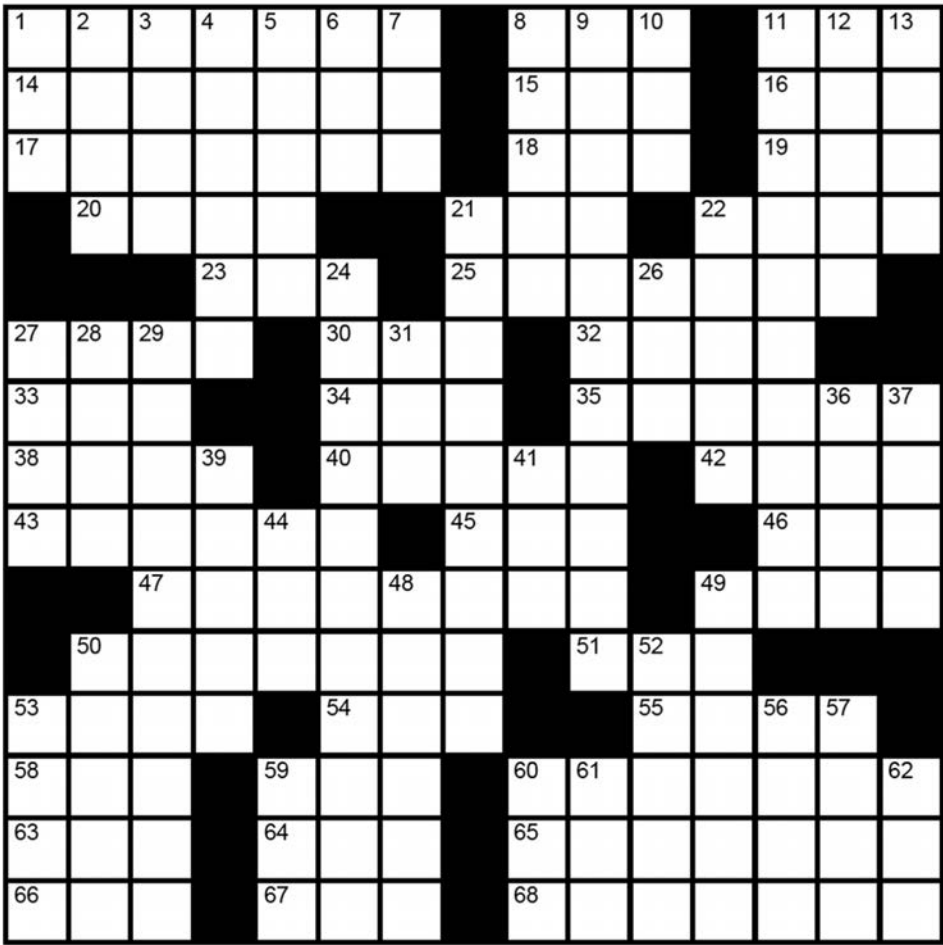
You keep us printing
by Subscribing & Advertising

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

Autopay online at www.fullertonobserver.com
or mail check with your name, phone number, & address to:
Fullerton Observer PO Box 7051, Fullerton, CA 92834

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2026

"GOLDEN STATE RIVALS" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 19)



ACROSS

1. Half of an MLB rivalry
8. Poli ____
11. Early Beatle Sutcliffe
14. Victoria's Secret model Lima
15. "Raiders of the Lost ____"
16. Half of an NCAA rivalry
17. Some Hyundais
18. Tell it like it isn't
19. Mate
20. Rice-A-____ ("The San Francisco Treat")
21. End of tour?
22. Aloe ____
23. Explosive initials
25. Gets down cold
27. "Broadcast ____" (1987 film)
30. ____ polloi
32. Rowboat pair
33. "That's the spot!"
34. Stomach muscles, briefly
35. Half of an NFL rivalry
38. Sketch
40. Quaint denial
42. Wax-coated cheese
43. Funny business
45. Hawaiian dish
46. Cassowary cousin
47. Half of an NCAA rivalry
49. Aide: Abbr.
50. Frame of mind
51. "A Nightmare on ____ Street" (1984 slasher film)
53. Best Play or Best Coach, e.g.
54. "Norma ____" (1979 Sally Field film)
55. Polly, to Tom Sawyer
58. "Frozen" actor Josh
59. "I'm thinking"
60. Make known
63. Give it ____
64. Modern steady
65. "Aha!"
66. Solstice mo.
67. Vintage
68. Trick that's "pulled"

DOWN

1. Prosecutors, for short
2. Stench
3. First James Bond film
4. See 1-Across
5. Have dinner at home
6. Single-stranded genetic material
7. Airline to Stockholm
8. Tortilla chip dip
9. "They call Alabama the ____..." ("Deacon Blues" lyric)
10. Mike and ____: fruit-flavored candy
11. Supplants
12. Peter and Paul, but not Mary
13. See 16-Across
21. "Let me rephrase"
22. Captain Nemo's creator
24. "Nothing to see here"
26. Skater Babilonia
27. Zilch
28. Deserve
29. Bugs Bunny's catchphrase
31. ____-Wan Kenobi
36. See 35-Across
37. Blue material
39. Clever
41. Easter lead-in
44. See 47-Across
48. Bubbled up
49. Charm
50. Let's play "August: ____ County"
52. What Crocs don't have
53. "My word!"
56. Prefix with second
57. Disney film featuring light cycles
59. "The Pitt" network
60. "What's the ____?"
61. That, in Tijuana
62. Palindromic farm animal

HITS & MISSES

by Pamela Mason Wagner © 2026
Answers on page 19



PRIMETIME: A HIT AND A MISS

An unsettling film about a disturbing topic—child predators—benefits from strong performances and a distinctive cinematic approach. Prepare to squirm. Robert Pattinson (“Odyssey” villain and Twilight dreamboat) stars in director Lance Oppenheim’s drama about the real-life Chris Hansen, the NBC Dateline star whose “To Catch a Predator” took America’s airwaves by storm.”

Like Network” (1976) and “Broadcast News” (1987), “Primetype” does a good job depicting the cutthroat world of network television. Producer Andie Bender (Merritt Wever) treads a fine line between exploiting her crew to get the story she wants and taking care of her team, dispensing medication after a stressful day. When another show tries to poach her, we see the lengths to which a has-been female executive, Patty Patterson (Jessica Hecht), will go. “I dominated a lot of space at this network, and I understand what you are worth,” she tells Bender. When Bender turns her down, Patterson responds, “Okay, but let me know when you get tired of the gutter.”

Network brass know the series is morally reprehensible: The showrunners lure potential predators to a suburban house through internet chat sessions, posing as vulnerable teens. When the man arrives, the “decoy” gets him to reveal his intentions before quickly exiting—just in time for Hansen’s grand entrance. He proceeds to humiliate the man before sending him outside to be arrested on camera. The cooperating police forces waiting nearby suggest the increasing militarization of policing in America.

Despite the disdain he receives from other NBC anchors, Hansen can’t help himself when the network president, played by real-life Jeff Zucker, offers him a primetime slot opposite the No. 1 show in 2006, “Lost.” The offer comes with strings attached: Hansen needs to find a “white whale” in the form of a highly respected public official lurking in the dark corners of the web. The usual perverts won’t cut it in the new timeslot.

Oppenheim spoke to NPR about “performative punishment”—like public floggings and the stocks in Puritan New England—as a precursor to Hansen’s televised humiliation. But when one storyline ends in tragedy, we’re left questioning whether another intervention might have been more appropriate. The topic of child predation is certainly more complex than this film allows. Like “To Catch a Predator,” “Primetype” leans on sensationalism as it panders to its audience.

Oppenheim shows promise as a director, handling a complicated story with visual panache. He also draws excellent performances from his cast, including Skyler Gisondo as “Decoy Dan.” Dan’s story illustrates the lengths a would-be actor will go to obtain a Screen Actors Guild card. Based on Luke Dittrich’s 2007 Esquire article, “Tonight on Dateline This Man Will Die,” the film remains silent on the impact this “role” might have on Dan’s future well-being.

According to Oppenheim, the film was not easy to get made. Credit goes to Pattinson, who also served as executive producer, and to A24, known for taking on edgy, unusual projects. The film’s \$19 million opening weekend has already recouped its \$15 million production cost—a promising sign for

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

Get Top Dollar with My Home Prep

jacki O

the first lady of real estate

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

tng real estate

Orzechowski DRE Lic. #0115908

“Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.” – Thomas Jefferson



Hillcrest Park's WWII Memorial Rededicated After Restoration

A small crowd gathered beneath the sweltering sun at Hillcrest Park on Tuesday, September 29 to rededicate Fullerton's World War II Memorial, a 2,000-year-old redwood crosscut that has honored local military servicemen for 80 years.

Ten community members joined Fullerton city staff for the ceremony, including Mayor Fred Jung and Councilmember Dr. Shana Charles. During the event, Mayor Jung presented an award to Jensen Hallstrom for advocating the memorial's preservation and refurbishment.

Fullerton Public Works Director Stephen Bise welcomed attendees and described the memorial as "a place that is not only beloved locally but also recognized nationally." He noted that the crosscut was installed by the Izaak Walton League to remember Fullerton-area residents who served and sacrificed during the war.

Bise shared a detail that makes the memorial unusually personal. To avoid any appearance of favoritism, or any suggestion that the monument was a commercial commission, the names were not engraved alphabetically. Instead, they were drawn from a hat.

"It's a simple but meaningful ges-

ture," Bise said, "one that reflects the belief that each of these men served equally, sacrificed equally, and deserved equal recognition."

Over the decades, the inscriptions faded and the monument suffered from deferred maintenance. "But what didn't fade was the commitment of this community," Bise said. "Advocates pushed for action, and the city ensured that every step of the restoration met the historic preservation standards required of this nationally recognized site."

That advocacy was visible at City Hall this year. Hallstrom raised the memorial's deteriorating condition at an April Parks and Recreation meeting, after which Public Works met with the Hillcrest Park Ad Hoc Committee to assess it. In July, Hallstrom updated the City Council on the restoration's progress, noting that decayed portions of the wood had been filled with resin. He also urged a transparent public process for replanting the memorial's grove of 55 redwoods, one planted for each Fullerton resident who died in the war.

Bise closed with a message to the servicemen's families. "Your loved ones continue to stand tall in the story

of our city," he said. "And to all gathered today, may this memorial remind us of gratitude, of unity, and of the enduring courage that shaped the generation we honor here." He also thanked West Coast Arborists and Street Tree Revival for their work restoring the historic monument.

Councilmember Dr. Shana Charles then introduced Mike Sorrells, a living relative of one of the men named on the memorial. Sorrells, joined by his brother, Kevin Sorrells, and cousin, David Ramos, spoke about his uncle, PFC William D. Sorrells Jr., whose name appears fourth from the bottom of the crosscut.

Born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1925, Bill Sorrells moved to Fullerton with his parents in 1930. He attended local schools, played saxophone in the school band, and was active in Boy Scout Troop 93. He enlisted in the

Marine Corps in April 1943, likely still just 17, and shipped out with the 5th Marine Division.

Reading from newspaper accounts and a letter sent to the family after the war, Sorrells described how his uncle landed on Iwo Jima with the first wave of American forces. Serving as a machine gunner, Bill was wounded on March 2, 1945, while his company was pinned down between the island's airfields. He died the next morning at age 19. He was his parents' only son and brother to five sisters, one of whom was Mike's mother. Mike's father also fought on Iwo Jima and survived.

"These men gave up their lives," Sorrells said, "the life that they were living and the life that they never got to live." He thanked the city for honoring the men on the memorial. "May he forever be remembered in our hearts," he said.

Sharon Kennedy

ART STUDIO

Originals & prints

sharonkennedyartstudio.com

THE PARENTS' VOICE USA PRESENTS

Raising Financially Successful Kids

A Free Community Education Event

FREE ADMISSION TO EVENT

Scan to Register

Thursday, October 15 from 6 to 8:30 pm

Fullerton Public Library conference center

353 W Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton

George Noor

Entrepreneur, Investor, Private Lender & Specialist in Creative Real Estate Transactions

President, National Council of Exchangers & Norkat Financial Inc.

★ This is strictly an educational event. No sales. Nothing will be sold.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE EVENT

www.TheParentsVoiceUSA.com

Email: TheParentsVoiceUSA@gmail.com

OPTIONAL Meet the speaker at the VIP dinner, 5:00 - 6:00 PM

\$35 donation for VIP dinner • Seating is limited (Event admission remains free)

Hosted by The Parents' Voice USA

In Partnership With

Invest early. Grow steadily. Give them a head start.



Fullerton Union High School's Wall of Fame *continued from the front page*

Trust Consultants

Serving Fullerton for over 30 years

Franco Balistrieri:
Enrolled Agent, Expert Trust Tax Planner

- ✓ **Trust Tax Preparation**
Complex Trusts, Simple Trusts, Special Needs Trusts, Charitable Trusts, Dynasty Trusts, Legacy Trusts, Living Trusts
- ✓ **Trust Advisory Services**
- ✓ **Trust Accounting & Admin Services**







Phone Number:
+714-526-1676

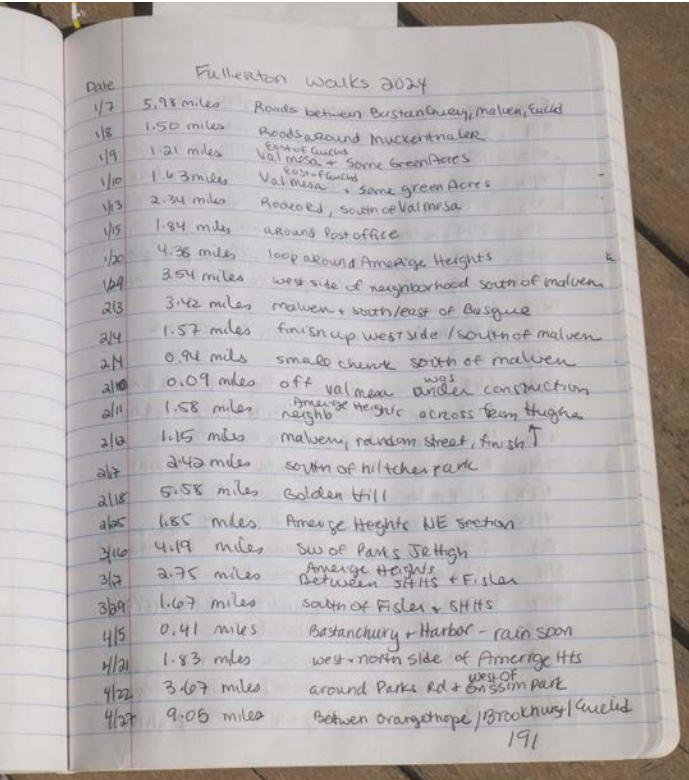


Website:
www.LedgerTech.co



410 W. Amerige Avenue Fullerton, CA 92832





VIDEO *OBSERVER*
by Emerson Little © 2026
See videos on YouTube @emersonlittle1901

New Year, New Resolution:
Walking All the Streets of Fullerton

Robin Fichtelberg has lived in Fullerton for the past twenty-five years, and back in January 2024, she set a new goal for herself: to walk all the streets of Fullerton in one year. From January 7, 2024, to January 6, 2025, she walked 374.77 miles. Following mostly maintained roads in the city, Fichtelberg used her *MapMyRun app* to track her progress. Approaching the end of summer this year, I had a chance to interview Fichtelberg, meeting her at Bastanchury Park to discuss what she observed while walking the streets of Fullerton.

Fichtelberg greeted me at a park bench in the shade with an older AAA map of Fullerton spread out on a picnic table in front of her. She had used a blue highlighter to mark where she walked within the city, a pink highlighter to denote gated communities, and a yellow highlighter to mark a few areas with no sidewalks that she considered unsafe.

"I run a lot so I really love the trails; that's what attracted me to Fullerton," explained Fichtelberg. "But my husband grew up here, so he knew the area because he was a pizza delivery guy in college."

When I asked why she decided to challenge herself and walk the streets of Fullerton, she said, "I have three kids, and they were all involved with soccer, so I was always very busy. But by the time I decided to do this, my two boys were in college, so I had a lot of free time. My daughter played soccer, but she was injured, so she couldn't play. So I had free time because, usually, you're devoted to

going to practice and games and all this. I love running, but I was injured myself, so I couldn't run, but I could walk. So, for whatever reason, I decided to walk the streets of Fullerton, especially since you hear a lot about how terrible the roads are here. I thought, 'Let me just see how bad they are.' I also lived here for twenty-five years, and it was amazing how few neighborhoods I'd actually been to."

Looking online, she discovered through the California Department of Transportation's website and the City of Fullerton's website how many miles of public roadways are in the city: roughly 300.59 miles of road. She wasn't one hundred percent certain as to what that covered, but when she walked the streets herself, she excluded alleys, gated communities, trailer parks, school campuses, industrial parks and apartments without their own separate road names, and any busy streets with no sidewalks or industrial areas where she didn't feel safe. She did take her family's dog with her on a few walks.

Fichtelberg said, "My goal was to finish walking [the city] in a calendar year because I work I did it within 365 days 'cause it took me a while to wrap my mind around where to start. So I started in one January and finished in the next January. I used MapMyRun, and then I also looked on Google Maps when I was home to get an idea of where I wanted to go."

Interestingly, she also kept a journal where she wrote daily notes of how many miles she covered and where she walked over the course of the year.

Flipping through the pages of the journal, I found that Fichtelberg started on the roads between Bastanchury, Malvern, Euclid, Malvern and Euclid. By the following January, she took her last walk on a small street tucked between the 5 Freeway and 91 Freeway.

When I asked her what were some of the most interesting things she observed while walking through Fullerton, Fichtelberg explained that in a neighborhood up Euclid, heading toward La Habra, there's a giant water container, which she had no idea was there before her walk. She also pointed to another neighborhood off Brea Boulevard, on the west side, which backs up to Brea Dam Park, where she discovered a horse-training facility for people with sensory issues.

"Up by Laguna Lake, the houses are amazing, and there was this massive, massive tree, one of the biggest trees I've seen, not tall, but just the root system was impressive. I don't even know if I could find it again," said Fichtelberg.

"Over by Orangethorpe, there was a big deal about them tearing down the orange groves for Kimberly Clark. Well, I walked over there, and the new facilities have a plaque or two about Kimberly Clark showing the factory and the ribbon cutting that happened like forever ago."

She continued, "There were these hidden neighborhoods that I didn't know existed. South of the train station, there were a lot of really old, cute houses. Also tucked away back there is a trailer park, and that's the one that has been in the news lately; it's like half in Fullerton and half in

Anaheim. It's gated, so I couldn't go in there. There's also a neighborhood just north of Buena Park High School, and it goes over a barranca. They have some bridges connecting over; there were about two or three bridges where you could go across. There were all these really interesting neighborhoods."

While she thought Skyline Drive was really beautiful with old and new homes, she didn't realize that she would find a hidden canyon in the back of the neighborhoods, which got her thinking that there are a few of these hidden canyons in town. She thought about the canyon in back of the sports park near Brea Dam and the dry hills in the neighborhoods bordering West Coyote Hills Tree Park.

"The other thing that was interesting was that in a couple of places, like the neighborhood behind Costco, you look up and there's Costco, or there's a neighborhood close to the 57 with really cute houses, and East Fullerton Little League plays in that area, then all of a sudden you look up, and there's a massive hotel. Those kinds of things really surprised me."

Fichtelberg said she was also surprised by how many cul-de-sacs there are around Fullerton, and how terrible the roads are when entering and exiting the city. She also discovered some city parks that she never knew existed and saw some areas of Fullerton that she has no intention of ever returning to.

She said, "I don't think I would do this again, but I'd like to encourage other people to go out and walk, maybe not in the industrial areas, but there are so many really neat neighborhoods."



Mark 12:31

ALL PRO BUILDERS, INC.
Lic. #809158

• Room Additions

• Whole House Remodels

• ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units)

• Doors & Windows

• Kitchen & Bath Remodeling

• Countertops

• Designs & Plans

714.255.0131
allprobuildersinc.com

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

Lawn & Garden Sprinkler Systems

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

(714) 773-4865

Across from Fullerton Airport
www.PacificCoastLandscaping.com
Contractor's Lic. # 1097870

OCTOBER

14 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

MOVIE

4:00pm: **Citizen Kane (1941):** Following the death of publishing tycoon Charles Foster Kane, reporters scramble to uncover the meaning of his final utterance: 'Rosebud.'
Fullerton Public Library
Conference Center
353 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton
(714) 738-6333

15 Thursday

ART SHOW

12:00 to 8:30pm: **Sound, Space, Nature, and Architecture:** FREE In the James F. Ranii Gallery. Jeffrey T. Ray's collection. Discover how the natural world is reflected in architecture, and how its design impacts our connection and perspectives of nature.
Fullerton Museum Center
301 N. Pomona Ave Fullerton
(714) 519-4461

16 Friday

MOVIE

6:00 to 9:00pm: **The HAUNT at the HUNT:** Join us for a Tale of a Haunted Fullerton, Scary Movie, Tricky Treats, Witchy Crafts, and a Creepy Costume Contest. Those under 17 Must be accompanied by a Grown Up. Not recommended for ages under 12.
NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Hunt Library
201 S Basque Ave, Fullerton
714-738-6365

21 Wednesday

MUSIC

7:30 to 9:30 pm: **Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuellar:** \$40: An unforgettable evening where Mexico comes to life! This performance will be held outside. Concert tickets are will-call style, so there are no physical tickets. beer and wine bar will be available. Parking is FREE.
The Muckenthaler Cultural Center
1201 W. Malvern Ave, Fullerton
(714) 738-6595 • themuck.org

24 Saturday

HEALTH FAIR

9:00 am to 1:00 pm: **Health & Wellness Fair:** Expert insights and resources for a healthier you. FREE; all welcome. Register online with Parks & Recreation.
Fullerton Community Center
340 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton
(714) 738-6575

28 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

29 Thursday

HALLOWEEN

4:30 to 8:30pm: **OKtoBOOFest:** Farmers market, mini art walk, food vendors, bounce house, face paint, live entertainment, and trick-or-treating! Come Join us for our annual OkotoBOOfest!
Fullerton Night Market with a spooky twist. Vendors, food, kids' corner, trick or treating, entertainment, & contests
Downtown Fullerton Plaza
125 E. Wilshire Ave, Fullerton

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB OF Fullerton

HALLOWEEN BASH SOCIAL

Thursday, October 22 • 3:00 to 6:00 PM

Music for Dancing! Costumes Welcomed!

Costume Contest: Winners get a prize!

340 WEST COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, FULLERTON

Holiday Brunch & Fashion Show

Saturday, November 7, 2026

10:00 am-1:30 pm

Coyote Hills Golf Course

Fashion • Food • Prizes!

Tickets: \$60 through Oct. 12; \$65 after Oct. 12

Buy a table for 10 and get 5 raffle prize drawing tickets per seat. (total of 50 raffle tickets).

Buy now at wcof.club/product/holiday-fashion-show/

The Woman's Club of Fullerton

Proceeds benefit Radiant Futures

Raffle Prizes

Silent Auction

Door Prize

Apple Watch Series 11 \$429 value! (1 door prize entry included with every ticket)

FULLERTON FRIENDS OF MUSIC

SATURDAYS AT 3:30 PM

Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 3:30 pm



Dimitri Illarionov, guitar

Nikolai Sivchuk, bayan (Russian accordion)

Fullerton First United Methodist Church
114 N. Pomona Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832

Admission without charge

Dimitri Illarionov has won more than 20 international competitions, including the Guitar Foundation of America and Francisco Tárrega, and appears worldwide with orchestras such as I Solisti Veneti and the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra.

Nikolai Sivchuk, a graduate of the Gnessin Russian Academy of Music in Moscow, carries on the great Russian bayan school as performer, teacher, arranger and composer, with prizes from Russia, Germany, Hungary and China.

Limited parking behind the church from Amerige or Commonwealth; street parking on Pomona and Amerige; free parking structure one block south at Pomona and Santa Fe. Transportation Center (Metrolink, Amtrak, OCTA) two blocks south. Info: (562) 691-7437

fullertonfriendsofmusic.org

OCTOBER 25TH

6:00PM

BENEFITTING

All Options Pregnancy Support

Faith Aloud Spiritual Care Line

FEATURING

MEL COLLINS & THE RON KOBAYASHI TRIO



LIVE OAK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

300 E IMPERIAL HWY. BREA

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

HAUNTED FULLERTON WALKING TOUR

FULLERTON MUSEUM CENTER

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS, & FRIDAYS

& A SPECIAL SATURDAY HALLOWEEN TOUR

Tours begin at the Fullerton Museum Center with a ghoulish cocktail mixer hosted by your ghost guides. (1) Pre-paid drink coupon and Gallery access to **Final Rites: Death Mourning & Beyond** is included in your ticket price. The tour includes visiting many local Fullerton locations and is different every time!

The tour is around 1.5 miles of walking with some stairs. Persons requiring special accommodations are asked to notify museum staff prior to coming into the museum. The Haunted Fullerton Walking Tour is not recommended for children under 13.



GET TICKETS



Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2026 Jonathandobrer.substack.com

The Billionaire Tax

I'm a card-carrying liberal, and I oppose the one-time billionaire's tax. Yes, I would love billionaires to pay their fair share. I know that they already pay more than middle-class folks in absolute numbers but far less relative to their income. Their sophisticated tax planning protects them from being fully and appropriately taxed.

So, how could I oppose this proposal? I have three problems. The first is that one-time taxes inevitably are repitched to be made permanent. The change to permanence is rationalized because the vital program it supported still needs the funds to thrive or even survive.

The chances of a one-time emergency rescue solving a problem are slight. But isn't it better to give important programs a lifeline even for a short time? Not necessarily.

This is the equivalent of a Payday Loan. It may be intended as a desperation tactic to tide you over, but it won't solve the problem, and it is likely to be very costly.

This proposal is likely to cost much more than it brings in. Some of these costs will come from billionaires moving their assets out of California—following a trend of capital flight that is already underway, as companies and individuals relocate to Florida, Texas, Tennessee and Nevada.

The more serious issue, and the reason that California is unlikely to take in more than we lose, is figuring out what "wealth" means.

Traditionally, we tax transactions. You buy a stock for \$100 and sell it for \$400. \$300 is subject to taxation. Or, you buy a home for \$100,000 and sell it for \$1,000,000. Again, \$900,000 is taxable. (Forget special capital gains). You don't get taxed on the increase in value until you sell. Neither can you write off a loss of value if you don't sell. We tax profit and loss, not value.

If we move to tax wealth, we will

open a can of worms and spend years litigating the value of an asset. How should the Picasso on your wall be taxed if you bought it for \$1,000 and today it's worth \$20,000? On what basis do you assess it today? Current value?

Well, we tried that in California with property taxes and assessed houses on a percentage of market value and not the original price. People who bought a house for \$20,000 forty years ago were being taxed on their now \$500,000 home.

Many could not pay these taxes and were unable to stay in their homes. This begat Proposition 13 and drastic cuts in government funding and services.

Supporters of Prop 13 argued that it was unfair for two families in two adjacent lots with essentially the same homes to pay radically different taxes depending on when they purchased their homes.

That seems to make sense. However, why wouldn't that apply to the stock market?

It might also seem unfair that you bought Apple at \$100 and a few years

ago I bought it at \$10,000. If you move to tax the value of my shares and your shares, should you also pay on \$10,000 per share?

How about going after the diamond engagement ring on my wife's finger? Is it part of my wealth? I'm not planning on selling it.

Now, back to real estate. That apartment you own, should it be taxed at its purchase price or current value? Why not go after your savings account, not the interest but on the account itself?

All of these issues must be evaluated, debated and eventually litigated. Does anyone believe that this could be accomplished in the one-year life of this proposition?

I predict that if this passes, we won't net a dime in the following year, but bank accounts will move out of state and more companies and billionaires will also flee.

Taxing wealth is neither impossible nor wrong, but it can't work in the short run, being so different from our tradition of taxing transactions. A permanent wealth tax could work. A statewide tax will only send capital fleeing, but a national tax could be considered.

There are ways to get billionaires to pay a fairer share, but Proposition 40 won't achieve this goal.

AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2026 WWW.PATREON.COM/C/THEEOPINIONATOR

The Case for a Billionaire Tax:
Reassessing America's Tax Inequities

In 1956, when Dwight Eisenhower—a Republican—was President, the U.S. federal individual income tax featured 24 progressive tax brackets with marginal rates starting at 20 percent for low-income citizens and reaching a top marginal rate of 91 percent for those earning over \$200,000 (\$2,463,088 in 2026). By the time Reagan was President, that top marginal rate had been lowered to around 37 percent. It hasn't budged since.

The net result is that when Americans—and Californians in particular—hear millionaires and billionaires complain about the tax rate assessed on their income, we're reminded of the Biblical injunction: To whom much is given, much is expected. And right now, anyone earning above 1 million dollars is essentially being given a pass, thanks to that low tax rate and all the loopholes that allow for shell corporations, offshore investment, etc.

So when I hear the complaints about increasing the tax rate for billionaires by five percent, I shed no tears. And no, I don't care if it is for the long term,

not the short term as promised.

The middle and lower classes have been paying the price for so-called trickle-down economics for over 40 years, and we're tired of it. George H.W. Bush may not have been right about much, but he got one thing correct: trickle-down economics should have been called voodoo economics.

Obviously, from the tenor of this piece, you can tell that I support the billionaire tax. I'll clarify it further: the billionaire tax should be codified into law. That five percent should remain in force in perpetuity. And if Patrick Soon-Shiong, Elon Musk and their ilk don't like it, that's just fine with me. It's time for them to pay the piper at something approaching the same rate as their employees. With great power comes great responsibility.

Seventy years ago, millionaires and billionaires were paying just over 90

percent of their income in tax. They complained, but they paid.

What were the results? A space program that got us to the Moon by 1970, with spinoffs that are saving lives every day (CT and MRI scanners) and making lives easier (personal computers). An interstate highway system that still functions well nearly seven decades later. And I'm just scratching the surface here.

What were the results of cutting the top marginal rate from 91 percent to 37 percent? A collapsing infrastructure country-wide. The rich getting richer at the expense of the middle and lower classes. A federal minimum wage that hasn't changed in 30 years (Still \$7.25 hour).

A military-industrial complex that swallows billions of dollars that could be used to help people afford food and housing. The trickle that was supposed to come down from the tap never did, because it is the nature of people who become rich to hoard what they have. Just as old Fred Trump did so his son could be born with a golden spoon in his mouth. And what is the billionaire class's answer to this?

*The billionaires
are bitching about
California's proposed
"billionaire tax."
I say "Oh, my"
and "Boo, hoo."*

You're spending too much on coffee and avocado toast, poor people. That type of response didn't work well for Marie Antoinette. It won't work for them, either.

Frankly, I would argue that five percent is way too reasonable. I'd boost it into double digits, with an eye towards returning to 1956 levels. If it means a handful of people only earn billions of dollars instead of billions and billions, I think that's fair.

I'll quote the Bible again: "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's." If Caesar demands weregild, you pay—and you pay without whining, just like the rest of us.

So I say YES to Proposition 40. Yes to the Billionaire Tax Act. And again, I will remind the doomsayers that up until 1980, the top marginal tax rate hovered around 90 percent. Were there grumbles from the gilded class? Yes. Were there millionaires on the street with signs saying WILL WORK FOR FOOD? No.

Can you demonstrate the harm of a higher tax rate for those earning over one billion dollars per annum? No, you can't. So if your country, and your state, ask more from you, give it—and give it cheerfully, remembering how much has been given unto you and yours.

NO KINGS: VOTE EARLY

NO THRONES. NO CROWNS. NO KINGS.

For over a year, millions of people have come together to send a clear message: **in America, we have no kings.** Power does not belong to billionaires, strongmen, or politicians who believe they are above accountability.

Power belongs to the people, but only if we use it.

Find an event near you: NoKings.org

NATIONWIDE DAY OF ACTION – OCTOBER 17, 2026

The Science Behind It

by Yuvika Salman © 2026



Psychedelics

For decades, psychedelics have occupied an unusual place in American culture: somewhere between illegal drugs, counterculture symbols, and cautionary tales. Now, some of the same compounds are being studied in universities and clinical trials for conditions ranging from depression to addiction. The drugs themselves have not changed, but scientists’ willingness and ability to ask what they actually do to the brain has.

Scientists are increasingly investigating whether compounds such as psilocybin, the psychedelic chemical found in certain mushrooms, could have therapeutic applications for depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders. Interestingly, a drug that alters perception for only a few hours can potentially influence the brain and behavior for much longer.

After psilocybin enters the body, it is converted into psilocin. Psilocin interacts strongly with serotonin receptors in the brain, particularly 5-HT2A. Serotonin is involved in processes ranging from mood to perception, but psychedelics do more than simply increase serotonin. Research suggests they temporarily change the way different regions of the brain communicate.

A 2024 study published in *Nature* used repeated brain scans to examine what happened after participants received psilocybin. Researchers found that the drug dramatically altered communication patterns throughout the brain. Some of the greatest changes occurred in the default mode network, associated with our sense of self, time, memory, and internal thought.

During the psychedelic state, some boundaries between brain networks appear to become less distinct. This may help explain effects such as distorted perceptions of time, changes in the sense of self, and unusual connections between thoughts and memories. Some changes in connectivity

observed in the *Nature* study persisted for weeks, raising questions about whether psychedelics temporarily make established patterns of brain activity more flexible.

Depression provides one example. People experiencing depression can become caught in persistent cycles of negative thinking, rumination, and behavior. Researchers have wondered whether temporary disruption produced by psychedelics, combined with psychological support, might allow some patients to approach those patterns differently.

In a 2023 randomized clinical trial published in *JAMA*, researchers studied 104 adults with major depressive disorder. Participants received either a single 25-milligram dose of psilocybin or an active placebo, with psychological support. Those receiving psilocybin experienced significantly greater reductions in depressive symptoms, with differences still observed six weeks later.

Other research has investigated psilocybin for alcohol use disorder, anxiety associated with serious illness, and treatment-resistant depression. In July 2026, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued final guidance addressing clinical trials of psychedelic drugs for psychiatric and substance use disorders.

Clinical research differs from recreational use. Participants are screened, given measured doses, observed in controlled environments, and provided psychological support. Psilocybin can produce anxiety, panic, confusion, increased heart rate and blood pressure, and other adverse effects.

Important questions remain about how long benefits last, which patients benefit, what doses work best, and how therapy and expectations affect outcomes. It is also difficult to truly “blind” participants because they may recognize the psychedelic experience.

Not every comparison has favored psychedelics. The National Institutes of Health notes that one study comparing psilocybin-assisted therapy with escitalopram did not find psilocybin superior on the primary depression measure.

It’s fascinating to see modern brain imaging reveal psychedelic effects in ways scientists decades ago couldn’t. For now, psychedelics are intriguing enough to study seriously, but still surrounded by major unanswered questions.

Healthy Awareness

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2026



Science Matters: But it is not a conspiracy theory

I recently saw a young woman in the park wearing a T-shirt that simply said, “SCIENCE MATTERS.” It made me stop and think: Why does science matter?

Science is a process of gaining knowledge through systematic observation, experimentation, and testing evidence. This is one important difference between science and conspiracy theories.

Conspiracy theories often interpret political or social events as a struggle between good and evil. They can encourage black-and-white thinking: someone or some group must be responsible for what has happened.

According to Christina Georgacopoulos (February 2020), conspiracy theories can distract the public by suggesting that political and social calamities are secretly being planned. Such beliefs can influence debates about vaccines, genetically modified foods, foreign diplomacy, and domestic elections.

Why do people believe conspiracy theories?

One reason may be that we tend to interpret new information through the lens of our existing beliefs. If information supports what we already believe, we may accept it more readily. When information contradicts our beliefs, we may argue against it—or avoid it.

Repetition can make a belief seem more credible. The more often we hear the same claim, the more familiar it becomes, and familiarity can sometimes be mistaken for truth.

This brings me to the 1997 movie *Conspiracy Theory*, starring Mel Gibson as Jerry Fletcher, a New York City taxi driver who publishes an extreme conspiracy newsletter. Interestingly, one of his theories turns out to be true.

Does that make all of his other theories true?

Of course not. But the movie illustrates how powerful confirmation can be. If one prediction turns out to be correct, we may be tempted to believe the person must also be correct about everything else.

So how do we determine what is true and what is false?

HELP! We are surrounded by television programs, websites, social media posts, podcasts, videos, advertisements, and opinions. Some information is carefully researched; other information may be misleading, incomplete, or completely false. Perhaps the answer is to become better consumers of information.

- We need to ask:**
- Who is providing this information?
 - What is the source?
 - Is there evidence?
 - Has it been independently verified?
 - What evidence might contradict it?

Scientific knowledge is not necessarily permanent. We need to be willing to change our minds when reliable evidence challenges what we previously believed. A scientific theory can be modified or rejected when credible new evidence contradicts it. That is not a weakness of science, but one of its greatest strengths.

That is how science works. We ask questions. We gather evidence. We test our ideas. We learn something new. Then we ask another question.

Science does not claim to have every answer. Instead, science gives us a method for searching for better answers. Perhaps that is what the young woman’s T-shirt was really saying: SCIENCE MATTERS because evidence matters. Truth matters. And being willing to change our minds when the evidence changes matters, too.

Balance & Change

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

A Call for Self-Respect: The Universal Right to Love and Worth

Yes, you are worth it.
Yes, you do deserve love.
Yes, you are valuable.
Yes, you are just as worthy as any other human.
Yes, you deserve to be treated well.
I am putting this here because I have been hearing lately that many people don’t feel worthy, important or equal to anyone else.
But what makes anyone deserving of love?
Someone might say that you have to accomplish something first. I will challenge that. Babies have not accomplished anything, and yet they

are so very deserving of love. If a baby, who has not yet done anything, deserves love and caring and is worthy, well then, so are you!
If someone has told you in the past or in the present that you are not, what you heard was a reflection of who they are, of their wound, not a true statement about you.
Even those people we do not like deserve to be treated well. We all do. Please, start with yourself.
Treat yourself as if you are a person deserving of love and respect, and that you are worthy and valuable, because you are!

988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

24/7 free and
confidential
support

CALL OR TEXT: 988
CHAT: 988LIFELINE.ORG

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



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

CANDIDATE DISTRICT 3 – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the biggest challenge in your district?

BRIEF BACKGROUND

District 3 challenges include: Housing affordability and the pressure to increase housing, including student housing, is a concern. There are also parking difficulties in neighborhoods surrounding CSUF. Additionally, aging streets and infrastructure and poor cyclist protections are notable issues.

District 5 challenges include: Housing affordability and pressure to increase housing while also addressing underused commercial properties. Additionally, neighborhoods with apartments are experiencing parking difficulties due to previously permitted lower parking space requirements. There are also concerns about aging streets and infrastructure and inadequate protections for cyclists. Moreover, illegal marijuana retail establishments are costing the city and taxpayers in enforcement efforts and, in some cases, litigation.



DR. SHANA CHARLES

I’m running to ensure that Fullerton is healthy, heard, and heading in the right direction. I believe that repaving and maintaining 100% of our streets and increasing road safety for all is the top concern - residents want our streets fixed, and we can build in safer streets for all.

Also, restoring our parks and trails and renewing our commitment to a sustainably equitable future. Finally, we must improve public health through affordable, high quality housing.



DANIEL KIM

Fullerton's structural deficit and the way it lands on District 3's streets. We carry a \$200 million infrastructure backlog, and OCTA rates our pavement the worst in Orange County. That is not cosmetic. It is sidewalks students and seniors walk on, lighting around campus, and park maintenance deferred again. We closed this year's gap largely with one-time fixes, so it returns next June. I have spent 30 years restructuring organizations in financial trouble. You do not fix this by cutting everything equally. You fix it by being honest about the numbers and protecting what residents actually use.

Will you abide by the city’s mayoral rotation policy? Why or why not?

Fullerton has a mayoral-selection policy based on council seniority and rotation. Under Policy No. 226, the Mayor Pro Tem generally moves into the Mayor’s position after one year, with seniority determining the expected order of succession. However, the policy also states that nothing prevents the City Council from selecting a Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem by majority vote.

Since 2020, the council has repeatedly departed from the expected seniority rotation. This is because the policy explicitly permits the council to elect its Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem through a majority vote.

In my four years in office, I’ve supported the city’s policy on the Mayoral rotation, and pushed to include Ahmad Zahra, representing District 5, in that rotation as either Mayor Pro Tem or Mayor. It’s unconscionable that the rotation has been ignored and Fred Jung has been installed as either Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem every year.

Yes. I can live with either approach: a rotation spreads the chair across districts, and a council vote lets members pick the right person for a given year. Both are defensible. What is not defensible is having a written policy and setting it aside without explanation. If the council prefers to elect the mayor outright, amend Policy 226 and say so in public. The method matters less than the consistency.

What policies do you support regarding affordable housing?

Over the past twenty years, affordable housing has been a persistent issue in Fullerton, particularly in Districts 3 and 5. District 3 deals with housing pressures from students, high rents, and a shortage of affordable units, while District 5 confronts affordability and displacement issues. The situation worsened after California dissolved redevelopment agencies in 2012, which eliminated a key source of funding for affordable housing. For the 2021–2029 housing cycle, Fullerton is allocated a need for 13,209 housing units, including 3,198 very-low-income and 1,989 low-income units. The city adopted its Housing Element in January 2025 after state enforcement due to noncompliance with the 2021 deadline. California's Builder's Remedy lets developers ignore local zoning rules if a city doesn't adopt a compliant Housing Element.

I’ve been encouraging housing growth in all areas, supporting all building projects that have come before Council. I also have supported building new affordable housing in our city and at Cal State Fullerton, and have linked renters to resources to improve their current housing situations, whether financial or code enforcement. There are also financing options through federal programs that allow developers to convert existing units into affordable units - we could have had over 300 units of affordable housing right next t Cal State Fullerton for an annual cost of, at most, an estimated \$180,000 if that had been approved. The Council majority sadly voted that project down. I proudly supported it as necessary housing for students, staff, and faculty.

I build it. Since 2020, I have run Spectrum Affordable Housing, developing and preserving homes for low-income families, seniors, and veterans financed with federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. So I focus on what actually produces units. Those credits are scarce and fiercely competitive: Fullerton either makes itself competitive for that capital or watches it go to Anaheim. That means zoning that permits affordable housing where it belongs, entitlement that moves on a schedule a financing commitment can survive, and fees that do not kill a project's economics. I would protect our CDBG and HOME allocations, and preserve the covenants we already have. Keeping an existing affordable unit is far cheaper than building its replacement.

What is your position on the use of Flock in Fullerton?

Fullerton's license plate reader program dates to 2007, funded by a federal Homeland Security grant. Flock Safety cameras arrived in 2021 under former former Fullerton Police Chief Dunn, paid for with federal ARPA funds as part of a technology package. The city operates 17 fixed and two mobile Flock cameras, spending \$236,000 on them. According to current Fullerton Police Chief Jon Radus, police say data are kept 30 days unless needed as evidence; credit the system with recovering 274 stolen vehicles; and say it isn't used for immigration enforcement. After residents raised privacy concerns in August 2026, the council heard an update in September and will have another update in October.

One of my core principles is protecting civil liberties, and I deeply care about protecting our constitutionally enshrined rights.

As a city, we are in the middle of a community conversation about the tools law enforcement uses to ensure public safety, and how Flock fits into that picture.

More data and information about how police use this tool is needed to make the best-informed decision.

Used right, this technology makes a smaller police force more effective, and Fullerton just eliminated six sworn positions. I am not against the tool. I am against adopting it without asking the people it watches. Consent was the failure here, not the cameras.

Keep them, and put real guardrails around them: a use policy the council adopts in open session, strict limits on who may query the data and why, enforced retention limits, published audits, and no sharing with out-of-state or federal immigration agencies. Safety and privacy are not a trade.

2026 General Election

DROP OFF YOUR BALLOT

Open Oct. 5
24 hours a day
until 8 p.m. Nov. 3

BALLOT DROP BOXES • FULLERTON & ANAHEIM

Fullerton Metrolink Station
120 E Santa Fe Ave, Fullerton

Fullerton College, Lot 8
321 E Chapman Ave, Fullerton

A.R. Mart
1701 W Orangethorpe Ave, Fullerton

CSUF Lot S10 • Drive-Thru
800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton

Sage Park
1313 W Lido Pl, Anaheim

St. Boniface Catholic Church
120 N Janss St, Anaheim

Granada Square
1048 N State College Blvd, Anaheim

Mailing it? No stamp needed.
Must be postmarked by Nov. 3.

Sign and date your envelope. All boxes are ADA accessible.

VOTER RESOURCES

VOTE411.org
Nonpartisan ballot guide

WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov
Track your ballot

ocvote.gov
(714) 567-7600

sos.ca.gov
CA Secretary of State

CANDIDATE DISTRICT 5 – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the biggest challenge in your district?



JOZEF MALDONADO

District 5 has been overlooked for too long. Residents tell me they see deteriorating streets and infrastructure, aging parks, too few trees, and city services that don't always reach every neighborhood equally. At the same time, Fullerton faces serious financial challenges that make prioritization even more important. As a Councilmember, I will make delivering the core services residents depend on a priority: safer neighborhoods, well-maintained roads and parks, reliable public safety, and responsible management of taxpayer dollars. I want residents in every part of District 5 to feel that City Hall sees them, listens to them, and invests in their neighborhood.



OSCAR VALADEZ

The most significant challenge facing District 5 is ensuring residents receive the basic city services they deserve while Fullerton confronts a structural budget deficit. Our neighborhoods need safe streets, reliable police and fire services, well-maintained roads, clean parks, and infrastructure that receives consistent attention. Meeting these needs requires restoring fiscal discipline and focusing limited resources on what matters most. We must also pursue outside funding, strengthen partnerships with community organizations, and ensure District 5 receives its fair share of city investment. My approach is practical: listen to residents, set clear priorities, and deliver measurable results.



DAVID FISCHBEIN

The most significant challenge facing District 5 is aging infrastructure, particularly deteriorating streets and our water supply system. Decades of deferred maintenance have created problems that affect not only District 5, but Fullerton as a whole. I support a transparent, prioritized infrastructure plan that directs resources to the areas of greatest need, strengthens quality control, and ensures repairs are completed correctly the first time. We must responsibly maintain the infrastructure residents already pay for while planning ahead to prevent today's deferred maintenance from becoming tomorrow's more expensive emergency.

Will you abide by the city's mayoral rotation policy? Why or why not?

I support following the City's mayoral rotation policy. The mayoralty is not just a title; it is an important form of public representation. Every district deserves the chance to have its representative serve as Mayor and District 5 is being denied that opportunity year after year. Following an established and consistent process ensures that opportunity is not determined by political alliances or personal disagreements, while promoting fairness and strengthening public trust in the Council.

Yes. I support a fair mayoral rotation, but the current policy needs to be clarified. It establishes a rotation process while also stating that the Council may select the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem by majority vote. Those provisions can conflict and create unnecessary controversy. The Council should adopt a clear, consistent policy so every councilmember and district is treated fairly.

I will follow Fullerton's mayoral rotation policy because every district deserves a fair opportunity to lead. But rules a council majority can disregard deserve review. I support studying a voter-approved city charter that protects fair representation, reduces the influence of voting blocs, and strengthens local control. Think of government like a home: Sacramento sets rules outside our property, but Fullerton residents should have a stronger voice over the rules inside our house. Local decisions should remain accountable to the voters who live here.

What policies do you support regarding affordable housing?

Teachers, first responders, young families, seniors, and working people should have a realistic opportunity to live and remain in Fullerton. That means building more housing, protecting residents from displacement, and expanding pathways to homeownership so families can put down roots, build wealth, and gain long-term financial stability. I support increasing affordable and workforce housing, encouraging responsible development near jobs and transit, and making permitting more predictable and efficient. I also support tenant protections, including just cause protections and access to legal assistance for renters facing eviction. We should not treat housing production and protecting existing residents as competing goals—Fullerton needs to do both.

Fullerton needs more housing options for seniors, working families, young adults, and the people who work in our community. I support expanding affordable and workforce housing through incentives, appropriate density, streamlined permitting, and partnerships with nonprofit and private developers. We should also preserve existing affordable housing by encouraging the rehabilitation and maintenance of older properties. I believe increasing housing supply and reducing unnecessary barriers to construction are important parts of addressing affordability. At the same time, new development must include appropriate infrastructure and respect the character and needs of surrounding neighborhoods. Our housing policies should balance affordability, responsible growth, and quality of life for all Fullerton residents.

I support increasing housing affordability by expanding housing supply while protecting existing neighborhoods and respecting property rights. Fullerton should streamline reasonable development, encourage redevelopment of underused properties, and pursue housing where infrastructure and transportation can support it. I also support partnerships with CSUF and Fullerton College to address student housing pressures that affect the broader rental market. I do not support local rent control, which can discourage investment and reduce the long-term housing supply. Our focus should be on removing unnecessary barriers, encouraging responsible development, and creating more housing choices while ensuring growth does not place unreasonable burdens on existing residents and city services.

What is your position on the use of Flock in Fullerton?

I understand the concerns about Fullerton's use of Flock cameras, particularly regarding privacy, data retention, access to information, and the potential sharing of data outside our community. Public safety technology should have clear safeguards, transparency, and meaningful oversight. I support evolving the Flock program to strengthen privacy protections, establish clear limits on how data is accessed and shared, and ensure appropriate oversight. We should also regularly assess whether the program is delivering measurable public safety benefits. Public safety and protecting residents' civil liberties should go hand in hand.

Flock cameras can be an effective tool for law enforcement to investigate crimes, recover stolen vehicles, and improve public safety. However, I am extremely concerned about the potential for misuse of this technology and the privacy implications of collecting, retaining, accessing, and sharing residents' data. Public safety cannot come at the expense of our civil liberties. Fullerton must have strict safeguards, clear limits on data sharing and retention, strong oversight, and meaningful transparency. I support effective tools for our police, but Flock must be continually evaluated to ensure it is used responsibly and residents' privacy is protected.

Flock cameras have helped law enforcement identify suspects and solve crimes, and I support providing our police with effective tools to keep Fullerton safe. However, public safety should not come at the expense of privacy and civil liberties. My concern is that this surveillance technology was implemented without voters having a meaningful voice in the decision. Fullerton residents deserve transparency about how their information is collected, retained, accessed, and shared. I support putting continued use of Flock cameras before the voters and establishing strict safeguards against misuse or unnecessary surveillance.

VOTE IN PERSON

Election Day, Nov. 3
7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

★ Open Oct. 24
All open Oct. 31
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

VOTE AT ANY CENTER • FULLERTON & ANAHEIM

★ Library • 353 W Commonwealth
Fullerton College • 321 E Chapman
Red Cross • 1207 N Lemon
St. Andrew's • 1231 E Chapman
Public Works • 1580 W Commonwealth
Fullerton JUHSD • 1051 W Bastanchury
CSUF Student Union • 800 N State College

St. Paul Lutheran • 111 W Las Palmas
Annunciation Ch. • 995 N West
★ Youth Center • 225 S Philadelphia
Zion Lutheran • 222 N East
Anaheim UHSD • 501 N Crescent Way
City Church • 701 W Broadway

VOTE411.org • ocvote.gov • (714) 567-7600 • WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov

Follow the Money: Groups Trying to Influence Voters

Committee to Recall Fred Jung (District 1)

Principal officer: Matthew Truxaw. recalljung.com

Committee to Recall

Jamie Valencia (District 4)

Principal officer: Wonnapa Natanom-Harrold.
recallvalencia.com

Fullerton Forward PAC

(from Form 460 and 496 filings through 9/25/26)

Total Raised (year to date): \$26,290

Total Spent (year to date): \$16,827

Ending Cash: \$9,463

A city general purpose committee formed to support or oppose state and local candidates and measures. It passed the \$2,000 threshold on February 23, 2026. Treasurer: Steven Sherry.

Top Contributors:

\$10,250: Joel Maus (co-owner, Found Rental Co.) (\$10,150 in the Sept. 22 article)
\$2,050: Helen Higgins (retired)
\$2,000: Higher Wages, Lower Rent Alliance
\$709: Wonnapa Natanom-Harrold (engineer)
\$540: Faith Forcucci-Morris (software developer)
\$500: Richard Kim (attorney)
\$470: Kitty Jaramillo
\$465: Harry Langenbacher (retired)
And 50 contributions of \$400 or less from other Fullerton residents.
Plus 19 contributions of less than \$100 each from Fullerton residents.

Independent Expenditure (Form 496):

9/21/26: \$1,872 in digital ads (total to date) supporting District 5 candidate Jozef Maldonado
Other spending includes digital work by Turn It Blue Digital LLC of Boulder, Colo.; about \$1,156 at Apollo Printing of Anaheim; Facebook ads; mailings; a website; and a \$1,147 fundraiser at Les Amis restaurant.

Fullerton Police Officers Association PAC

(from Form 460 and 497 filings through 9/25/26)

Cash on Hand: \$173,610 (most recent Form 460, covering January–June 2026)

Raised January 1 to June 30, 2026: \$20,980

Spent January 1 to June 30, 2026: \$10,050

Funded by union dues from more than 100 Fullerton police officers, who give \$160 or \$180 each.

Spent in 2026:

9/25/26: \$1,000 to Josef Maldonado for City Council 2026
9/25/26: \$1,000 to Re-elect Shana Charles for City Council 2026
9/8/26: \$875 to Voters Opposing the Recall of Fred Jung 2026 (Issues Committee)
8/26/26: \$925 to Voters Opposing the Recall of Fred Jung 2026 (Issues Committee)
8/13/26: \$1,939 to Voters Opposing the Recall of Fred Jung 2026 (Issues Committee)
5/8/26: \$6,000 slate mailer supporting Fred Jung for OC Supervisor District 4
4/20/26: \$1,000 supporting Robert Mestman for OC Superior Court Judge
In 2024 the PAC gave \$4,527 each to support Jung and Dunlap and \$8,527 to support Valencia. In 2022 it gave \$38,150 to Ariel Dino and \$20,233 to Ahmad Zahra.

Fullerton Firefighters Association PAC (Local 3421)

Raised January 1 to May 16, 2026: \$15,585

Spent January 1 to May 16, 2026: \$1,814

Cash on Hand: \$84,387 (as of 5/16/26)

Funded by \$25 contributions from individual Fullerton firefighters, collected through the Fullerton Firefighters Association.
2026 spending: \$1,500 for a slate mailer supporting Fred Jung for OC Supervisor District 4.
2024 spending included \$18,943 to support Jamie Valencia (D4) and \$3,000 to support Dunlap (D2).
2022 spending included \$975 supporting Ahmad Zahra (D5) and Shana Charles (D3).

Fullerton Taxpayers for Reform

(no 2026 activity; no pre-election Form 460 filed)

Total Raised (prior filings): \$75,700

Contributors:

\$16,700: George Bushala Jr. (Bushala Brothers property management)
\$15,000: David Perez/Valley Vista Services (waste disposal)
\$14,750: Anthony Bushala (Bushala Brothers)
\$5,000: John Saunders (Saunders Properties)
\$5,000: Apartment Association of OC (apartment

owners)

\$5,000: David Jerome (property manager)

\$4,750: Sylvia Bushala (retired)

\$4,750: George Bushala Sr. (retired)

\$4,750: George Bushala (Bushala Brothers)

2024 spending included \$44,126 to oppose D4 candidate Vivian Jaramillo and \$2,052 to oppose school measures N and L. 2022 spending included \$26,567 to oppose Ahmad Zahra (D5), \$2,038 to oppose Shana Charles (D3) and \$1,849 to support Oscar Valadez (D5). In the 2022 Fullerton School District race it spent \$1,554 to oppose Ruthie Hanchett and \$1,553 to support Lisa Wozab.

Fair Elections for Fullerton

Still registered as a general purpose committee. No 2026 activity reported. Cash on hand: \$1,605 as of June 30, 2026.

Voters Opposing the Recall of Fred Jung 2026

(no Form 460 filed; figures are from Form 497 late filings through 9/25/26)

Total Raised: \$16,064 according to the Sept. 28 update (\$16,939 according to the Sept. 22 article)
Formed in August 2026 to oppose the recall of District 1 Councilmember and Mayor Fred Jung. Jung is the committee's treasurer, and the Norwalk firm Gould & Orellana serves as assistant treasurer.

Contributors:

\$7,500: ENF Prime Holdings LLC (Richard Lee of Buena Park), 9/15/26
\$5,700: John Saunders of Newport Beach (owner of Rancho La Paz)
\$3,739: Fullerton Police Officers Association Issues Committee, text messages given in kind (\$1,939 on 8/13, \$925 on 8/26 and \$875 on 9/8)

Follow the Money

Campaign finance filings don't tell voters how to vote. They do show who is paying for each campaign, how much candidates are putting into their own races, which donors show up in more than one contest, and how political committees spend money to influence local elections.
Sources: FPPC Forms 410, 460, 496, 497 and 501 posted on the City of Fullerton's election pages and the Fair Political Practices Commission website.

Vote for

Paulette

CHAFFEE

FOR NORTH OC COLLEGE BOARD



“
Fullerton College is a special place.
I’m running for College Board to help every student succeed academically and prepare them for rewarding careers.
”
-Paulette

PAULETTE CHAFFEE

is an educator, nonprofit leader, and mom who has been active in North Orange County schools for more than three decades.



LEARN MORE @ PauletteChaffee.com

Paid for by Paulette Chaffee for NOCCCD Trustee 2026

Follow Money Updated Through 9/25/2026

Who is paying for the District 3 and District 5 races, the fight over the Jung recall, and the groups trying to sway Fullerton voters?
This report combines the Observer's "Follow the Money: Fullerton City Council Race 2026" (Sept. 22) with "Follow Money Update Through 9/25/2026" (Sept. 28). Totals are the newest figures, drawn from Form 460 and Form 497 filings through Sept. 25. Changes since the Sept. 22 article are noted in parentheses. All contributors are from Fullerton unless another city is listed.
How to read this: A committee must file full Form 460 campaign statements once it raises or spends \$2,000 or more in a calendar year. In the 90 days before the Nov. 3 election, any contribution of \$1,000 or more must be reported within 24 hours on Form 497. Fullerton has no local contribution limit, so the state limit of \$5,900 per donor per election applies. Candidates may lend their own campaigns up to \$100,000.

District 5 Candidates

The District 5 seat is open. Incumbent Ahmad Zahra did not file for re-election, which extended the filing period to August 12.



Jozef Maldonado

(Chemist; Parks and Recreation Commissioner)
Total Raised (2026 year to date): \$30,557
Total Spent (2026 year to date): \$20,470
Ending Cash: \$10,087 **Loan to Self:** \$2,500
(The September 22 article on FullertonObserver website reported \$22,105 raised, including the loan.)

Top Contributors:
\$2,500: United Food & Commercial Workers Local 324
\$1,674: Ryan Adams (data specialist, CSU Long Beach) (up from \$1,363)
\$1,500: UA Journeymen & Apprentices Local 250
\$1,500: Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16
\$1,401: Helen Higgins (retired) (up from \$622)
\$1,000: Sharon Quirk-Silva for Assembly 2024
\$1,000: Ruthi Hanchett for School Board
\$1,000: National Union of Healthcare Workers
\$1,000: Regional Council of Carpenters
\$1,000: Avelino Valencia (CA State Assemblymember) (updated)
\$1,000: Fullerton Police Officers Association PAC (updated 9/25/26)
\$915: Harry Langenbacher (retired) (updated)
\$881: Luz Maldonado (caretaker)

(updated)
\$778: Ashley Eagle (updated)
\$750: Local Union 105 Political Education Fund (updated)
\$519: Nate Tieman (engineer, Apple Inc.) (updated)
\$518: Jaime Bell (pet caretaker) (updated)
\$500: Doug Chaffee (County Supervisor)
\$491: Aaron Sivard of La Habra (updated)
\$459: Kitty Jaramillo (retired) (updated)
\$415: Wonnapa Natanom-Harrold (civil engineer) (updated)
\$104: Shana Charles (Councilmember)
And 58 contributions of \$400 or less, mostly from Fullerton residents. Plus \$2,583 (year to date) in contributions of less than \$100 each. Fullerton Forward PAC has also spent \$1,872 on digital ads supporting Maldonado (see page 12).



Oscar Valadez

(Owner, JCV Inc., drywall and construction contractor)
Total Raised (2026 year to date): \$35,764
Total Spent (2026 year to date): \$11,731
Ending Cash: \$39,216 **Loan to Self:** \$30,000 Loan from Oscar Valadez (owner of JCV) to his own campaign
(The September 22 article on FullertonObserver website reported \$50,500 raised, including a \$30,000 loan from himself. Cash on hand: \$48,193 as of June 30, 2026.)

Top Contributors:
\$5,500: John Saunders of Newport Beach (owner of Rancho La Paz)
\$4,500: ANB Properties (Bushala)
\$4,500: GKB Jr, LLC (Bushala)
\$4,500: George K. Bushala (Bushala Property Management) (updated)
\$4,500: Tony Bushala (Bushala Property Management) (updated)
\$2,500: Raul Rodriguez of Anaheim (IT manager, ORTHO) (updated)
\$2,000: Maria Valadez (retired)
\$1,000: Oscar Valadez (owner, JCV) (updated)
\$1,000: David Jerome (Jerome Properties)
\$1,000: George Bushala Jr. (Bushala Property Management)
And 6 smaller contributions of \$400 or less from Fullerton residents. The Bushala family and its companies have given Valadez \$19,000 in all.



David Fischbein

(Federal Quality Assurance Specialist)
No Form 460 or 497 filings through 9/25/26.
Fischbein formed "Fischbein for Fullerton City Council D5 2026" in August and is his own treasurer.
The committee reported passing the \$2,000 threshold on August 12, 2026. Its Statement of Organization does not list a campaign bank account.

Campaign finance filings don't tell voters how to vote. They do show who is paying for each campaign, how much candidates are putting into their own races, which donors show up in more than one contest, and how political committees spend money to influence local elections.
Sources: FPPC Forms 410, 460, 496, 497 and 501 posted on the City of Fullerton's election pages and the Fair Political Practices Commission website.

District 3 Candidates

Shana Charles

(Incumbent; CSUF Associate Professor of Public Health)
Total Raised (2026 year to date): \$29,472
Total Spent (2026 year to date): \$13,265
Ending Cash: \$27,089 **Loan to Self:** \$300
(The September 22 article on FullertonObserver website reported \$41,819 raised since January 2025 and \$22,966 cash on hand as of June 30.)



Top Contributors:

\$5,900: Avelino Valencia for State Assembly (up from \$3,900; gifts of \$1,000 on August 23 and \$2,900 on September 13)
\$2,500: Teamsters Local 396
\$1,500: Ashley Eagle (homemaker)
\$1,300: Sharon Quirk-Silva for Assembly 2024 (up from \$1,000)
\$1,290: Ruthi Hanchett for School Board (up from \$1,000; Hanchett also gave \$500 personally)
\$1,050: Neil Alex of Oregon (retired) (updated)
\$1,000: Rachel Cota-Flores (retired) (updated)
\$1,000: National Union of Healthcare Workers
\$1,000: UA Journeymen & Apprentices Local 250
\$1,000: Western States Regional Council of Carpenters
\$1,000: Fullerton Police Officers

Association PAC (updated, 9/25/26)
\$800: Faisal Qazi (physician) (new)
\$750: Harry Langenbacher (retired) (updated)
\$750: Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, Transportation Workers Local 105 (updated)
\$500: Planned Parenthood of Orange & San Bernardino Counties (new)
\$500: MariaElena Jones (retired) (updated)
And 64 contributions of less than \$300 each, mostly from Fullerton residents. Plus \$458 in contributions of less than \$100 each.
The September 22 article also listed Aaruni Thakur (attorney), \$1,489 including food and beverages, and Sarah Harmon (realtor), \$1,246 in kind for an event.
Charles's committee gave \$250 to the Democrats of North Orange County and \$600 to the Democratic Party of Orange County's federal account.



Daniel Kim

(Founder of Dragon Kim Foundation; owner of Abacus Partners)
Total Raised (2026 year to date): \$38,050
Total Spent (2026 year to date): \$17,134
Ending Cash: \$29,822 **Loan to Self:** \$20,000
Kim filed his candidate statement on August 6, so his first Form 460 was due September 24.
(The September 22 article on FullertonObserver website reported \$37,900 raised, based on 24-hour reports covering September 11–19.)

All Contributors:

\$5,900: Jong Limb of Irvine (president, Newport Partners)
\$5,000: Fred Jung (Fullerton Mayor)
\$3,000: Pio Kim of Pasadena (attorney, Lim Nexus LLP)
\$3,000: John Saunders of Newport Beach (owner of Rancho La Paz)
\$2,500: Raul Rodriguez of Anaheim (IT manager, ORTHO) (updated, 9/25/26)
\$1,000: James Lee of Hacienda Heights (retired)
\$100: Joseph Mah of Laguna Niguel (IT executive, GiveAnywhere Inc.) (updated)
\$50 in unitemized contributions of less than \$100

Protect the Quality of Our Schools

RE-ELECT

Marilyn
BUCHI



Fullerton Joint Union High School District
BOARD TRUSTEE – Area 5

Paid for by Committee to Elect Marilyn Buchi #124834

Charles L. Hand 1939-2026

Charles L. Hand was born on October 16, 1939, in Tecumseh, Michigan and passed away on August 27, in Fullerton. He was the only son of Percy Case and Rose Estelle (May) Hand. Charles had one older step-sister, Margaret Percelia (Hand) (Gomez) Richardson, and a step-nephew, Lynn Percy Gomez. He is preceded in death by his father, mother, step-sister and step-nephew. He is survived by his wife, Doris (Laack) Hand; his children, Laura (Hand) Barlow and Aaron Hand; and his grandson, Jeffrey Raymond Barlow.

Charles graduated from Tecumseh High School in 1957 and Michigan College of Mining and Technology (now Michigan Technological University) in 1962. While at Michigan Tech, he was an active member of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity.

After graduating from Michigan Tech, he took extensive graduate-level courses in electrical power at Illinois Institute of Technology. He credited his successful long-term career in the electrical power industry to the fabulous education he received in both high school and college and to his father's work philosophy: "No matter how menial, routine, or difficult the job, always do the very best you can." Although Charles' jobs were never routine or menial, they were often difficult, and he always did the very best he could.

On February 6, 1971, Charles married Doris Mae Laack, the love of his life, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Together they had two children, Laura Elizabeth and Aaron August, both born in Fullerton. They also had a grandson, Jeffrey Raymond Barlow. In 2026, Charles and Doris celebrated fifty-five fantastic years of marriage.

Charles' first job after college was working in the Milwaukee area at the Line Material Testing Laboratories, a manufacturing company producing distribution equipment for electric utilities. He viewed this professional experience as participating in an academic graduate-level testing laboratory for which he was getting paid.

After five years in Milwaukee, he moved to a consulting firm for the electrical power industry called Sargent and Lundy in Chicago. There, he developed specifications, drawings, and contracts for extra-high-voltage electrical substations for several electric utilities. He was heavily involved in developing a 765,000-volt substation in West Virginia, one of the first ultra-high-voltage substations in the United States. After six years in Chicago, he and Doris, his wife of two years, moved to Southern California to accept a position with Southern California Edison.

Charles remained in this position for the rest of his career and was heavily involved in a new industry concept: "gas-insulated substations." His work at the utility took him to Europe, Asia, Canada and many locations in the continental United States.

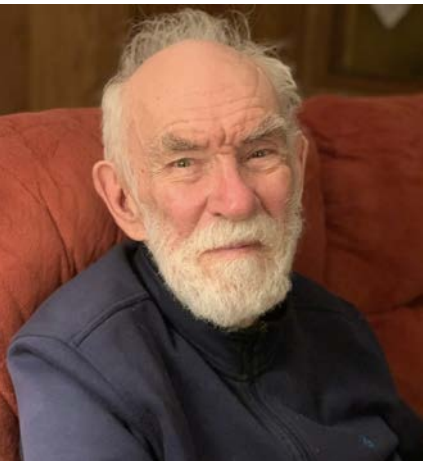
In California, Charles was highly involved with the Boy Scouts of America for over 32 years. He participated in three World Jamborees, a ten day national gathering of tens of thousands of Scouts, leaders, and visitors held once every four years.

The Jamborees took him to Korea (1991), the Netherlands (1995), and Chile (1999), one Canadian National Jamboree (1997), one U.S. National Jamboree (1997), and two British Columbia Provincial Jamborees (1999 & 2003).

Charles also backpacked in the High Sierras and hiked to the depths of the Grand Canyon. He led many Scout adult training sessions. For his dedication, he was awarded both the Silver Beaver and the International Scouter's Award.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may donate to Michigan Crossroads Council, Boy Scouts of America, 14258 Michigan Street, Eagle, MI 48822, in Charles' memory.

There is no obligation; the family simply asks that Charles be remembered with love.



Paula Kathleen Sheller Adams 1933-2026



Paula Kathleen Sheller Adams, 93, died peacefully at home on June 1, 2026, surrounded by family and friends.

Born April 26, 1933, Paula grew up in Fullerton, California, where her father, Dr. H. Lynn Sheller, served from 1950 to 1969 as the second president of Fullerton College. He also established the Fullerton College Foundation to support students. Paula and her husband, Parks M. Adams Jr., carried on that tradition of philanthropy by founding their own nonprofit foundation.

Paula lived a life grounded in faith, family, creativity, and service. She and Parks raised two daughters, Krista and Sara. Paula lived in North Manchester, Indiana, for 32 years, where she was a certified clinical social worker and taught elementary and high school students. She also taught creative writing to adults and institutionalized teenagers.

A lifelong writer and advocate, Paula was a teacher, editor, writer, poet, and community advocate. In 2001, she founded and co-published *The Monitor*, a small-town newspaper. She used her writing to promote civic engagement and social justice, published books and poetry, and generously supported fellow writers. Her experience running a community newspaper made her a valued friend and mentor to the *Fullerton Observer*. Paula and Parks later moved to Forest Grove, Oregon, to be near family.

Parks died in 2025. Paula's mother, Mary; father, Lynn; sister, Mary Helen; and brother, Hal, also predeceased her.

Even after macular degeneration caused blindness, Paula continued to travel, make music, write, laugh, and nurture friendships. The poetry she had memorized throughout her life remained a source of comfort and joy.

Paula will be remembered for her indomitable spirit, generosity, love of words, commitment to community, and extraordinary gift for bringing people together. She is deeply missed by her two daughters, Krista and Sara, her two beloved grandchildren and their families, other relatives, and many friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 pm on October 10 at Forest Grove United Church of Christ at 2032 College Way, Forest Grove, OR.

You may attend via Zoom by calling (503)357-9121 for the Zoom code.

A life well lived. A life deeply loved.

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us;... O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth."
Psalm 67

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 csfullerton@sbcglobal.net



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

Two Choice Single Gravesites

in a sold out area at Loma Vista Memorial Park
For Sale \$7,000 each • Contact AL or ALICE at 714-985-9440

City of Fullerton Employment

303 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832

Contact: (714) 738-6300

Hours: Monday - Thursday 7:30 am – 5:30 pm

Every other Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

<https://www.cityoffullerton.com/government/departments/human-resources/city-employment>

Applications are only accepted for current City of Fullerton vacancies.

Community Services Leader

Salary: \$16 - \$17 Hourly

Job Type: Non-Regular

Department: Parks and Recreation (At Will/Non-Benefited)

Location: 303 W Commonwealth Ave

Job Number: 2026- CSLEAD

Any combination of training and experience, which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities, is considered qualifying.

Community Services Specialist

Salary: \$17.90 - \$18.90 Hourly

Location: 303 W Commonwealth Ave

Job Type: Non-Regular

Job Number: 2026- CSSPEC

Department: Parks and Recreation

Closing Date: Continuous

The Position promotes, organizes and leads a variety of recreational activities at a recreation center or other facility; conducts activities within assigned groups and performs related work as required.

Fire Cadet

Salary: \$0.00

Location: Fullerton Fire Department

Job Type: Volunteer

Job Number: 2026- FR CADET

Department: Fire

NOTE: This recruitment is open on a continuous basis and may close without prior notice.

Launch Your Fire Service Career with the City of Fullerton Fire Cadet Program.

The City of Fullerton Fire Cadet

Program offers motivated young adults ages 14-24 the opportunity to learn alongside professional firefighters while building the skills, discipline, and confidence needed for a future in the fire service.

As a Fire Cadet, you'll participate in hands-on training, station activities, technical drills, physical fitness, and emergency service education designed to prepare you for the next step in your journey.

Firefighter Trainee

Salary: \$75,845 Annually

Location: 303 W Commonwealth Ave

Job Type: Regular Full-Time

Job Number: 2026-FF Trainee

Department: Fire

Become part of a proud tradition of service, where we invest in our community, protect our people, and work together to shape a safer, stronger future.

Assistant Engineer

Salary: \$92,185 - \$117,644 Annually

Location: City of Fullerton, CA

Job Type: Regular Full-Time

Job Number: 2026- Asst Eng

Department: Public Works

Division: 2324-CIP Project Development and Design

Performs civil engineering, reviewing plans, construction projects, tasks in the design, construction, contract administration, inspection and maintenance of streets, storm drains, sanitary sewers, water mains and other public works and related work as required.

Associate Planner

Salary: \$85,681 - \$109,353 Annually

Location: City of Fullerton

Job Type: Regular Full-Time

Job Number: 2026 - Assoc Planner

Department: Community and Economic Development

The Community and Economic Development Department brings together Building & Safety, Planning, Code Enforcement, Housing, and Economic Development to help keep

Fullerton safe, vibrant, and growing. Our team works to make sure development in the city is well-planned, safe, and ready for the future. We administer and enforce the City's Zoning Code, Municipal Code, General Plan, and adopted Building Codes — all while providing essential services like permit issuance, plan reviews, construction inspections, housing programs, and responding to code concerns.

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

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD

ANSWER KEY TO "GOLDEN STATE RIVALS" © 2026 from page 7

Puzzle Master

Valerie Brickley

was born in Fullerton and returned to raise her family here.

She has contributed puzzles since 2014.

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

Kosco Painting Co

Full house interior and exterior

House painter and general contractor

(714) 200-9235 • (949) 583-9235

LICENSED AND BONDED

Contractor License: 29293 • Bond Number: SC6335387

Tree Service • Lighting • Irrigation Turf

Save 20% off on First Service

New Customers Only

Perfecto's Landscaping

(714) 869-2247

Eric Kim, DMD:Family Dentistry

Thoughtful dentistry in a welcoming environment.

501 N Cornell Ave Ste. 1, Fullerton

(714) 992-0092

Sunny Hills

CLEANS

PET URINE REMOVAL Specialists!

CARPET CLEANING

Deep clean for a healthier home

AREA RUGS

Expert care for delicate rugs

UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Sofas, chairs, loveseats & more

TILE & GROUT CLEANING

Remove dirt, grime & bacteria

AIR DUCT CLEANING

Cleaner air for a healthier home

DRAPER CLEANING

Refresh and brighten your drapes

Call us Today | 714-259-9999

SERVING ORANGE COUNTY FOR OVER 60 YEARS!

Professional Cleaning you can count on!

Fullerton Joint Union High School District Board of Trustees Candidate Forum Hosted by the League of Women Voters

Three candidates for the Fullerton Joint Union High School District Board of Trustees answered audience questions at a League of Women Voters of North Orange County candidate forum on September 29. The League, which does not endorse candidates, collected all questions from the audience.

Incumbent Marilyn Buchi and challenger Amy Dudich are running in Trustee Area 5, which includes parts of Fullerton, Brea, La Habra, La Habra Heights and Whittier. Mathew Matias (unable to attend) and Regina Quadra are running in Trustee Area 1, which covers La Habra.

Buchi, a longtime trustee, ran on the district's record. She said its high schools rank in the top 5 percent nationally and its graduation rate tops 95 percent. She added that sound finances meant no layoffs even during the 2008 recession. "Board experience matters," she said. "Let's keep our high schools great."

Dudich, an operations manager and mother of a Sunny Hills High ninth grader, said she had knocked on more than 1,200 doors. She heard two recurring concerns: mental health and student inclusion. "Making every student feel safe and included will be my platform," she said.

Quadra is a special education teacher in the La Habra City School District and her teachers union's treasurer. She said she would bring a parent and community perspective and give La Habra a voice on the board.

The candidates found broad agreement. All three opposed school vouchers and charter schools, saying public

money belongs in traditional public schools. Quadra noted that when funding leaves, fixed costs remain, leaving fewer resources for students with the greatest needs. Buchi recalled the superintendent once politely hearing out a statewide charter representative and then showing him the door.

All three also said volunteers who work regularly with students should be fingerprinted and cleared. They agreed that confidential district records should stay confidential.

Differences emerged in emphasis. On student mental health, Dudich proposed weekly homeroom-style check-ins, so that teachers know what students are facing. Quadra stressed building community through classes like art, cooking and engineering. Buchi described the counselors, psychologists and calming rooms already available on every campus.

The widest gap came on immigrant and mixed-status families. Dudich said she saw students stay home from school out of fear last year, and that families need to see support, not just hear it. Quadra described families afraid to let teens ride bikes in their neighborhoods. Buchi said campuses are safe because "we accept every student as they are." She added that she has not heard it is a big issue.

The board does not have term limits. Buchi said voters decide at the ballot box. Dudich suggested board service fits best when members have children in the schools. Quadra said the community could pursue term limits if it wants them.

On declining enrollment, Buchi said the district's decline is smaller than its

Board of Trustees, Area 1



Regina Quadra, Nonpartisan
Board of Trustees Candidate
<https://cuadrafjuhsd.com>



Mathew Matias, Nonpartisan
Board of Trustees Candidate
<https://matiasforfjuhsd.com>

Board of Trustees, Area 5



Marilyn Buchi, Incumbent
Nonpartisan,
Board of Trustees Candidate



Amy Dudich, Nonpartisan
Board of Trustees Candidate
<https://www.amydudich.com/>

neighbors'. Quadra backed changing state funding to count enrollment rather than only attendance. Dudich said she would seek donations and partnerships if money grew tight.

In closing, Quadra urged a yes vote on Prop 3 for school funding. Dudich promised transparency and accountability. Buchi said she serves "with no personal or political agenda."

The election is November 3. The unedited video of the forum is available on the Fullerton Observer website at fullertonobserver.com.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Monday, October 12 • 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Fullerton College Campus • Room 224
321 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton

CANDIDATES CONFIRMED TO ATTEND

U.S. CONGRESS

David Pan 46th District

STATE SENATE

Rhonda Shader 34th District

STATE ASSEMBLY

Victor Hernandez 59th District

Paulo Morales 67th District

O.C. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Tim Shaw 4th District

FULLERTON CITY COUNCIL

Shana Charles District 3

Daniel H. Kim District 3

Jozef Maldonado District 5

FULLERTON JT. UNION H.S. DISTRICT

Regina Quadra Area 1

Marilyn Buchi Area 5

Amy Dudich Area 5

FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jordan Abushawish Area 3

N. O.C. COMMUNITY COLLEGE DIST.

Barbara Dunsheath Area 1

Rama Maline Area 1

Chloe Serrano Area 3

Jeff Brown Area 6

Paulette Chaffee Area 6

Jesus J. Silva Area 6

SPONSORED BY

