

Fullerton Keeps Republic Services as Trash Hauler

by Saskia Kennedy

The Fullerton City Council on Tuesday, October 6, chose to keep Republic Services as the city’s trash and recycling hauler. The council picked the longtime incumbent over CR&R Environmental Services after months of a competitive process.

The decision came despite a staff presentation that leaned toward CR&R. Supporters on the dais pointed to Republic’s sharply reduced pricing, its lower proposed rates for downtown businesses and the disruption a switch would cause residents, businesses and the hauler’s Fullerton workforce.

The new contract’s services are set to begin July 1, 2027. They include a full rollout of the state’s organic-waste recycling requirements.

The two finalists’ proposed rates for residential, multifamily and commercial customers were close to identical. The gap was downtown, where shared trash enclosures serve a mix of shops, restaurants and residences.

Read more on page 10



FSD’s Tiny Home Project Earns Golden Bell Award for Building Student Success

Fullerton School District has earned a 2026 Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association (CSBA) for its Tiny Home Project at Nicolas Junior High School, where eighth-grade students build homes for District families experiencing homelessness while strengthening academic skills and exploring careers.

The award honors outstanding programs advancing educational excellence across California’s public schools. FSD will accept the honor at CSBA’s Annual Education Conference in December.

Read more on page 3.

Flock License Plate Cameras Suspended for Six Months

The Fullerton City Council voted 3-1 on Tuesday, October 6, to suspend operation of the city’s 19 Flock Safety automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras for six months. The decision comes amid growing concerns about civil liberties and community opposition. During this hiatus, the council plans to hold a town hall meeting, review the police department’s ALPR policy, and seek improved communication and audit protocols from Flock.

Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra initiated the motion, which received support from Councilmembers Dr. Shana Charles and Mayor Pro Tem Nick Dunlap. Councilmember Jamie Valencia opposed the measure, while

Mayor Fred Jung was absent from the vote. The council’s deliberation included nearly three hours of presentations, inquiries, and public comments. Most of the approximately 15 speakers urged the council to discontinue the program entirely.

The current suspension does not terminate the city’s contract with Flock, which is set to run through 2028.

During the meeting, Fullerton Police Chief Jon Radus told the council that Fullerton has used Flock cameras since 2021, including 17 fixed units and two mobile ones, at an annual cost of about \$51,000, totaling about \$236,000 since the program’s inception.

Read more on page 10.

LOBBYING TRANSPARENCY FOR FULLERTON

The Fullerton City Council voted 3-1 on October 6 to explore a lobbyist registration program aimed at increasing transparency in city decision-making. Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra led the initiative.

The City Clerk presented different options for the program, including enhancing existing rules, creating a registry by law, or focusing on specific decisions like land use or major contracts. Key questions include defining a lobbyist, registration triggers, exemptions for nonprofits, reporting frequency, and management responsibilities. City staff mentioned potential costs but noted that registration fees could offset them.

Zahra stated that registration could restore trust in local government and requested information on similar programs in Santa Ana and Anaheim. Mayor Pro Tem Nick Dunlap also suggested clearer rules for ex parte communication as a no-cost option.

Zahra, Shana Charles, and Dunlap voted in favor. Jamie Valencia voted against, and Mayor Fred Jung was absent. Public comments supported a low-cost program for transparency but criticized the putting public comments at the end of the meeting.

The council plans to revisit the lobbyist registry in future meetings.

During regular public comments held at the end of the meeting residents raised issues including campaign sign enforcement, the mayor’s remote attendance, services for the homeless, discounted bus passes for seniors, and election-related intimidation concerns.

The next city council meeting is on October 20 at 5:30 pm at city hall located at 303 West Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton.

CORRECTION

The article: *Dr. Vicki Calhoun and Dr. Karl Zener Inducted into Fullerton Union High School’s Wall of Fame* in the Early October issue article incorrectly stated that Dr. Vicki Calhoun recorded with the Red Hot Chili Peppers, performed with Pearl Jam and Chris Cornell. She did not record with anyone except the Red Hot Chili Peppers. She sang with Pearl Jam at the Hollywood Palladium, and she sang with the late Chris Cornell of Soundgarden. Dr. Calhoun clarified the information for the Fullerton Observer on 9/4/2026.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you Observer

You are indispensable to Fullerton. Keep up your great works.
Larry and Roseanne Fullerton

Thank you Observer

Thanks for the great paper! *Penny Hlavac Fullerton*

Not Happy with New Waste Services

What a great job you all do. Thanks for the hard work. I appreciate all the information. Question though – is the \$39 for the year? Please advise.
Sharon SiKand Pennsylvania

Observer Response

Dear Sharon,
Thank you for your kind words regarding our work. We value our readers and strive to provide useful community information, no matter where you are. The \$39 fee covers a one-year mailed subscription, but please note that prices will be increasing soon.
Observer Editor Saskia Kennedy

Disappointed with the Fullerton Observer

I am disappointed that the Fullerton Observer is no longer non-partisan. Each paper that I have picked up since the new ownership has several articles biased politically.
For example, in this latest issue, you included league of women voters recommendations however there are alternative viewpoints and recommendations, such as Reform California and Howard Jarvis and probably others.
You should remove the words independent and non-partisan from the paper and you should change the name to Fullerton Opinion, not Fullerton Observer. I would actually prefer you become more inclusive to other viewpoints to truly reflect Fullerton.
Carole A. Johnson Fullerton

Observer Response

Dear Carole,
Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns. We appreciate your feedback and understand the importance of maintaining public trust in the Fullerton Observer.
We recognize that readers may have different political perspectives and that no single organization represents every viewpoint.
I would like to clarify one aspect of your comments regarding the League of Women Voters.
The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that provides voter education and conducts research on ballot measures and public policy issues. Through educational events and discussions with experts, the League works to help voters understand ballot measures and make informed decisions.
We believe a community newspaper should encourage thoughtful discussion, hold public officials accountable and give readers access to information from a variety of perspectives.
We recognize that maintaining that trust requires ongoing effort and a willingness to listen to criticism.
We welcome feedback from our readers and hope you will continue to engage with the Fullerton Observer.
Observer Editor Saskia Kennedy

The Fullerton City Council's unanimous vote on October 6th to award the new waste services contract to Republic Services seemed to reflect a common belief, especially heading into the November election, that keeping the current hauler would be the least disruptive choice. I understand that view, but I was disappointed by the decision.
Council passed on an opportunity to pursue a better deal for multifamily residents. CR&R offered to negotiate temporary discounts that could have helped bring multifamily trash rates closer to those paid by single-family households while also supporting recycling and organics compliance. Rather than immediately raising the franchise fee from 7% to 10%, the City could have used the additional revenue to provide temporary rate relief for multifamily residents.
The City also left money on the table. CR&R offered \$4.25 million for road and infrastructure improvements. Republic's offer was effectively about \$500,000 less after accounting for proposal-related reimbursements.
Supporters of the decision often argued that keeping the incumbent would avoid disruption. But major

changes are coming no matter who holds the contract. Most single-family homes already have separate trash, recycling, and organics service and are unlikely to notice major differences. The real challenge will be rolling out those services to multifamily communities and commercial properties, which will require new containers, new collection schedules, and extensive customer education.
I hope Republic succeeds. In fact, it may be in Republic's own interest to support stronger safeguards in the agreement. The contract places significant compliance and legal risk on the franchisee.
If questions arise in the future about whether rates are proportional to the cost of service, Republic could bear much of that burden. A contractual requirement to perform a Cost of Services Analysis, followed by an opportunity for the City Council to consider rate adjustments based on actual operating data, could help protect the company, the City, and ratepayers alike.
Fullerton residents deserve fair rates, clear communication, and a successful rollout of these new services.
Jeffrey Otter Fullerton

Teach Children to Respect Wildlife, Not Harm It

I strongly oppose the fishing derby promoted by Chaffee and the City of Fullerton. Stocking fish for an event where children catch them for recreation sends the wrong message about how we should treat other living creatures.
Fishing lines left behind can entangle wildlife, while discarded hooks can injure birds and other animals. Fish are also capable of experiencing pain, and catching and releasing them can cause injury and stress.
Why should we make harming animals a children's activity when there are so many better ways to introduce them to nature?
We could teach children to appreciate wildlife, protect the environment and respect living creatures. Fullerton could organize nature walks, wildlife talks, tree planting, community gardening or interactive activities that help children understand and care for the natural world.

We do not need to kill animals for entertainment to teach children about nature. We should be encouraging compassion, responsibility and stewardship instead. Children could also learn about the connection between food, health and the environment. Research involving more than 2.2 million adults has found that diets emphasizing healthy plant foods are associated with lower risks of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and premature death. Teaching children about nutritious plant-based foods would be a valuable addition to environmental education.
Our city has an opportunity to inspire the next generation to become environmental stewards. Let's replace the fishing derby with activities that celebrate wildlife rather than put it at risk.
Children deserve to learn that protecting life is more valuable than taking it for fun.
Anne Davie Fullerton

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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.

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FAST Kicks Off Fall Season with Intrasquad Meet

by Leslie Brown

The Fullerton Aquatics Sports Team (FAST) launched its fall season with an exciting intrasquad meet, featuring 240 athletes competing in various events.

The atmosphere was lively, marked by fun and festivities at the Janet Evans Swim Complex in Independence Park, where participants and their families enjoyed two water slides and delicious pizza.

This event not only showcased the talents of the young athletes but also fostered a sense of community among the swimmers and their supporters.

For more information about the FAST program and upcoming events at the Janet Evans Swim Complex, visit fastswimming.net or contact Lauren Morford at lmorford@fastswimming.net.

Fullerton Artist Delivers Knicks Painting to Filmmaker Spike Lee

by Saskia Kennedy

A painting celebrating New York Knicks basketball and New York City culture has connected a Fullerton artist and filmmaker with one of his creative heroes: filmmaker and longtime Knicks fan Spike Lee.

Ethan Javonillo, a Filipino American artist and filmmaker who works as an administrative assistant in Chapman University’s Art Department, recently traveled from California to Brooklyn, New York, to personally deliver his mixed-media painting, “The Garden,” to Lee, who purchased the artwork after discovering it online.

The story began in May, when Javonillo posted a photograph of the original painting on Instagram and tagged Lee and the Knicks. The piece had been commissioned by a family member who grew up in Queens, New York. Javonillo did not expect a response. The next morning, however, he received a direct message from Lee asking, “How Much?”

Initially skeptical that the message was genuine, Javonillo confirmed that it came from Lee. The filmmaker’s interest was particularly meaningful because Javonillo considers Lee one of his favorite filmmakers and a major creative inspiration. After the Knicks’ championship victory, Javonillo updated the painting to include the words “2026 NBA Champs.”

Rather than ship the painting, Javonillo decided to fly to New York to deliver it in person at 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks, Lee’s production company office in Brooklyn. Although Lee had acknowledged his plans, Javonillo was unsure whether the filmmaker would be available to meet him.

As Javonillo took photographs outside the office, Lee arrived. Javonillo was invited inside to unpack and present the painting to him. The two posed for a photograph, and Javonillo had the opportunity to tell Lee how much his work and support meant to him.

Lee encouraged Javonillo to continue his creative work, signed a book and gave him merchandise from his restaurant, Spike’s Joint.

For Javonillo, the encounter was a memorable milestone in his artistic career and a reminder of the unexpected opportunities that can come from sharing creative work.

“I couldn’t have predicted the way this unfolded, not in my wildest dreams,” Javonillo said.

A lifelong Fullerton resident, Javonillo continues to develop his work as an artist and filmmaker. The experience, he said, reinforced the value of taking creative risks and sharing work without knowing where it might lead.



Fullerton artist Ethan Javonillo delivering his mixed-media artwork to renowned filmmaker Spike Lee at Lee’s company office in Brooklyn.

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FSD’s Tiny Home Project Earns Golden Bell Award for Building Student Success

continued from the front page

“This award is a proud moment for our District, recognizing collaboration across departments to strengthen academic achievement, open career pathways and support families in need,” Superintendent Gretchen Janson, Ed.D., said. “Seeing those efforts come together through the work of our students shows the impact we are making as a District.”

Launched in 2022, the Construction Academy integrates reading, writing and math with hands-on construction. Students have completed three fully furnished, 192-square-foot homes.

In 2024-25, participating English learners, long-term English learners and socioeconomically disadvantaged students demonstrated stronger academic performance, higher attendance and lower suspension rates than comparable peers outside the academy. One student housed through the project went from chronic absences and D’s and F’s to daily attendance and A’s and B’s.

Supported by a \$525,000 Orange County Department of Education Innovation Grant, the project reflects Fullerton School District’s commitment to purposeful learning that strengthens achievement, expands career opportunities and helps families build stability.

Fullerton School District and Joint Union High School District

Discuss Updated Student Mental Health Programs

by Vivien Moreno

At both the Fullerton School District (FSD) and Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHSD) board meetings on October 13, administration presented trustees with updated student mental health and wellness programs. FSD detailed their support services and providers, but is still accumulating data for trustees to review student outcomes correlated to these services.

FJUHSD took data and formed a correlation between greater mental health services and outcomes. FJUHSD’s presentation offered little description of services or explained what a School-Based Wellness Health campaign entailed, even though it was a “Featured Accomplishment” in the presentation. None of the FJUHSD trustees publicly asked for descriptions or examples.

Tier 1 supports, as defined by FSD’s Deputy Superintendent Dr. Chad Hammitt, Human Resources and Dr. Julie Brandon, Health Services Director IV at FSD, include school-wide programs that provide preventative wellness measures like Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) programs and academic support programs to foster resilience and allow for safe relationship building.

Tier 2 targets support taking form in small restorative group interventions, including FJUHSD’s Wellness Centers and FSD’s Calm Cafés. Tier 3 interventions are intense, individualized, and rare. These range from therapy with licensed Psychologists to outside intervention from care providers like Care Solace, Hazel Health and Daybreak services.

The FSD presentation defined different staff levels and noted staffing increases districtwide. FSD has 54.7 staff positions, adding over 20 mental wellness staff over 5 years. Staff includes licensed Mental Health Counseling Specialists (MHCS) who offer full-spectrum support. They oversee Mental Health Associates (MHA), who are accumulating 3,000 hours of social work time to become licensed MHCS.

School Counselors are Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) accredited and primarily serve as academic advisors, offer mental health support, sit on student intervention Team (SIT) meetings, and help oversee small counseling groups.

School Psychologists are fully credentialed, support SIT meetings, assess for special education identification, conduct risk assessments, and create student re-entry plans. FJUHSD has similar staff on their wellness team and additional Student Service Assistant Principals at all 7 sites, but staff numbers were not given.

Both districts serve thousands of students each year. FSD provided mental wellness supports to approximately 3,300 students last year, accounting for

about 1/3 of the district’s population. FJUHSD’s Director of Student Services, Allen Whitten, listed 13,806 tier 1-3 support service requests, which included crisis meetings, suicide risk screenings, and hospital re-entry plans. No FJUHSD trustee publicly asked the total number of students served.

FJUHSD presented a lean look at actual mental health wellness programs, but Mr. Whitten said their new Wellness Campaign program was tailored to uniquely fit each individual school site. The purpose of the program was not stated; whether it familiarizes students with district mental health services options or trains students to self-determine if they need to access mental health support was not clarified.

FSD’s multiple wellness programs include the Dual Referral process, allowing teachers and parents to request risk assessment after all Tier 1 and 2 supports are exhausted. FSD Trustee Vanesa Estrella said the Calm Cafés will expand to 11 sites this year. FSD plans to open Calm Cafés at all school sites.

FJUHSD’s Mr. Whitten connected the rise in mental health services to higher academic achievements and better school climate districtwide. FJUHSD experienced lower suspension rates, going from 2,066 in 23/24 to 1,564 suspensions in the 24/25 school year.

School climate is safer, with down-trends in weapon possession, altercations, and drug or alcohol possession.

Academic trends rose, with English Language Arts (ELA) up 2 percentage points to 65% meeting or exceeding competency, math increased by 7 points, and science increased by 8 points districtwide. Science is still one point below the Orange County average at 47% competency, with the district performing above Orange County in ELA and mathematics.

FSD is aggregating broad data without compromising privacy to see if the mental wellness services are making a difference in academic achievement, attendance, and classroom management. FSD Trustee Ruthi Hanchett wants to make sure FSD resources are allocated purposefully and best serving student needs.

In most cases, elementary and high school students require short-term, mild to moderate mental wellness support to deal with educational blocks, social skill issues, and unique crisis situations, and the resulting academic impact is quick.

Both Districts continue to emphasize protocols reinforcing students’ needs for mental health care to be met at whatever level of service they need during times of crisis.

The next FSD board meeting is Tuesday, November 17, at 6:00 pm.

The next FJUHSD board meeting is Tuesday, November 10, at 6:00 pm.

Both districts continue to emphasize protocols reinforcing students’ needs for mental health care to be met at whatever level of service they need during times of crisis.



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Beyond the Pink Ribbon
by Olive, 11th Grade

October is filled with pumpkin patches, apple picking and spooky stories, but there is another reason the month is important. From October 1 to 31, Breast Cancer Awareness Month promotes education, early detection and support for those affected by the disease.

The campaign encourages regular mammograms and routine self-examinations to help detect breast cancer early. Fundraisers support medical research, survivors are honored and patients are encouraged throughout their journeys. The iconic pink ribbon symbolizes awareness and solidarity, while community events and public education campaigns help spread information.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is more than an annual campaign; it is a call to action that can save lives. By supporting patients and survivors and continuing to fund research, communities can help advance prevention, improve treatment and move closer to a future where fewer lives are affected by breast cancer.



Local Events to Celebrate Halloween
by Yoyo, 9th Grade

This year, Halloween falls on a Saturday, meaning spooky celebrations will be in full swing.

While mountains of candy and horror movie marathons offer plenty to look forward to, incredible local events right here in Fullerton can help you make the most of the season!

Throughout October, the Fullerton Museum Center is hosting Haunted Fullerton Walking Tours on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The tours explore intriguing sites, including Villa del Sol and the Fox Theater, sharing tales of supernatural hauntings and local legends in Downtown Fullerton. Tickets also include access to the museum's Final Rites: Death, Mourning, and Beyond gallery and are available on the Fullerton Museum Center's website.

For those seeking suspenseful entertainment, the Maverick Theater is presenting Night of the Living Dead, adapted and directed by Brian Newell. The production follows a group of people barricaded inside a farmhouse as they attempt to escape a horde of flesh-eating zombies. Running from October 9 through 31, the show offers a thrilling night out for the spooky season. Tickets are available on the Maverick Theater's website.

Whether you prefer exploring eerie historical sites in Downtown Fullerton or enjoying a thrilling night at the theater, the local calendar offers plenty of ways to celebrate. Make the most of Halloween by experiencing one of these unique local events!



Featured Pet: Zeke by Jules, 10th Grade

Looking for the paw-fect addition to your group costume? This spooky season, explore rescue opportunities! Sweeter than candy, 15-week-old Zeke would make the most adorable big bad wolf. Ready to meet his emotional support human, this pup may seem shy at first but quickly becomes playful once he gets acquainted.

A Doberman Pinscher and Labrador Retriever mix, Zeke would thrive in an active household. Still a baby, he would flourish in a nurturing environment where he can learn commands and adjust to his new life.

Interested in meeting or adopting Zeke? Contact OC Animal Care at (714) 935-6848 and provide his animal ID: A1979332.



Bruno Mars: The Romantic Tour
by Dahlia, 8th Grade

The crowd erupts in cheers as Bruno Mars takes the stage at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood. Fans fill the venue in red and black, wearing bandanas, silk pajama sets and leather boots to honor the show's theme — The Romantic, a five-show residency, between September 30 and October 7.

The concert begins with a prerecorded video displayed on the jumbotrons: Bruno Mars, dressed in a red suit, boots and a cowboy hat, enters a beautifully decorated church. He kneels at a pew and prays for a good show and the protection of his band and audience.

Then, the artist himself appears onstage, performing his newest song, "Risk It All." Throughout the show, the audience realizes that Bruno can do it all. He plays the guitar, conga drums and piano while delivering effortless vocals and dance moves.

Many fans appreciate how Bruno's latest album reflects his Latin roots, as his father is Puerto Rican. To celebrate his culture, he performs "Something Serious" and "La Mugra," featuring riffs from "La Bamba" and "La Pulga" that feel unlocked from heaven.

Soon after, his Silk Sonic partner Anderson .Paak joins him onstage for duets including "777," "Fly as Me" and "Leave the Door Open."

Fans are stunned to discover that .Paak had also been performing as the tour's opening DJ in a wig under his alter ego, DeeJay Pee Wee. RAYE also opens the show, ending her set with her hit "Where is my husband!"

Near the end of the concert, audience members belt out Bruno Mars's classic hits, bringing many to tears. At the piano, he performs a mashup of "Grenade," "Marry You," "Die With a Smile" and "Locked Out of Heaven." Before taking his final bow, Mars gets the crowd on its feet with "Uptown Funk." With his smooth dance moves, powerful voice and ability to play multiple instruments, Bruno Mars proves himself to be a modern Renaissance man.



Natural disasters:
Preparing and mitigating impacts
by Alicia, 9th Grade, Troy Preparedness Club

Natural disasters can strike at any moment, leaving chaos and destruction behind and killing thousands of people. Hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, wildfires and landslides can destroy homes, infrastructure and even entire communities.

This year's events confirm the need for preparation. Hurricane Isaias was recently spotted near Florida as a Category 2 storm, threatening high winds, flooding and tornadoes, while Hurricane Simon turned toward Mexico, raising the risk of flooding and mudslides. The Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System reports recent earthquakes in Panama, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, and heavy flooding in the United States, China, Mexico, India and Senegal.

Preparation starts at home: Have an action plan, know the risks in your area, keep supplies on hand and follow official alerts and instructions. Communities and schools can hold drills so people know exactly what to do in an emergency. These steps may seem simple, but they are vital when seconds count.

Governments also play a major role. They can require buildings to withstand natural forces, build dikes, levees and dams to prevent flooding, and clear debris from waterways and stabilize slopes to reduce landslide risk. Technology helps forecasters predict disasters more accurately and helps emergency crews respond faster. All of this requires funding, so governments and nonprofits work to maintain specialized rescue equipment.

Climate patterns matter, too. In California, an El Niño pattern has officials concerned about floods, landslides and coastal erosion. Landslides pose the greatest danger in wildfire-scarred areas, where hillsides have lost the vegetation that holds soil in place and absorbs rain.

No one can predict or control every disaster, but people can reduce their impact, and preparation saves lives and property. Government agencies lead disaster response, but everyone should stay alert rather than rely on officials alone. With sufficient preparation, the toll of natural disasters can be minimized.

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Located at 142 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton. Lace and Luck is open from 11 am to 6 pm Tuesday through Thursday, 11 am to 7 pm Friday and Saturday, and 11 am to 5 pm on Sunday. Closed on Mondays.

Today, Evalynne Campos runs Lace and Luck, a boutique focused on helping customers find their personal style and build confidence.

But 11 years ago, she was selling clothes online from her bedroom while working full time at a retail store.

Before launching her business, Campos attended the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, where she gained insight into the clothing industry and discovered her interest in sourcing pieces and the business side of fashion.

She said she has always had an eye

for putting pieces together, but designing clothes wasn't her strong suit.

"I knew very early on that I wanted to be a buyer for certain stores," she said.

Shortly after, she got the idea to start her own online store, and Lace and Luck was born.

"It all started in my bedroom. I literally had a rack that I bought, and I went to go buy clothes," she said. "It was a little difficult, but it was just online, so whenever someone would place an order, it was easy for me to ship clothes out."

When the business outgrew her bedroom, Campos opened a storefront in Anaheim. She later moved to Fullerton for more space.

Campos, a Fullerton native, said having a store in the city where she was born and raised was a dream.

"I have lived here my whole entire life, and I feel like it was natural for me," she said. "The social life here, all the good spots — Fullerton is just home."

Campos said building her business online before opening a storefront helped her develop a community of customers.

Lace and Luck has been in Fullerton for about six years. Campos focuses on outfits that are both stylish and timeless, ranging from everyday basics and graphic tees to seasonal clothes and some trendy pieces.

"I think the store is the perfect mix," she said. "In the beginning, I chose clothes that I thought people wanted, and then when it did not feel as authentic, I started bringing in items that I would wear. I think that I found the perfect balance."

She still sells clothes through Lace and Luck's website and stays busy with both in-store tasks and packing online orders.

With online shopping growing in popularity, Campos wants her website to be easy to navigate and to feel similar to shopping in person.

"I think it is very important to make online shopping easy both on a desktop and phone," she said. "We also try really hard to not use AI pictures. We try to be authentic enough to show what the clothes look like."

One of Campos' favorite parts of

running a storefront is interacting with customers and seeing them gain confidence through their clothes.

"I even have people coming in and saying, 'Thank you, I found something I would have never tried on if it wasn't for you,'" she said. "I am pretty good at gauging what people will feel comfortable with."

Though she describes herself as introverted, Campos enjoys talking with customers about the pieces she has selected.

"I never realized until we actually opened the store that I really love interacting with customers," she said. "Surprisingly, it came so naturally to me when people are coming in and asking for certain items, and I can just talk on and on."

As an independent business owner, Campos vets all her clothing vendors herself to ensure customers get high-quality clothes at affordable prices. That includes working with Latino vendors as a way to honor her Mexican heritage.

"I think coming from a Latino community, we want to have items that are cute but also affordable and not sacrifice one or the other," she said. "Now that I am able to give exposure to Hispanic-owned vendors, I think it is important to do that."

Above all, Lace and Luck has a reputation as a welcoming store, with Campos emphasizing inclusive sizing and kind customer service.

"I always try to make sure that people are first and foremost comfortable, feel safe shopping and not be judged," she said.

Visit Lace and Luck's online store: laceandluck.com

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✓ IMPROVE TRANSFER RATES and strive to enhance the on-campus experience.

✓ SUPPORT VETERANS with effective programs and services.

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

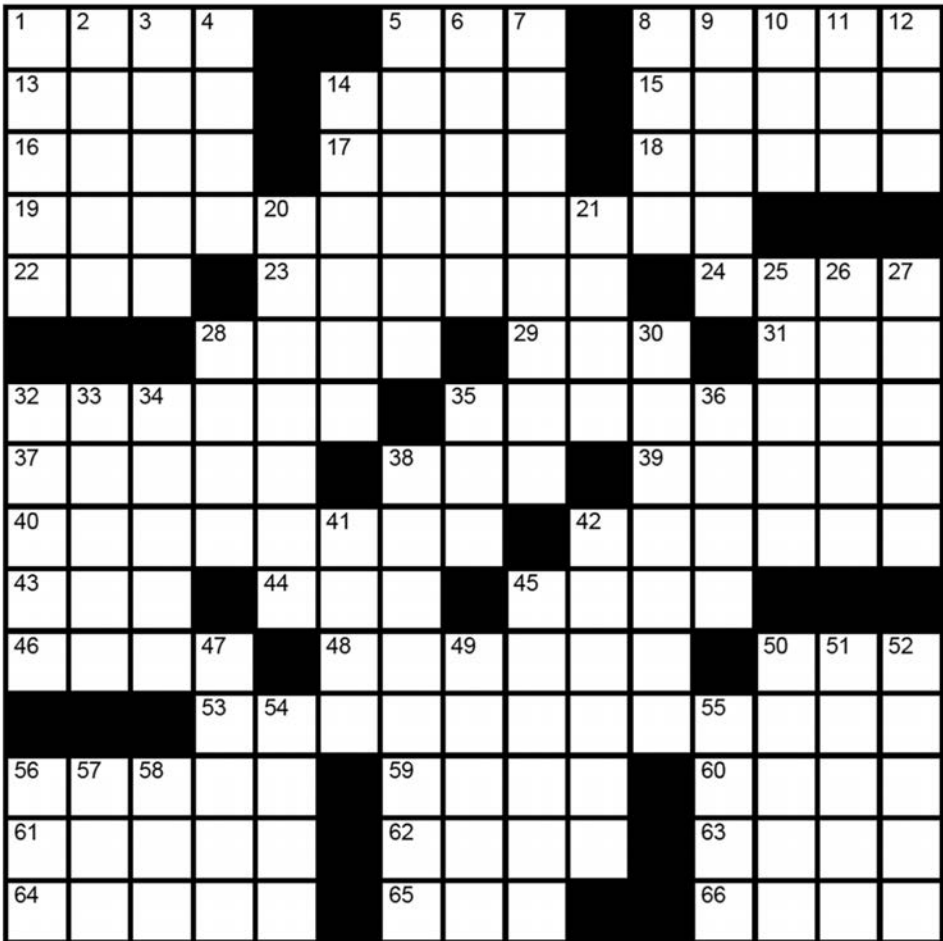


Paid for by Paulette Chaffee for NOCCCD Trustee 2026

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OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2026

"SWEET" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 15)



ACROSS

1. Heavy
5. Opposite NNE
8. ____ Chica State Beach
13. Grabbing-the-tab words
14. Buzzi of "Laugh-In"
15. Fencing needs
16. Cambridge colleges, for short
17. "Buy It Now" site
18. Root vegetables
19. Klutz's favorite candy?
22. Carol contraction
23. Kind of doll
24. Coldplay song, "____ Full of Stars"
28. French fashion designer Christian
29. "Mud" actor Sheridan
31. Chemical suffix
32. Rise up
35. Mensa member's favorite candy?
37. "He's ____ breed!" (backhanded compliment)
38. Michael of "SNL"
39. Like many whiskey barrels
40. Neil deGrasse Tyson's favorite candy?
42. Ferdinand to Isabella, por ejemplo
43. Curling surface
44. ____ al-Fitr (a new California state holiday in 2026)
45. Trident-shaped letters
46. Fill to the gills
48. "I'd ____ Buy the World a Coke" (1971 jingle)
50. Atlanta-based health agcy.
53. "Yellowstone" character's favorite candy?
56. Sleep disorder
59. ____ and found
60. Sheryl Crow's "____ Wanna Do"
61. Georgia fruit
62. Stick ____ in (test the waters)
63. Peacenik's favorite candy?
64. Language family that includes Swahili
65. Chili ____ carne
66. Local candy shop

DOWN

1. Question
2. Boredom
3. Radiates
4. Bother
5. Relieve, as a starter
6. Strait-laced
7. 1984 #1 country hit by The Judds
8. Tony winner Neuwirth
9. "Die Fledermaus," e.g.
10. "Sense and Sensibility" director Ang
11. Band performance
12. Jenny, e.g.
14. Transplant, as a plant
20. Curse
21. Spanish painter Francisco
25. Watch brand
26. Leg joints
27. Simple question type
28. Awkward sort
30. Shoreline problem
32. "Groundhog Day" director
33. "All My Children" vixen
34. Man's man
35. Reserved
36. A little night music
38. Detroit's founder
41. 'BoJack Horseman" actor Arnett
42. What's left behind
45. Human
47. VCR button
49. Former capital of Japan
50. "Nomadland" Oscar winner Zhao
51. Search (into)
52. Weeps
54. Hawaiian island
55. Heels
56. Police alert, for short
57. Shade of green
58. Palindromic girl's name

HITS & MISSES

by Pamela Mason Wagner © 2026



THE SOCIAL RECKONING:

Two Hits

The real star of The Social Reckoning is Oscar-winning writer-director Aaron Sorkin, who offers this new story as a bookend to his 2010 film The Social Network. That earlier movie is more fun to watch, portraying social media as a promising new industry. But it also plants the seed that Mark Zuckerberg lacks a moral compass. The new film rages and weeps over what social media has wrought. The snappy, intelligent, fast-paced dialogue is instantly recognizable to anyone who has seen The West Wing, Moneyball, The American President, or Charlie Wilson's War. Sorkin's obsession with power, politics, and money endures in this takedown of Facebook and its founder.

The story follows real-life Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen, perfectly portrayed by my favorite new actress, Mikey Madison, who burst onto the scene with Anora—and an Oscar. There, she led with sex appeal, a Bronx accent, and a tough but wounded persona. Here, she projects intelligence and a socially insecure, buttoned-up professionalism. In her words, she's the smartest "girl in the class with her hand up, that nobody wants the teacher to call on." As her co-conspirator and occasional sparring partner, Wall Street Journal investigative reporter Jeff Horwitz, Jeremy Allen White delivers a credible, if slightly soft-spoken, performance. He's the Woodward/Bernstein to her Deep Throat.

The third leg of the stool is Mark Zuckerberg, austere portrayed by Jeremy Strong, whose other villainous roles include Roy Cohn in The Apprentice and Kendall Roy in Succession. In a New Yorker interview with David Remnick, Strong credits his ability to inhabit a character completely to a preproduction investigative process that "leaves no stone unturned." He describes his job as fighting Zuckerberg's fight and "trying to have an empathetic understanding of this person's struggle," acknowledg-



ing that such an approach may be unpopular in the current climate.

The film meticulously deconstructs the fallout from Facebook's 2018 algorithm change, which prioritized "meaningful social interactions" (MSI), supposedly favoring family photos over ads. What sounds benign was, in the film's telling, a Trojan horse for a shift that favored reshares over likes. What drives reshares? Outrage and anger—"rage-bait." The film argues that Facebook is directly responsible for the January 6, 2021 insurrection by amplifying right-wing misinformation about COVID-19 and the false claim that Trump won the 2020 election. Haugen explains that 64% of extremists were sent to right-wing militia groups by Facebook's algorithm – and that Facebook knew it and did nothing. Zuckerberg's free-speech defense counters comparisons to Big Tobacco concealing evidence of cigarettes' dangers: "We're not the referee, we're the public square."

The film raises other troubling existential questions. Zuckerberg reminds someone that Facebook, later Meta, is twice as big as any country, creating what he calls a post-government society. It also explores the struggle between technology and journalism, with journalism losing ground. Where did we once get our news? Now, the film claims, 43% of Americans get it—unchecked—from Facebook. Will The Social Reckoning serve as a much-needed wake-up call? Unlikely. Only eight other people were in the theater on opening night.

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

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"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

TAROT
READING



myselfismycards.com

Electric Company Theatre Turns Theatrical Chaos Into Comedy in The Servant of Two Masters from November 2 through 17

What happens when an underfunded theater company takes on one of the greatest comedies in theatrical history with more ambition than resources? The answer is *The Servant of Two Masters*, presented by Electric Company Theatre (ECT), November 2–17, 2026, at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center in Fullerton.

Directed by ECT Co-Artistic Director Brian Johnson and starring Bobby Gonzalez as the irrepressible Truffaldino, this ECT-centric adaptation brings a fresh, self-aware twist to Carlo Goldoni’s classic comedy, celebrating the resourcefulness, resilience, and sheer determination of theater artists who refuse to let a limited budget stand in the way of a good show.

At the center of the madness is Truffaldino, played by Bobby Gonzalez, a servant whose decision to work for two masters sets off a chain reaction of mistaken identities, romantic complications, and escalating misunderstandings. Truffaldino’s desperate attempts to keep both employers happy provide the engine for Goldoni’s fast-paced comedy, while ECT’s self-deprecating framework adds another layer of hilarity: a troupe of actors doing everything in their power to make the magic of theater happen, even when the odds (and the budget) are stacked against them.

First performed in 1746, Goldoni’s *The Servant of Two Masters* remains a cornerstone of physical comedy and commedia dell’arte, the Italian theatrical tradition known for its stock characters, improvisational spirit, and exuberant physicality. The result is a celebration of the creative spirit: a reminder that theater is not about how much money you have, but what you can make happen with what you have.

The Servant of Two Masters runs November 2–17, 2026, at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center in Fullerton.



PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Production: *The Servant of Two Masters*
Presented by: Electric Company Theatre (ECT) Directed by Brian Johnson with lighting design by Matt Mankiewicz and costumes by Haven Hanson
Starring: Bobby Gonzalez as Truffaldino, Callie Prendiville Johnson as Beatrice, Wesley Chavez as Florindo, Renee Curtis as Smeraldina, Emily Taylor as Clarice (and choreography), Jared Lindsay as Sylvio, Patrick Peterson as Pantalone, James McFarlane as Dottore, Shyanne Marin as Brighella, with Gabriel Liron, Jose Orozco, and Michael Reehl as ensemble.
Venue: The Muckenthaler Cultural Center, Fullerton, California
Dates: November 2–17, 2026
Tickets: our.show/ectservant

The Servant of Two Masters will be performed outdoors on the amphitheater stage of The Muck. In the event of rain, the show will be performed inside The Muck gallery.

Positive aging and successful retirement by Jeanette Reese

Retirement can be an enticing word until we meet it face to face. Before retirement, we are engaged in our work, our family life or both. Our daily tasks are clear, if not expected. Then, suddenly, we face this new experience called retirement.

It isn’t easy to redefine our lives when our daily purpose evaporates before our eyes. And it isn’t just purpose we can lose, but also the personal growth and socialization that are critical to human development. Seniors have choices. They can “drop the mic” and walk off the stage, or they can redesign their lives to create a new sense of purpose, stay socially engaged and keep challenging their brains to learn. Help is available.

The Fullerton Community Center will host a work-

shop titled “Positive Aging and Successful Retirement” from 10 to 11:30 am on Wednesday, November 4. Presented by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at California State University, Fullerton, better known as OLLI-CSUF, the program focuses on helping seniors redesign their lives after retiring.

The workshop covers four topics designed to challenge the brain. Robert Kovacev will explain why a successful retirement doesn’t happen by accident. It takes an assessment of your interests and the know-how to match them with compatible activities and organizations.

Dance is another way to keep the brain active. Research suggests that combining music with move-

ment may help grow new brain cells and slow age-related brain shrinkage, while also lifting our spirits. And the options don’t stop with dance. Marge Osborn will share how singing and playing instruments also promote positive aging.

One topic benefits every generation: artificial intelligence. Danny Torres will help seniors ease their fears about AI and embrace the changes it can bring. Letting go of fear shifts the body and mind out of a chronic fight-or-flight state, improving emotional clarity and well-being. Becoming a senior citizen isn’t a death sentence. It’s an opportunity to redesign your life into a new and exciting future. So join the workshop at 10 am on November 4. Get involved. Slow dementia, or better yet, kick it in the shins!



NOCHE DE MUERTOS FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 1
3:00PM - 7:00PM

DOWNTOWN FULLERTON PLAZA
FULLERTON MUSEUM CENTER

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OCTOBER 25TH
6:00PM

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JAZZ

VESPERS

FEATURING
MEL COLLINS
& THE RON KOBAYASHI TRIO



LIVE OAK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
300 E IMPERIAL HWY. BREA

OCTOBER

19 Monday

—TAKE A HIKE—

FREE: Juanita Cooke Greenbelt & Trail (2.79 mi): 1275 N. Berkeley Avenue, Fullerton

Brea Dam Trail (1.59 mi): 1700 N Harbor Boulevard, Fullerton

East Coyote Hills Trail (1.79 mi): 3300 State College Boulevard, Fullerton

Hiltscher Park Trail (1.39 mi): 1002 N. Euclid Street, Fullerton

20 Tuesday

—FAMILY TIME—

10:00 to 11:00am: Interactive Storytime: Clapping, moving, and reading silly stories and rhymes! All ages welcome.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Hunt Library

201 S Basque Ave, Fullerton

714-738-6365

21 Wednesday

—MARKET—

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

Fullerton Downtown Plaza

125 E. Wilshire Ave, Fullerton

(714) 738-6575

22 Thursday

—SENIOR DANCE—

3:00 to 6:00pm: Halloween Bash Social: Dancing Music, costume contest - winners get prizes!

Fullerton Community Center

340 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton

(714) 738-6353

—CROCHET—

5:30 to 7:00pm: Volunteers crochet hats for cancer fighters!: Cap Crusaders invite volunteers to crochet/knit at the event, turn in hats, donate yarn, and make some great friends!

Denny's

2920 E Nutwood Ave, Fullerton

23 Friday

—FAMILY TIME—

10:30 to 11:30am: Sign Baby Sign: Join us for an informal weekly workshop that introduces you and your baby to American Sign Language! Learn basic signs to increase communication and reduce frustration for both you and your child! Designed for infants and babies and their caregivers!

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Fullerton Public Library

Osborne Auditorium

353 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton

(714) 738-6326

24 Saturday

—SPEAKER—

3:00 to 5:00pm: Mummies!: FREE

Learn how and why ancient Egyptians preserved the dead, and discover how other societies around the world practiced mummification.

Fullerton Public Library

Osborne Auditorium

353 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton

(714) 738-6326

25 Sunday

—PSYCHIC—

3:00 to 5:00pm: Group Psychic Spirit Circle & Divination: \$18

Capacity limited. Curious about the supernatural and divination?

IPSO FACTO

517 N. Harbor Blvd. Fullerton

26 Monday

—GET EDUCATED—

4:00 to 5:30pm: Propositions 101: Ballot Measures: Join Professor Jodi Balma as she explains the pros and cons of 14 statewide ballot measures. Learn who is supporting or opposing.

Fullerton College

321 E Chapman Ave, Fullerton

Room 224 upstairs from the cafeteria

27 Tuesday

—FAMILY TIME—

10:00 to 11:00am: HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR: Reading silly stories and rhymes! Crafts, snacks, and other surprises. All ages welcome.

COSTUMES ARE ENCOURAGED

Hunt Library

201 S Basque Ave, Fullerton

714-738-6365

28 Wednesday

—MARKET—

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

Fullerton Downtown Plaza

125 E. Wilshire Ave, Fullerton

(714) 738-6575

29 Thursday

—FESTIVAL—

4:30 to 8:30pm: Octoboofest: Night market, art walk, food vendors, bounce house, face paint, live entertainment, and trick-ortreat

Downtown Plaza

125 E Wilshire Ave, Fullerton

30 Friday

—HALLOWEEN—

5:00 to 9:00pm: Halloween Trunk or Treat & Market: A fun-filled evening with the whole family! Enjoy: Trunk or Treat, Local Vendors, Delicious Treats, Family Friendly Fun, Costumes

Welcome Hosted with the Estrella Family Foundation

Casa 723

723 S Harbor Blvd, Fullerton

(714) 735-7217

31 Saturday

—FAIR—

10:00am to 5:00pm: Artistic License Fair: FREE Celebrating 32 years, the Fair is a fine crafts showfeaturing the highly collected work of over fifty L.A., Orange, and Riverside County artisans. October 31 and November 1.

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center

1201 W Malvern Ave, Fullerton

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themuck.org



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FREE ADMISSION • ALL ARE WELCOME

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

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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

Council Votes 3–1 to Switch Off Flock License Plate Cameras for Six Months

continued from front page

The cameras retain images for 30 days, and 135 police personnel hold accounts with Flock.

Radus emphasized that officers must enter a case number or generic code and provide a reason for each data search. He said the department has shifted to quarterly usage audits, a change from the previous annual assessments.

Notably, recent policy changes ensure the data cannot be used for immigration enforcement, in compliance with California’s SB 54, and that information is shared only with California agencies.

“This is simply a tool that provides a lead,” Radus explained, adding, “No arrests are based solely on a photograph.” He clarified that Fullerton’s cameras capture still images and do not record audio or video. Despite this, Zahra pointed out that the existing policy indicated ALPR data must be stored for at least one year, a claim Radus refuted by saying the language referred to in-car systems the city does not have.

Much of the public inquiry focused on outside agencies’ access to and use of Fullerton’s camera data. Radus noted that these agencies search by license plate instead of downloading Fullerton’s records en masse. Audit logs document who searched the data and when, but concerns lingered regarding the potential misuse of this information.

Councilmember Charles asked whether an outside agency could share results with federal immigration authorities, to which Radus acknowledged the possibility, stating, “Could it be printed and misused? Yes.”

Zahra criticized Flock’s inadequate response to an audit request on external searches, expressing disappointment with the brevity of an employee named Kaci’s reply. A Flock representative on the call apologized for the lack of detail.

Radus admitted that the police department has not formally tracked the contribution of Flock cameras to solved cases. He said they are working to add fields to their records indicating whether Flock was used in investigations. He recounted various serious crimes, such as burglaries and kidnappings, where Flock cameras played a role but hesitated to attribute outcomes solely to the technology.

Public comments revealed significant opposition to the ALPR program. Bianca, a Cal State Fullerton student, noted that around 500 students had signed a petition against the cameras on campus, asserting, “We don’t consent to our car being put in a database.” Other members of the public raised concerns over reported abuses of Flock by law enforcement in other jurisdictions and questioned security vulnerabilities in the technology.

Valencia, who opposed the suspension, proposed continuing the camera operations while gathering data over the next six months. Her motion failed to receive a second.

“I don’t feel comfortable turning off the cameras because they have been helping our police officers,” she stated, later inquiring whether the pause could be shortened to two months.

Zahra shared his personal experience as an immigrant who fled a country marked by pervasive surveillance, asserting that he fully understood the concerns presented.

Charles emphasized that public sentiment, particularly in her district and at the university, showed a strong desire to oppose establishing a mass surveillance state.

Valencia said that she expected coming state and federal legislation to “help make these policies easier for our city.” She also said, “The layperson doesn’t have any idea what a policy is.”

As the council moves forward with its six-month hiatus of Flock cameras, the ongoing dialogue about balancing public safety and civil liberties remains at the forefront of the community’s concerns.

Council Keeps Republic Services as City Trash Hauler

continued from front page

Staff said the difference traced partly to a city error. Bidders were first told downtown costs would be spread across 1,861 units, a count staff later found was too high. A staff member called the original spreadsheet total “my bad.”

When staff noticed how far apart the two downtown bids were, the city issued a corrected unit count and let both firms resubmit. CR&R recalculated, and its downtown organics rate rose. Republic declined to change its offer, saying it was comfortable with its own assumptions as the current hauler.

Staff said it does not know what unit count Republic used, but as the incumbent, it most likely had the correct numbers based on years of experience.

Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra, whose district includes downtown, said small businesses there would pay at least \$60 more for organics service under CR&R.

“For a small business, that’s quite a bit of money,” he said. Staff noted that some downtown businesses are not currently accounted for in billing. Whichever firm won, its first task would be a customer data review covering downtown businesses and multifamily properties.

The city’s waste consultant told the council the choice was close. He called Republic the best of the national firms, while acknowledging “some glitches in the recent history” in Fullerton.

Republic’s pricing ended up about 25% below its opening offer, he said.

“They really want to be your hauler.”

CR&R offered somewhat more in service enhancements, including quarterly curbside collections. But Republic’s commitment to meet 100% of the city’s procurement requirement narrowed that gap, the consultant said. He added that he would not fault the council for choosing either firm.

Staff’s main reservation about Republic was its transition plan. Staff said Republic proposed an immediate rollout, while the city and state want a staged approach under SB 1383, California’s organic-waste law. That approach would start with cleaning up customer data, followed by education and outreach.

Sustainability advisors would then visit businesses and multifamily properties to right-size service and identify those eligible for waivers. Staff also said Republic did not provide a detailed plan for converting existing containers to the state-required colors and labels. Staff added that the gaps could be worked out with either firm after selection.

Councilmember Dr. Shana Charles, who said she has been a union member for 25 years, credited the Republic employees who spoke during public comment. She said they came on their own, not at management’s direction.

Charles likened Republic’s handling of the downtown numbers to catching a professor’s data error during her doctoral oral exam. “They knew downtown so well,” she said, adding that the mistake was understandable given staff’s workload. She said most residents she had heard from were happy with Republic’s service.

Councilmember Jamie Valencia said she had toured Republic’s Anaheim facility and appreciated the company’s responsiveness during the process. “You’ve changed it. You’ve listened,” she said, before moving to select Republic. The motion was seconded.

Zahra said both firms had sharpened their offers over the past year, and that a switch would carry a human cost for residents and workers. “I think we have achieved change,” he said, pointing to Republic’s lower bid.

Mayor Pro Tem Nick Dunlap, who ran the meeting, said he had initially been reluctant to let Republic stay in the running. He noted the process began largely because of Republic’s own shortcomings, and that staff had ranked the company low early on.

Dunlap said Republic “answered the bell” at each stage, and described staff’s presentation as skewed toward CR&R. He rejected the idea that a new hauler would bring immediate improvement. “It’s the same trash, a different bin,” he said.

He called the downtown system a mess and said rates were the deciding factor, adding that no one understands the downtown system better than Republic.

Mayor Fred Jung, who joined remotely, supported the award but delivered the sharpest words of the night for Republic. He said citywide disruption to businesses, residents and seniors was not worth a few pennies in savings.

“Before Republic takes a victory lap,” Jung said, the council would not be here if the company had made timely improvements. He said conditions for awarding the solid waste contract to Republic Services were strict timelines, measurable performance requirements, and enforcement by the City Attorney’s Office. “If customer service and communication problems continue,” Jung said, “the city could award some or all of the contract to one of the other finalists.” He told Republic “Don’t get it twisted.”

Before the vote, Valencia asked that the mayor’s conditions be on the record. Dunlap said they were not part of the motion but were captured in the record through the mayor’s comments.

The motion passed, with all five council members speaking in favor. Staff said the next steps are a kickoff meeting with Republic, a review of customer data and a staged transition plan ahead of the July 1, 2027, start of new services.

Council members also thanked CR&R for staying in the process and pushing both firms toward stronger offers.

“Elections belong to the people. It’s their decision.” — Abraham Lincoln

VOTE IN PERSON

ELECTION DAY
Tues., Nov. 3
7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

2026 General Election

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A.R. Mart 1701 W Orangethorpe Ave, Fullerton	Granada Square 1048 N State College Blvd, Anaheim
CSUF Lot S10 · Drive-Thru 800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton	Mailing it? No stamp needed. Must be postmarked by Nov. 3

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CA Secretary of State

★ **Fullerton Public Library**
353 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church
1231 E Chapman Ave, Fullerton

St. Paul Lutheran Church
111 W Las Palmas Dr, Fullerton

★ **Downtown Anaheim Youth Center**
225 S Philadelphia St, Anaheim

City Church
701 W Broadway, Anaheim

Fullerton College Classified Lounge
321 E Chapman Ave, Fullerton

Public Works Maintenance Yard
1580 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton

CSUF Titan Student Union
800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton

Zion Lutheran Church
222 N East St, Anaheim

American Red Cross Building
1207 N Lemon St, Fullerton

Fullerton Joint Union HSD
1051 W Bastanchury Rd, Fullerton

Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Ch.
995 N West St, Anaheim

Anaheim Union HSD
501 N Crescent Way, Anaheim

VOTE411.org
Nonpartisan guide to what’s on your ballot

ocvote.gov
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Petitions in hand, clock ticking: Fullerton recall campaigns enter new phase

by Elijah Mannasero

Efforts to recall Fullerton Mayor Fred Jung and City Council member Jamie Valencia have entered the signature-gathering phase, with volunteers holding petition-signing events, recruiting supporters and raising money.

The two recall petitions were approved for circulation in September. Since then, organizers have held signing events and expanded outreach to residents in districts 1 and 4.

Organizers describe the recalls as grassroots, volunteer-driven efforts and say residents have responded enthusiastically so far. They are continuing to recruit volunteers and expand outreach as the January deadline approaches.

Each campaign must collect about 3,500 valid signatures from registered voters in its district by Jan. 14, 2027, to move forward.

The committee seeking to recall Valencia reports raising \$4,344 so far. Organizers say a supporter has pledged an additional \$5,000 once the campaign reaches \$5,000 in contributions, a goal it is now about \$650 from reaching. Meanwhile, the committee opposing Jung's recall, Voters Opposing the Recall of Fred Jung 2026, has reported \$16,939 in contributions, according to campaign finance filings previously reviewed by the *Fullerton Observer*.

Those contributions include \$7,500 from ENF Prime Holdings LLC; \$5,700 from John Saunders, owner of Rancho La Paz Mobile Home Park; and \$3,739 in in-kind contributions for text messaging services from the Fullerton Police Officers Association Issues Committee.

Over the coming months, organizers will focus on gathering enough valid signatures to qualify each recall for a special election. Only registered voters living in District 1 may sign the petition to recall Jung, and only registered voters living in District 4 may sign the petition to recall Valencia.

Signing a recall petition does not remove an official from office. It asks that voters decide in a recall election whether to remove the official, provided enough signatures are collected and verified.

Residents outside the two districts cannot sign the petitions but may volunteer, help with outreach or contribute money.

To learn more, find signing opportunities, volunteer or donate, visit the committees' websites:

Recall Fred Jung (District 1):
recalljung.com

Recall Jamie Valencia (District 4):
recallvalencia.com

Five New Historical Landmarks in Fullerton

NEW HISTORIC PRESERVATION ZONE IN THE LOWER GOLDEN HILL

The Fullerton City Council designated five new local historical landmarks on October 6: four historic homes and the public sculpture known as Flight.

This decision followed a public hearing and recommendations from the Planning Commission. The homes and sculpture are exempt from environmental review under CEQA Section 15331, which pertains to historical resource rehabilitation.

New Historical Homes:

1. 401 Canyon Lane — Bridgford Mansion: Built in 1927 for Alma and Alexander Glen Wright Sr., the home was later owned by Hugh Bridgford, who expanded his butcher shop into Bridgford Foods.

2. 845 N. Euclid Street: A 5,100-square-foot Spanish Colonial Revival home originally a grove house on Orangethorpe Avenue, it was moved to its current location.

3. 545 W. Fern Drive: This Spanish Colonial Revival home was commissioned by developer Walter J. Cadman and designed by Anna C. Geck, likely the first female architect in Orange County.

4. 600 W. Valley View Drive — Norton Simon Home: Built in 1936 by Arthur M. Thompson, this English Tudor Revival house was rented by industrialist and art collector Norton Simon from 1936 to 1938.

The Sculpture Flight:

The fifth landmark, Flight, is a sculpture located between the Fullerton Public Library and City Hall. Commissioned for the 1976 bicentennial, it was created by Aldo Casanova with funding from local residents and the Library Board of Trustees, costing a total of \$49,000.

Community Input:

During the meeting, Ernie Kelsey explained that the designation of the Bridgford Mansion depended on the owners' decision to apply for it. Rick Laos, the owner of 845 N. Euclid St., mentioned that without protected status, the home could have been demolished. The council approved all designations, with Mayor Jung absent.

The Fullerton City Council voted 3-1 on October 6 to create a historic preservation zone in the Lower Golden Hill neighborhood. Mayor Fred Jung was absent for the vote.

The new zone affects about 80 properties, changing their zoning from R-1-7.2 to R-1-7.2P. This area is bordered by Richmond Avenue, West Leland Avenue, Glen Haven Avenue, and West Malvern Avenue. The neighborhood includes homes mostly in Spanish Colonial and cottage styles.

Under the new rules, homeowners can still add to their homes or build accessory dwelling units (ADUs), but new construction must match the existing styles.

The zone also prohibits lot splits and two-unit developments allowed under Senate Bill 9. Properties in the zone can apply for the Mills Act, which offers property tax savings for maintaining historic homes.

Residents initiated the request in January 2025 and gathered support through a petition, reaching 76% of property owners, with 60% in favor. The Planning Commission recommended approval with a 4-1 vote in June. One resident filed to exclude their property, but later withdrew the appeal.

Councilmember Ahmad Zahra voted against the zone, arguing that the 60% support was too low to impose design requirements on all homeowners.

Supporters of the zone say it protects the neighborhood from redevelopment. Councilmember Dr. Shana Charles asked if the zone would affect the city's state housing plan, and staff confirmed it would not.

The vote was supported by Councilmembers Charles, Jamie Valencia, and Mayor Pro Tem Nick Dunlap. Following the vote, the council recorded Ordinance No. 3359.



CALIFORNIA
High-Speed Rail Authority

LOS ANGELES TO ANAHEIM PROJECT SECTION
NOTICE OF AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) announces the availability of the Los Angeles to Anaheim Project Section (LA-A) Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Proposed Combined Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) / Record of Decision (ROD).

To evaluate the potential impacts and effects of the project section, the Authority prepared a Draft EIR/EIS as a joint document to meet pertinent requirements of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

For preparation of the final environmental document, the Authority decided to split the CEQA and NEPA approvals. The Final EIR and Proposed Combined Final EIS/ROD has been prepared and is being made available pursuant to both CEQA and NEPA prior to Authority decisions at the conclusion of this project level environmental review and includes responses to public comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS.

The Final EIR and Proposed Combined Final EIS/ROD will be available to the public on October 16, 2026 online in PDF format at the Authority's website (www.hsr.ca.gov). Electronic copies will also be available for review at several repository locations, as listed on the Authority's website.

Electronic copies (USB flash drive) of the Final EIR and Proposed Combined Final EIS/ROD are also available for review during business hours at the Authority's Headquarters at 770 L Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA and by appointment at the Authority's Southern California Regional Office at 355 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 2050, Los Angeles, CA.

To make an appointment to view the documents at the Southern California Regional Office, please email Los.Anaeles_Anaheim@hsr.ca.gov.

AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

At their meeting on October 28 and 29, 2026, the Authority Board of Directors will consider whether to certify the Final EIR, to take separate action to approve the project for CEQA purposes, and to direct the Authority Chief Executive Officer to execute the Record of Decision for the Los Angeles to Anaheim Project Section, which would approve the project for NEPA purposes.

Documents and materials supporting the Authority Board of Directors' proposed actions will be available prior to the meeting on the Board's web page at <https://hsr.ca.gov/about/board-of-directors/schedule/>

Please visit the project section website (www.hsr.ca.gov) for more information, including links to the CEQA and NEPA documents and other project materials.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the State of California pursuant to 23 U.S. Code 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated July 23, 2019, and renewed July 22, 2024, and executed by the Federal Railroad Administration and the State of California. Under that Memorandum of Understanding, the Authority is the project's lead agency under NEPA. Prior to the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding, the Federal Railroad Administration was the federal lead agency. The Authority is also the lead agency under CEQA.

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Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2026 Jonathandobrer.substack.com

Is our world really going to hell?

We are deeply divided on virtually every important issue and quite a few trivial ones. Rodney King asked, "Can we get along?" The answer is NO!

We live in a Manichean age and see ourselves as part of a great cosmic struggle between good and evil. We are the good guys while our opponents are the very incarnation of evil. We attack each other mercilessly with fierce certainty in our holy mission.

We no longer have "worthy opponents," only misguided adversaries at best, but usually evil psychopaths. This is a zero-sum game that leads neither to peace nor progress. We get either angry deadlock or the Hobson's Choice of total victory or humiliating defeat.

Politics has historically been defined as "the art of compromise." Today compromise is a dirty word implying a lack of purity or an act of treason. This purity demands the commitment to win "by any means necessary," which creates a license for violence. Every issue inevitably becomes existential, with the fate of the world hanging in the balance.

We have always lived in partisan times. Politics have always been corrupt and dirty. Often the corruption and dirt were hidden from sight as men (Yes, historically men) hid behind closed doors, driven by their well-founded fear that the sausage making would disgust normal people. This always generates fear, as men conspire to achieve goals that are often self-

serving yet hypocritically clothed in holiness and ersatz righteousness.

Western culture started badly when Cain slew Abel because God favored Abel's gift of meat over Cain's offer of grain. Jacob tricked Esau out of his inheritance. Then Jacob was fooled into marrying Leah before being allowed to marry Rachel. Rachel goes on to deceive her father by stealing his idols and stopping his search by pretending that she was having her period. So much deception from the heroes and heroines of the bible.

We have never lived in innocent times. Humans have been humans from the beginning. The ancient Greek playwright Aristophanes bemoaned the morals of the young people of Athens who "no longer respected their elders and their gods."

History makes it clear that the world has always been going to hell. What has changed is our ability to cause ever greater damage with our pettiness, deceptions and greed. When we study history, we see wars fought over spices, trade routes and forced labor. Wars of conquest and aggression have always been marketed as "Holy Crusades." Indeed, they are as holy as the original Crusades.

Forget all the Henrys and Louies, the Caesars and Tsars and look at

We live in a Manichean age and see ourselves as part of a great cosmic struggle between good and evil. We are the good guys, and our opponents are evil incarnate.

American history. Our "sainted" God-inspired Founders cut deals that would gag a maggot. Under our Constitution, Blacks were counted as 3/5th of a person. Being fully counted only became constitutional in 1868 with Section 2 of the 14th Amendment.

We have a phrase that the Clintons used to push back against Newt Gingrich, "the politics of personal destruction." Though the phrase is relatively new, the tactic is not. President Andrew Jackson was accused of bigamy when he married his wife before her divorce was final. Naturally, he was accused of having "known her" before their marriage. President Grant was involved in the Whiskey Ring Scandal that pilfered \$3 million in 1868 dollars of tax revenue. President Grover Cleveland was widely mocked for fathering a child out of wedlock with chants of "Ma Ma Where's my Pa?" He came clean by financially supporting the child but smeared his former mistress by charging that many other men had "had" her. President Warren Harding was caught up in the Teapot Dome Scandal when oil leases were given to wealthy and connected friends without competitive bidding. Then there's President Nixon and Watergate, which featured break-ins, cover-ups, lies and the enemies list. Iran-Contra followed when the Reagan administration sold 2,000 missiles to Iran without congressional approval. Then he sent the money to the Contras, a brutal, human-rights-abusing military movement that was under American sanc-

tion. Memorably, there's Monica Lewinsky, the blue dress and Clinton looking straight into the camera, wagging his finger and lying that he "did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

If the past is prologue, then today we have virtually all these scandals rolled up in our current regime. We have financial corruption with the selling of White House access, open insider trading for \$50k per month, along with pay-to-play and pay-for-pardons. We have public lands, even portions of National Parks, sold to presidential cronies. We have sex scandals, not simply rumors or allegations but 30-plus felony convictions. In all fairness, this makes the charge that President Trump has no convictions clearly false. We have enemies lists and the coercion of universities, law firms and media companies who must do the president's bidding, lest they be audited.

So, are we going to hell or have we always dwelt there? Neither. The past is too often idealized while the present is degraded. The truth is, if we seem fallen, it isn't from a great height.

What makes today different and more dangerous is our technology. Instead of primitive graffiti, hand-pulled posters and gossip, we can instantly spread lies around the world with AI.

Also, but not incidentally, we have replaced clubs and stones with guns and bombs. We have replaced armadas with fleets of drones. We have "improved" germ warfare by switching from smallpox-infused blankets to neurotoxins. Our tragedy is that our capacity to destroy has evolved, but we haven't.

AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2026

WWW.PATREON.COM/C/THEEOPINIONATOR



Controversy Erupts as Macklemore's Support for Gaza Sparks Backlash

Three years after Hamas attacked Israel, killing about 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostages, here's where things stand.

"How many people does it take before it becomes wrong? A thousand? Fifty thousand? A million? How many people DOES IT TAKE, Admiral?" — from "Star Trek: Insurrection"

It's already old news that American rapper Macklemore was dropped as one of Ed Sheeran's opening acts just before the U.S. leg of Sheeran's tour, after giving a speech in which, among other things, he called for a "Free Palestine." The push to drop him came from Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots and Gillette Stadium, where one of the concerts was to be held.

Kraft is a longtime friend of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He has given millions of dollars to AIPAC, a lobbying group whose affiliated political action committees fund pro-Israel candidates, as well as to the Israeli military. He is named in the Epstein files. And Sheeran performed at Kraft's wedding to Dana Blumberg.

What most reports fail to mention is that Macklemore went on to say that his criticism was aimed specifically at the Israel Defense Forces and

Netanyahu. Not the Jewish people. Not the state of Israel. And when Sheeran dropped Macklemore like a lead balloon, his other opening acts — and his own band — quit the tour. Their statements explaining why are available online and are quite eloquent. And the cherry on top: Several artists in Gaza have painted a mural in Macklemore's honor.

When we last checked in on this international debacle, Macklemore had donated \$1 million of his earnings from Sheeran's tour to the people of Gaza, an implicit challenge to Sheeran and Kraft, who promptly donated \$2 million each. This looks like damage control, especially given the wording of Kraft's statement: "Earlier today, before Macklemore challenged me to match his donation, Ed called me and asked me to commit \$2 million to match his donation to aid in the region to fight this humanitarian crisis."

Yeah, Bob, it's a "humanitarian crisis." It's a crisis created by the Israeli military that has killed tens of thousands of men, women and children,

Opposing mass killing is not antisemitic. It is supporting the facts. It is supporting Palestinians under attack.

destroyed infrastructure and homes, and left an unknown number of bodies under tons of rubble.

This is a crisis you helped fund and perpetuate, Bob. A crisis you refuse to hear described as genocide. And you think \$2 million is enough to wash the blood off your hands? Are you that delusional? Does your money insulate you that thoroughly from reality?

This is where we are. Artists are being silenced and harassed for speaking out against what the Israeli military is doing in Gaza, where tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed over the past three years, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Israeli bombs have hit hospitals, power plants and water treatment facilities. Israel has repeatedly blocked humanitarian aid from reaching Gaza, including aid from organizations whose only mission is to provide food and medical care to people in need.

The justification boils down to: "Well, the Palestinians voted in Hamas, and Hamas attacked Israel." It isn't that simple.

First, Hamas' main opponent in the 2006 election, Fatah, had been accused of corruption and mismanagement and had lost voters' trust.

Second, Hamas campaigned largely on reform and social services, despite having carried out numerous attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians.

Third, no elections have been held since Hamas won in 2006, and opposi-

tion to Hamas is growing in Gaza, despite people's fear of retaliation.

If that doesn't tell you how much this stinks, try this: In November 2024, the International Criminal Court in The Hague issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinians.

That's why New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani weighed the consequences of arresting Netanyahu when he visited a few months ago and putting him on a plane to the Netherlands. In the end, he didn't do it, in part because the U.S. does not recognize the ICC's jurisdiction.

It has been reported for years, though rarely highlighted, that Netanyahu's government allowed Qatar to send millions of dollars into Hamas-run Gaza. Critics say his rationale was that keeping Hamas in power, rather than the more moderate Palestinian Authority and Fatah, let him argue that he had no one to negotiate with, strengthening his own position. Netanyahu was playing a dangerous game of chicken with Hamas, and it blew up in his face.

When people reflexively equate saying "Free Palestine" with antisemitism, keep all of this in mind. You can oppose the brutal actions of Hamas and the Israeli military, and call for Netanyahu's arrest, without being against Israelis or Jewish people.

Opposing mass killing is not antisemitic. It is supporting the facts. It is supporting Palestinians under attack. What it does oppose is those who continue to authorize and tacitly support the killing of Palestinian civilians. Like Benjamin Netanyahu. Like Donald Trump. And like Robert Kraft.

The Science Behind It

by Yuvika Salman © 2026



Orange County's Coastal Flooding

Growing up in Southern California, I made some of my favorite memories at the beach. Our coastline has always been one of the most remarkable parts of calling this place home. That is why it has been especially heartbreaking to witness the recent flooding along Orange County's beaches. Over the past week, Newport Beach residents have watched seawater surge past the shoreline, flood residential streets and threaten beachfront properties, prompting city officials to declare a local emergency Oct. 9. While unusually high tides may seem like the obvious explanation, a more complex interaction among ocean currents, tropical storms and a changing climate is at play.

To understand this flooding, it's important to examine the forces that control ocean levels. Tides are driven primarily by the gravitational pull of the moon and sun, causing predictable sea-level fluctuations. During certain lunar alignments, these gravitational forces reinforce one another, producing particularly high tides.

The recent flooding resulted from several environmental conditions occurring simultaneously. Tropical Storm Rachel, which developed in the eastern Pacific, generated powerful ocean swells that traveled hundreds of miles toward Southern California. As

these waves approached shallower waters, they slowed, increased in height and broke against the shoreline. When large waves arrive during elevated tides, seawater can travel farther inland, overwhelming beaches, protective barriers and drainage systems.

Another contributing factor was oceanic Kelvin waves, which can temporarily raise coastal sea levels. Unlike familiar breaking waves, Kelvin waves are large-scale water-level disturbances that travel along coastlines or near the equator and are influenced by Earth's rotation. These disturbances can elevate the ocean's surface, increasing the likelihood that high tides and incoming swells will produce flooding. Along Orange County's coastline, these overlapping forces transformed normally manageable tides into a serious flooding hazard.

Although coastal flooding is natural, its impacts depend heavily on shoreline characteristics. Beaches act as natural barriers, absorbing and dispersing wave energy before it reaches developed areas. However, repeated storms

Coastal flooding is natural, but rising sea levels amplify these events, turning occasional flooding into more frequent, destructive flooding.

and powerful surf can strip away sand, leaving the coastline more exposed.

Beach erosion before Newport Beach's October flooding weakened natural defenses that protect nearby neighborhoods. Low-lying communities such as the Balboa Peninsula face added risks because even small increases in sea level can let seawater reach streets and homes.

Coastal development further complicates this relationship. Roads, buildings and infrastructure occupy spaces where beaches might otherwise shift naturally. Maintaining these developed areas often requires interventions such as sand replenishment, protective berms and pumping systems.

While Tropical Storm Rachel and elevated ocean levels help explain the immediate flooding, climate change raises a larger question: Will events like this become more common?

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, high-tide flooding has become increasingly frequent in many U.S. coastal communities. One major contributor is rising sea levels, driven primarily by the expansion of warming ocean water and melting land-based glaciers and ice sheets.

As average sea levels rise, each tidal cycle starts from a higher baseline. As a result, waves and high tides that pre-

viously stayed below protective barriers can increasingly reach roads and communities.

Climate change is not the sole cause of Newport Beach's recent flooding. Individual events depend on specific weather and oceanographic conditions. But rising sea levels amplify these events, potentially turning occasional flooding into more frequent, destructive flooding.

As coastal flooding becomes a growing concern, communities must consider both immediate protection and long-term adaptation. Newport Beach has implemented measures such as reinforcing sand berms, operating pumping systems and monitoring ocean conditions. But protecting coastlines requires more than emergency responses. Residents can help by staying informed about coastal flood advisories, supporting beach restoration initiatives, participating in local planning discussions and encouraging governments to incorporate sea-level projections into infrastructure development.

The recent flooding was shaped by gravitational forces, atmospheric conditions, ocean circulation and long-term climatic changes. While we cannot control the tides or prevent every storm, we can influence how prepared our communities are to withstand their impacts.

For those of us who have grown up with the Pacific Ocean as a familiar part of our lives, protecting our coastline means safeguarding the communities and ecosystems around us.

Healthy Awareness

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2026

Grieving

Grief is the deep sorrow we feel after the death of someone we love. A June 9 Psychology Today article notes that grief can bring guilt, confusion and profound emotional distress.

Actor Jim Carrey has described grief as something that "carves through you," leaving an ache where love once lived. He reminds us that grief also shows love existed. His advice is simple: Feel it, mourn and remember. In time, healing comes not from forgetting, but from learning to carry both love and loss.

Rituals of grief from around the world

Throughout history, cultures have developed rituals to help people mourn and honor the dead, providing structure when life feels uncertain.

In the Philippines, some families observe nine days of prayer. In the Jewish tradition, close family members gather at home for shiva, a seven-day mourning period. In Madagascar, families practice Famadihana, periodically exhuming, cleaning and rewrapping ancestors' remains.

In South Korea, some families turn cremated ashes into memorial beads. Japanese Buddhist funerals may include incense and chanting, and the Obon festival welcomes ancestors' spirits back to the living world. In China, families may offer food and other items to honor deceased loved ones.

Hindu traditions in India may include cremation, scattering ashes in a river and ceremonies such as shraddha to

support the deceased's spiritual journey. In Mexico, Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, celebrates loved ones with altars decorated with photographs, marigolds and favorite foods.

Tibetan Buddhists may practice sky burial, leaving the body in a designated area to return to nature, reflecting beliefs about life's impermanence. In Islamic tradition, widows observe a four-month and 10-day mourning period.

Greek Orthodox Christians may hold memorial services, known as mnimosyno, on the third, ninth and 40th days after death.

In New Orleans, brass bands lead family and friends through the streets with hymns and spirituals. After the solemn portion, the music turns lively. People dance, wave handkerchiefs and twirl parasols, celebrating that while a life has ended, the love and memories remain.

Learning to carry love and loss

Grief has no straight path and no timetable. A song, photo, anniversary or familiar place can bring the sorrow rushing back without warning.

But grief also reveals the depth of our connections. We don't have to forget someone to heal or stop missing them to move forward. Through rituals, shared stories, acts of remembrance and the support of others, we learn to carry both sorrow and love.

Perhaps that is what healing means: not leaving our loved ones behind, but carrying them with us on the journey of our own lives.

Creating our own ways to remember

My daughter, Nancy, and I have found deeply personal ways to honor those we've lost. In memory of her husband, David, Nancy created a staircase tile at the San Francisco school where he worked. She also designed a tile for a memorial boat in Morro Bay honoring those who died of cancer.

After my husband, Fred, died, Nancy and I created a memory garden in a corner of my backyard. Fred developed an appreciation for bonsai during his years in the oil industry, so we gave the garden a Japanese theme, with bonsai, sculptures and a bench displaying his obituary.

I often sit there to meditate and find comfort in his memory. Some of Fred's ashes have been scattered at our condominium in Rancho Mirage and in Cambria, two places he loved. One day, the rest will be joined with mine and scattered in the desert. A loved one's physical presence may be gone, but the relationship doesn't disappear. It becomes part of who we are.

Healthy ways to move through grief

There is no single right way to grieve, but these steps can help:

- Talk with friends or family who will truly listen.
- Consider a grief support group. Sharing memories can make us feel less alone.
- Eat well, exercise and get enough rest.
- Avoid isolation. Spend time with family, friends and your community when you can.
- Don't use alcohol or drugs to numb the pain.
- When possible, delay major decisions until emotions feel less overwhelming.
- Let yourself feel your emotions without rushing.
- Seek professional help when needed. Grief counselors, churches, hospitals and community organizations can point you to support groups and other resources.

What to say when someone asks

People often don't know what to say after a loss, and one of the hardest questions can be the simplest: "How are you doing?" It may help to have a few honest answers ready:

"Thank you for asking. I'm taking it one day at a time."

"Some days are better than others."

"I'm doing my best, but it's still hard."

"Today is especially hard because it's _____'s birthday."

"Thank you. It helps to know you care."

Or simply: "Let's have lunch. I'd appreciate your company."

Sometimes what we need isn't another conversation about grief, but another person's presence.

How mourning has changed

When I was 4, elderly relatives were sometimes displayed in the family's formal living room for an entire week, and someone always stayed with the deceased. I remember wondering whether that person was there to make sure the body didn't climb out of the casket and escape. Today, families in the United States and elsewhere are more likely to celebrate life, sharing stories, laughter, photos and memories of the person's joys and accomplishments.

Evangeline "Eva" Valdez 1936 - 2026



Evangeline "Eva" Valdez, 90, passed away on September 6, 2026. Born on January 8, 1936, Evangeline was a beloved and cherished presence whose gentle spirit, patient strength, and kind-hearted ways left a lasting imprint on all who knew her. With a faithful heart and a devoted nature, she lived quietly but meaningfully—offering compassion, loyalty, and generosity in the steady, everyday ways that matter most.

Raised in Rancho Santa Ana, Ca—

a historical place her family regarded as magical—Evangeline spent her early years there until marrying at the age of 19. That beginning shaped a life grounded in family, constancy, and care, marked by a calm grace that was both reassuring and inspirational.

Evangeline was married for 71 years to Jose Valdez. A stay-at-home person, she found her purpose in caring for those she loved, and her life revolved around her family. Her devotion was evident in the home she nurtured and the tenderness she extended to others, always with a compassionate steadiness and a gentle hand. She was the proud mother of two boys and two girls, and she is also survived by seven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude. The family thanks everyone who helped when she became ill. That support reflected the same loyal, generous love Evangeline so faithfully gave throughout her life.

She will be remembered with love.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (Psalms 23:1-3)

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32 People Died in August “Without Fixed Abode” in OC

Heather HART who died on Aug. 1st in Mission Viejo
Victor HERRERA who died on Aug. 2nd in Garden Grove
Hermenegildo SOLACHE TORRES who died on Aug. 4th in Santa Ana
Luis CORTES MENDOZA who died on Aug. 4th in Orange
Salvador TORRES who died on Aug. 5th in Westminster
Rafael PESCADOR JR. who died on Aug. 7th in Orange
Rosalino NAVARRETE GIL who died on Aug. 8th in Santa Ana
Joshua SCOTT who died on Aug. 9th in Buena Park
Robert HOUSE who died on Aug. 10th in Yorba Linda
Kevin ARISTONDO who died on Aug. 10th in Santa Ana
Gregory MONTVILLE who died on Aug. 11th in Anaheim
Don HARN who died on Aug. 11th in Santa Ana
Sipho KHUMALO who died on Aug. 12th in Anaheim
Ismael CUEVAS DEL PILAR who died on Aug. 12th in Lake Forest
Esteban RENTERIA who died on Aug. 16th in Santa Ana
Hugo MORALES who died on Aug. 17th in Garden Grove
Dana MANIER who died on Aug. 18th in Cypress
Hernan GUTIERREZ who died on Aug. 19th in Anaheim
Andrew GALLO who died on Aug. 19th in Anaheim
Gabriel GONZALES who died on Aug. 19th in Santa Ana
Rania JAJIEH who died on Aug. 21st in Newport Beach
Diana ESPINOZA who died on Aug. 23rd in Santa Ana
Jose GUZMAN TAPIA who died on Aug. 23rd in Anaheim
Ephraim BAUTISTA who died on Aug. 24th in Costa Mesa
Erika ROCHA who died on Aug. 25th in Fountain Valley
Michelle MCBETH who died on Aug. 26th in Santa Ana
Daniel HERRERA who died on Aug. 26th in Santa Ana
Ronald ACOSTA who died on Aug. 28th in Westminster
Larry BENN who died on Aug. 28th in Garden Grove
Espiridion MEJIA BAUTISTA who died on Aug. 28th in Orange
My ROMEO who died on Aug. 30th in Orange
Thanh VIEN who died on Aug. 31st in Fountain Valley

ping to 676 in 2022, 613 in 2023, and 407 in 2024) as public health agencies expanded naloxone (Narcan).

Being hit by vehicles. This was the second leading cause of accidental death.

Homicide and suicide. The sheriff said rates among unhoused people are well above national averages, and that mental illness may contribute to the suicides.

Untreated chronic illness and early aging. The average age at death in 2021 was about 48.

Heat makes all of these worse. Dehydration, heart conditions and stimulant or opioid use combine dangerously in hot weather, and some psychiatric medications make it harder for the body to cool down.

How people can help

Heat waves: Hand out cold water, electrolyte drinks, hats, sunscreen and wet towels or cooling neck wraps. Food banks, churches and outreach teams often collect these before heat events.

Tell people where cooling centers are. Many unhoused people don't know they're open or can't get to them, so rides help.

Watch for heat illness: confusion, hot dry skin, or someone unresponsive in the sun. Call 911 right away.

Cold and rain: Donate or hand out wool socks, waterproof jackets, tarps, emergency mylar blankets, sleeping bags and dry clothes. Wet clothing is one of the biggest dangers in Southern California cold.

Volunteer with cold-weather or emergency shelters during the winter months.

Storms and flooding: People camping in riverbeds and flood channels, like the Santa Ana River and creek beds, face real flash-flood risk. Encourage moves to higher ground, and support outreach teams that warn camps before storms.

All year: Carry naloxone (Narcan) and learn how to use it. It's sold over the counter, and you're more likely to be near an overdose than a heat-stroke case. The county committee specifically recommended wider Narcan availability. Recovery Road is a good resource for naloxone education. Call (714) 723-9711 for information.

- Dial 2-1-1 (211OC) to connect someone with shelter, cooling or warming sites, and services. If someone is in a mental health crisis, call 988.
- Volunteer or donate with established local groups so help reaches people consistently, not just during emergencies. Examples include many local food-share programs.
- Advocate locally. Housing is what actually ends exposure. The surest way to reduce these deaths is permanent housing. Tell your city council you support shelter beds, permanent supportive housing and cooling and warming center funding.

The monthly count comes from the Coroner's list of people who died "without fixed abode." That list gives names, dates and cities, not causes. The overall trend has improved recently: 2025 ended with 324 deaths, the lowest annual total since 2020. The reasons for the decline have not yet been established.

The biggest factors include:

Countywide general fentanyl deaths peaked at 717 in 2021 drop-

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<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

Department: Parks and Recreation

Location: 303 W Commonwealth Ave

Job Type: Non-Regular

Job Number: 2026- CSLEAD

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

Job Type: Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)

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: Under general or direct supervision 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.

This is an At-Will, Temporary, Non-Benefited Position Limited to 1000 Hrs Per Fiscal Year

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.

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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.

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OUR TOWN CROSSWORD

ANSWER KEY TO "SWEET" © 2026 from page 7

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Haunted OC Founder Collects Victorian Artifacts of Death and Mourning

A mechanical Victorian mourning doll with a porcelain face lies in a small, coffinlike bed in the Fullerton Museum Center’s current exhibition, “Final Rites: Death, Mourning, & Beyond.” The doll may once have helped children cope with the reality of early death. Rumored to be haunted, it is one of several items on loan from Ernie Alonzo, founder of Haunted Orange County, which hosts walking tours of supposedly haunted historic sites in Old Towne Orange, downtown Santa Ana and downtown Fullerton. I recently had the rare opportunity to interview Alonzo and see his private collection of Victorian artifacts, which lives in his home when it isn’t on loan to a museum.

Stepping into Alonzo’s “Haunted Mansion” room, I couldn’t help but admire the detail with which he has re-created elements of Disneyland’s mischievously macabre attraction. Mixed in with the Disney-inspired pieces are genuine Victorian antiques. Leaf-patterned wallpaper, mahogany-colored chairs and a Victorian phonograph with a large horn fill the room, while a lighting system simulates a lightning storm.

Highlights include a cabinet of windup mechanical caged birds that still sing; a photograph of people posed around a casket; a wooden stereoscope with a card showing a spirit creeping up on a man in a chair; and a child-size Victorian doll locked in a cabinet like the Annabelle doll from “The Conjuring” films.

Alonzo said he fell into collecting by accident. He and his former Haunted OC partner, Charles, often gave talks, and when they planned one on Victorian mourning practices, Alonzo wanted a small tabletop display guests could explore afterward.

“He was like, ‘Hey, I actually have a couple of pieces of mourning jewelry that I can bring,’” Alonzo said. “Then I became intrigued because he started telling me about hair art, how that was used, and the different customs with the jewelry. ... I was like, it would be cool if we had a full exhibit of items that we could display, but we were so far away from that.”

Charles, a Civil War reenactor, already owned Victorian clothing, and Alonzo proposed a small mourning exhibit at one of their ghost walk stops: the Howe-Waffle House, a historic Victorian home in Santa Ana.

“I like to decorate,” Alonzo said. “... I would love the opportunity or an excuse to set up a funeral scene, like with the casket and all the old flowers.

I thought the Waffle House would be the perfect place to do it because it has this big bay window that overlooks the street, and we could set it up there with Victorian candelabras. So I went online and started looking on eBay, OfferUp, Etsy. That’s how I started collecting.”

The collecting soon turned into a friendly rivalry.

“It kind of became a competition (between Charles and me); I tried to outdo him on some of the cool items he had found,” Alonzo said. “I would say within the span of a year and a half, we amassed most of it. We wanted to have a show that we could take to different locations, and it would also help us promote our ghost tours.”

Haunted OC itself grew out of Alonzo’s years of business travel. When he visited cities such as New Orleans for work, he made a point of taking historic ghost walks wherever they existed.

“Growing up here in Old Towne Orange, with the plaza a few blocks away, I toyed with the idea in my head, like, gosh, I wonder if there are enough ghost stories that I can find in Old Towne Orange that I can develop a ghost walk,” Alonzo said.

Alonzo didn’t want to lead tours himself because he dislikes public speaking. Then a cousin introduced him to a co-worker who was into the paranormal and had run a ghost tour company in San Diego: Charles.

“He made it sound fairly easy as far as the mechanics of putting a ghost tour together,” Alonzo said. “The process seems easy, but you have to do a lot of investigating, a lot of research; you got to talk to a lot of people, but he kind of took the lead on that and helped develop a ghost tour for me.”

One of Alonzo’s favorite pieces is a framed lithograph he found in Virginia while traveling with a friend who hosted a ghost-hunting show. Antique stores there were stocked with oversized paintings of people in Victorian mourning attire, but the lithograph, still behind its old glass, was small enough to carry onto the plane, and it made it back to California in one piece.

The only item in the collection that came with a haunted backstory is the 18-inch mourning doll now at the museum. About six beaded cords extend from holes in the side of its bed. One opens the doll’s eyes, another makes it sit up and another moves its arms. Alonzo no longer pulls them because he doesn’t want to damage the doll.

“I still don’t know if it was a sales



Ernie Alonzo, founder of Haunted Orange County, sitting inside his Haunted Mansion room surrounded by antique Victorian objects.



pitch on eBay or not, but the story on that doll, if I can remember correctly, is that somebody found it in their grandmother’s place,” Alonzo said. “They brought it home; they started to have unusual things happen at the house. I think she said that she heard walking, like a little kid’s pitter-patter on the linoleum floor at night, and that a few things were moved around inside the house.”

The story didn’t bother him much, and the doll went straight into the Howe-Waffle House display.

“I was able to scare the staff at the Waffle House because I told them I just got it from eBay, and if you read the description, it’s supposed to be haunted,” he said. “So there are a couple of volunteers who weren’t excited about being in the house with it.”

Alonzo is mostly at home among his Victorian objects of death, but he keeps a few valuable antique toys locked in glass cases. He would rather not hear them playing music at night.



Mark 12:31

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