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"Focus on Fullerton" is a publication of the City of Fullerton, 303 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832.

## City readies for 21st annual New Year's Eve party

The old year will get a grand send-off Saturday, Dec. 31, when the City of Fullerton presents its 21st annual "First Night Fullerton," a New Year's Eve celebration featuring live entertainment, children's activities and a fireworks finale.

Admission is free.

The festivities will take place from 7 p.m. to midnight, and will feature dozens of events staged at numerous sites in the streets, sidewalks and buildings of historic downtown Fullerton.

The "First Night" program began in Boston in 1976, as a cap to the nation's bicentennial. The event's goal is to broaden public appreciation of the visual and performing arts while offering an alternative to the traditional New Year's Eve celebrations which focus on alcohol and drinking.

There are now several hundred "First Night" cities throughout the United States and

Canada. Fullerton was the first California city to offer the event, and is the only Orange County community to present a "First Night" celebration this year.

Events will include a variety of band performances, entertainers, art exhibits, and children's rides and activities.

Bands lined up for the evening include the always popular "Soundbytes," "The 44s with Kid Ramos," "Help! A Beatles Tribute Band," and



Fireworks off roof of the Wilshire Avenue parking structure make a spectacular climax to "First Night" festivities!

"Spare Change."

Other performers will include "The Taiko Project," which is an ensemble of musicians skilled in the use of Japanese taiko drums, and roaming street entertainers, including Chaz the Unicyclist and a strolling magician.

Party-goers will be able to ice skate on a unique synthetic surface that resembles the real thing.

(Continued to pg. 2)

## Fullerton launches FullertonTaskForce.info website

Do you have an idea – large or small – that could improve the resources and services provided to Fullerton's mentally ill homeless? The City of Fullerton and the Fullerton Task Force on Homelessness would like to hear from you.

Just log onto FullertonTaskForce.info and share your ideas.

FullertonTaskForce.info is an interactive virtual "town hall" website dedicated to soliciting ideas and feedback from the community about improving information sharing, services and resources related to the mentally ill and homeless in the community.

Al Zelinka, community development director, said FullertonTaskForce.info provides

residents, business people, students and other interested stakeholders with "a creative and convenient way to share ideas, provide feedback, and make recommendations on a broad variety of issues related to this outreach effort."

"This new public engagement platform allows a more diverse audience of participants that might not be able to attend conventional public meetings. Anyone interested in providing constructive ideas and solutions can simply jump on-line from work, home, school or wherever they have Internet access and join in the discussion."

The on-line forum will be used in conjunction with traditional public meetings (Continued to pg. 2)

Visit the City's web site: [www.cityof fullerton.com](http://www.cityof fullerton.com)

# It's time to 'winterize' your landscape watering schedule

As the cooler fall and winter months are upon us it's important to remember that water demands of turf grass, trees and shrubs decrease as compared to the spring and summer months.

Beginning in September and ending in February, the water needs of plants decrease by approximately 30 percent because the days are shorter, so evaporation is less. Also, plants begin to go into a dormant phase in which they need less water; therefore, the City would like to encourage you to consider the following watering schedule:

- Turf grass – Water 2 days a week using 2 cycles of 3 minutes each
- Trees and Shrubs – Water 1 day a week using 2 cycles of 3 minutes each

The term "cycles or cycling" is the process of turning on the irrigation for each valve for the recommended number of minutes, waiting at least an hour, then watering again for the same number of minutes. This process allows for deeper watering and healthier root growth, while reducing run-off.

Start with this schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the time. Please remember to turn your irrigation timer off before it rains and let the soil dry before turning your timer on again.

If you have any questions please call our Water Conservation Hotline at (714) 738-6744.

## Holiday trash schedules set

MG Disposal, the City's trash contractor, has announced its trash collection schedule for the coming holiday season.

Since both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Sundays this year, MG will not make trash collections on Monday, Dec. 26, or Monday, Jan. 2. Residential collections will run one day late for the remainder of both weeks.

Citizens wishing to recycle their Christmas trees may either cut the tree up and place it in their yard waste container, or they may place it with their trash on their collection day during the two weeks following Christmas.



For residents who select to place their trees out with their regular trash, the tree stands (both metal and wood), decorations, lights and tinsel must be removed. Also, trees taller than 6 feet must be cut in half.

Flocked trees cannot be recycled. Citizens may discard their flocked trees by cutting them up and placing them in their regular trash containers or they can call MG Disposal at (714) 238-2444 to schedule a "bulky item pickup." There is no additional charge for that service.

### More about:

## Ring in New Year at 'First Night'

*(Continued from pg. 1)*

Children's activities will include rides, carnival games, face painting, bounce houses, slides, "Robo Surf," a Velcro wall, and a bungee run.

A 10-minute fireworks finale will cap the celebration at midnight.

While admission to all "First Night" activities is free, a fee of \$2 to \$7 will be charged for children's rides and activities.

A variety of food booths will be selling items throughout the evening, and most downtown restaurants will be open and are within walking distance of the "First Night" festivities. Reservations are advised if you plan on having dinner at one of the restaurants.

"First Night Fullerton" is produced by the Parks and Recreation Department. Further information may be obtained by calling the Fullerton Museum Center at (714) 738-6545.

Persons requiring special accommodations to attend the event are asked to notify the Museum prior to the Dec. 31.

**Water question of the month**

What uses the most water in households?

- a) Showers
- b) Washing machine
- c) Running water while brushing teeth
- d) Flushing toilets

Answer: d

### More about:

## Homeless Task Force website

*(Continued from pg. 1)*

to provide information to the Task Force.

"We are always looking for better ways to capture input and ideas from citizens," said Rusty Kennedy, director of the Orange County Human Relations Commission and Task Force chairman. "FullertonTaskForce.info is a great way to engage with people who cannot attend public meetings."

Kennedy added, "This technology allows us to interface with hundreds of Fullerton residents and the public at-large. We appreciate that Fullerton residents have a strong desire to be involved in a constructive discussion regarding these issues in our community and this platform will allow us to better listen to citizens' ideas and solutions."

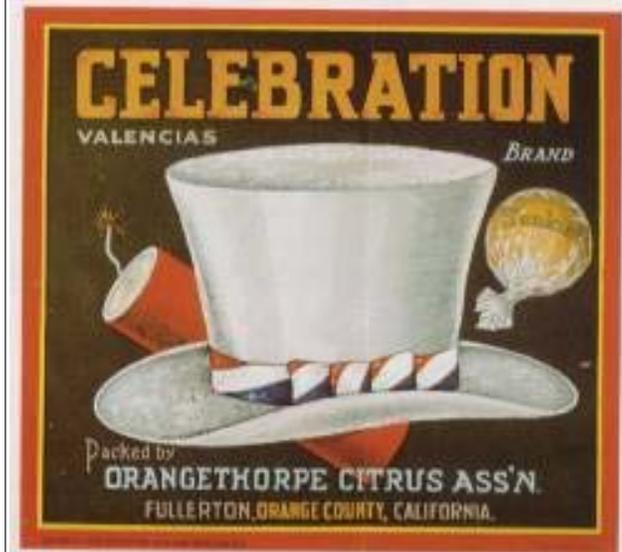
For more information about FullertonTaskForce.info call Zelinka at (714) 738-3347, or Rob Ferrier, assistant to the city manager, at (714) 738-6760.

**Need help?**

Need to have your water shut off? Please call the City's Maintenance Services Department at (714) 738-6308 if you need to have your water shut off at your meter. There's no charge for the service.



Please don't try to do it yourself because if it is broken in the process, you will be charged for damage to City property.



## California's second 'Gold Rush'

California's "Second Gold Rush" - the rise of the citrus industry from the 1880s through the middle of the last century – is the focus of "Citrus: California's Golden Dream," a new exhibit opening Dec. 17 at the award-winning Fullerton Museum Center. Few developments sparked the growth of young Orange County communities such as Fullerton as the citrus industry. At one time, Fullerton boasted of having more orange groves than any other Orange County city. Today, fewer than 50 acres of groves remain in the city. The exhibit will feature an array of fruit labels, historical books, maps, postcards, farm machinery, packing crates and other citrus industry memorabilia. An opening reception will be held from 6-9 p.m. on the 17th, and will feature tours, a curator's talk, refreshments and live entertainment. Reception reservations may be made by calling the Museum Center at (714) 738-6545. The exhibit will run through March 25.

## City offers direct line to Santa Claus

Attention, kids: If you're wondering how you'll get your holiday wish list to Santa Claus before Christmas, the City's Parks and Recreation Department is ready to lend you a hand.

By special arrangement, Parks and Recreation has established a direct mail route to Santa!

From Dec. 1-18, special North Pole Express Mailboxes will be found in the lobby of Fullerton City Hall, the Children's Library at the Fullerton Main Library, the Hunt Branch Library, and at Independence Park.

Letters deposited in these boxes will be guaranteed a response from the great man himself! All you have to do is include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.



Remember: The mailboxes will only be in place until Dec. 16 at City Hall, 303 W. Commonwealth Ave.; Dec. 15 at Hunt Branch Library, 201 S. Basque Ave.; Dec. 17 at Independence Park, 801 W. Valencia Drive; and Dec. 18 at the Main Library, 353 W. Commonwealth Ave.

For more information call the Santa's Helpers at (714) 738-6575.

## 'Winter Market' set for Dec. 3



The holiday season gets off to a festive start when the City presents "Winter Market" Dec. 3!

The Market, which will be open from noon-5:30 p.m. on Wilshire Avenue, between Harbor Boulevard and Pomona Avenue, will offer a variety of vendor booths for early Christmas shopping, plus holiday entertainment and food booths.

Even Santa Claus will take time out of his busy schedule to attend the Market and pose for free photos with children from noon-4 p.m.! Admission to the Market is free.

There will also be face painting and a bounce house for children. For grown-ups, the Fullerton Museum Center will have a beer and wine garden for adults needing a little libation after a busy afternoon of shopping.

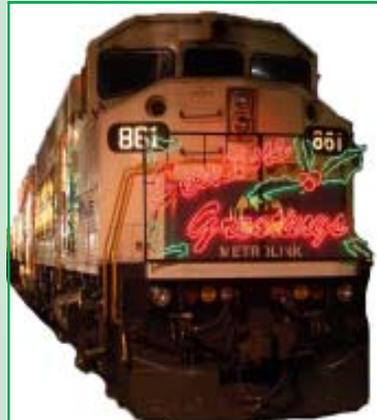
In addition, Fullerton's Firefighters will accept new toys for needy children as part of their "Spark of Love" toy drive.

A holiday tree-lighting ceremony in the Downtown Plaza at 5 p.m. will cap the day's festivities.

Parking may be found in any of the free downtown lots or parking structures.

For more information call the Museum Center at (714) 738-6545.

## All aboard the Metrolink Holiday Toy Express!



The Holiday Toy Express will pull into Fullerton Station at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10

On board the 450-ton train will be holiday displays, a musical performance, and 50,000 twinkling lights – and, of course, Santa!

The mission of the train is to call attention to the annual "Spark of Love Toy Drive." Fullerton Firefighters will be on hand to accept donations of new, unwrapped toys from citizens who come to see the festively decorated train.

The toys will be used to help make holiday dreams come through for needy children in Fullerton and Orange County.

Information: Metrolink – (800) 371-5465; Fullerton Fire Department – (714) 738-6500

# Fullerton Library expansion named '2011 Facility of the Year'

The Fullerton Main Library Renovation and Expansion Project has been awarded the "2011 Facility of the Year Award" by the American Public Works Association, Southern California Chapter.

The award is in the category of cities with populations from 100,001-200,000.

Don Hoppe, City engineering director, said the award is very gratifying, adding his staff is "thrilled with the final results of the project. The Library has been expanded and renovated to meet the community's needs for the next 15-20 years."

Hoppe said technology in the nearly 40-year-old building is now current, from the new automated book check-in equipment to extensive on-line connection capability. The new landscaping is water-wise and the City will save tens of thousands of gallons

of water over the next two decades.

"The building exterior along Commonwealth, previously a simple masonry block wall, has been 'activated' by virtue of the dozen new windows that bring the inside of the building out to pedestrians and motorists," Hoppe said.

The project, which was officially opened to much acclaim in July, consisted of an approximate 56,000-square-foot renovation and refurbishment of existing library space, adding needed community, local history, technology and teen service areas, as well as an overall facelift.

The approximate 6,000-square-foot expansion included addition of a large community meeting room, kitchen, café space and bookstore. The used bookstore is operated by the Friends of the Fullerton Public Library as a fund-raiser to support library services.

The approximately \$10 million expansion project was made possible through bond funds issued by the Fullerton Redevelopment Agency.

A subcontract of the expansion saw the construction of a photovoltaic system to capture solar power to help cut energy costs for the Library. The solar panels were installed in the Library parking lot.

The system has the capacity to generate approximately 84,300 kilowatt hours annually, which would equate to approximately 11 percent of the Library's total yearly energy usage. In today's dollars, the savings could range up to \$15,000 annually.

The installation was funded through an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, which is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

## City offers low-interest housing rehabilitation loans for homeowners

Does your plumbing leak or your house need a fresh coat of paint? How about other basic safety improvements such as a new roof or repairing faulty wiring or heating to curb high energy costs?

If your answer to any of these questions is "yes," but your checkbook balance says it's out of the question, don't give up: The City may be able to lend you a hand.

The City, through its Housing and Community Development

Office, offers both deferred and below-market interest rate loans to Fullerton homeowners through its Housing Rehabilitation Program.

The loans are funded through the federal Housing and Urban Development Department's Community Development Block Grant Program, and qualifying homeowners must meet the program's income criteria and guidelines.

"The goal of the program is to assist low- and moderate-income residents who cannot afford to keep up their homes on their own," explained Sylvia Chavez, housing programs assistant for the City. "By providing them with a way of taking care of their homes, the City is helping protect their quality of life, as well as their property values."

Below-market rate loans of up to \$65,000 are available for qualified applicants. The loans carry a low interest rate of 6 percent or below, and the maximum repayment period is 15 years.

Homeowners unable to qualify for the below-market rate loans may qualify for a deferred loan, Chavez continued. Deferred loans require no monthly payments and no interest, and are reviewed every 15 years for eligibility. The loans come due upon the sale or transfer of the home.

Senior citizen homeowners (62 years of age or older) who only receive federal or state financial assistance, such as Social Security or disability, are allowed to bypass the bank application and apply directly for a deferred loan.

Applications and information about the loan programs may be obtained by calling Chavez at (714) 738-6874, or by coming to the Housing and Community Rehabilitation Office at Fullerton City Hall, 303 W. Commonwealth Ave.

For applications and further information check the Community Development Department section of the City website at [www.ci.fullerton.ca.us](http://www.ci.fullerton.ca.us).

### Help light the spark

Fullerton's Firefighters are lighting a spark for needy children.

The Firefighters are participating in the annual "Spark of Love" Toy Drive, and they need your help to make holiday dreams come true for needy children in Fullerton and Orange County. The drive runs through Dec. 23.

Donations of new, unwrapped toys and sports equipment are being sought, and collection boxes have been set up at all six Fullerton fire stations.

Fullerton's six stations are: Headquarters, 312 E. Commonwealth Ave.; Station 2, 1732 W. Valencia Drive; Station 3, 700 S. Acacia Ave.; Station 4, 3251 N. Harbor Blvd.; Station 5, 2555 Yorba Linda Blvd.; and Station 6, 2691 Rosecrans Ave.

For more information about the toy drive call the Fullerton Fire Department at (714) 738-6500.

Persons requiring special accommodations to bring toy donations to one of the fire stations are asked to contact the Fire Prevention Division.





# Museum Center calendar

## Shopping Soiree 6-10 p.m. Dec. 2

Check out the Fullerton Museum Center's gift shop at our annual Shopping Soiree! Between 6 and 10 p.m. Dec. 2, everything will be 20 percent off in the gift shop. Museum members will receive 30 percent off. Enjoy holiday beverages, free gift wrapping and more! .....

## Exhibit Opening: "Citrus: California's Golden Dream" 6-10 p.m. Dec. 17

\$10 admission/Free for Museum members  
Join us at the Fullerton Museum Center for the opening reception of "Citrus: California's Golden Dream." The night will include an exhibit preview, curator's talk, refreshments and more. This exhibit features a fascinating array of fruit labels, historical books, maps, postcards, farm machinery, packing crates and memorabilia. ....

## Stroller Brigade Wednesdays, Dec. 21 - March 21

Toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups are invited to our Main Gallery on Wednesdays for docent-led games, activities, and crafts inspired by "Citrus: California's Golden Dream." .....

## Ongoing Exhibit: "Solid Design: Leo Fender's Telecaster" Open through June

"Solid Design: Leo Fender's Telecaster" showcases the Telecaster, the first commercially successful solid body electric guitar. The instrument, developed by Fullerton native son Leo Fender, changed music history. Numerous examples from the early years are on display. There is a noticeable celebrity component in the images and presentation, including Telecasters once owned by celebrities, such as George Harrison, Bruce Springsteen, Tom Petty, Roy Buchanan, James Burton, Don Rich, and Mike Bloomfield. These musicians - Tele-players all - created some of the most potent music imaginable.

Call (714) 738-6545 for more information



## Too toxic to trash

Do your part to prevent water pollution in our creeks, rivers, bays and ocean

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered to be "household hazardous waste" or "HHW." Items classified as HHW can be found throughout your home, including in the bathroom, kitchen, laundry room and garage.

Disposal of HHW down the drain, on the ground, into storm drains, or in the trash is illegal and unsafe. Proper disposal of HHW is easy: Simply drop it off at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HHWCC) for free disposal and recycling.

Many materials including anti-freeze, latex-based paint, motor oil and batteries can be recycled. Some centers have a "Stop & Swap" program that lets you take partially used home, garden and automobile products free of charge.

The HHWCCs in Orange County:

- Anaheim - 1071 N. Blue Gum St.
- Huntington Beach - 17121 Nichols St.
- Irvine - 6411 Oak Canyon
- San Juan Capistrano - 32250 La Pata Ave.

Centers are open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, and are closed on rainy days and major holidays. For more information, call (714) 834-6752 or visit [www.oilandfills.com](http://www.oilandfills.com).



### COMMON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES:

- Batteries
- Paint and paint products
- Adhesives
- Drain openers
- Household cleaning products
- Wood and metal cleaners and polishes
- Pesticides
- Fungicides/wood preservatives
- Automotive products (antifreeze, motor oil, fluids)
- Grease and rust solvents
- Fluorescent lamps
- Mercury (thermometers and thermostats)
- All forms of electronic waste including computers, microwaves
- Pool and spa chemicals
- Cleaners
- Medications
- Propane (camping and BBQ)
- Mercury-containing lamps
- Television and monitors (CRTs, flat screens)

### TIPS FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE:

- Never dispose of HHW in the trash, street, gutter, storm drain or sewer.
- Keep these materials in closed, labeled containers and store materials indoors or under a cover.
- When possible, use non-hazardous products.
- Reuse products when possible or share with family, friends.
- Purchase only as much of a product as you'll need. EMPTY containers may be disposed of in the trash.
- HHW can be harmful to humans, pets and the environment.

# C A L E N D A R

- ON-GOING – FULLERTON CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Independence Park, 801 W. Valencia Drive, east of Euclid Street; (714) 871-5304.
- ON-GOING – KIWANIS CLUB OF FULLERTON, 12:10-1:30 p.m. Mondays, Wyndham Hotel, 222 W. Houston Ave.; new members welcome; (714) 255-0925.
- ON-GOING – FULLERTON RADIO CLUB, 7 p.m. third Wednesday of the month, Fullerton Community Center, which is temporarily housed at St. Mary's Church, 400 W. Commonwealth Ave.; (714) 680-4258.
- ON-GOING – HERITAGE HOUSE TOURS at Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, on the CSUF campus; 2-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; (657) 278-3579.
- ON-GOING - FULLERTON AMERICAN LEGION POST 142, second Tuesday of month, Sizzler Restaurant, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd.; no-host dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.; (714) 871-2412 or [www.fullertonpost142.com](http://www.fullertonpost142.com).
- ON-GOING – BINGO NIGHT, 7 p.m. third Saturday of month, St. Mary's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 400 W. Commonwealth Ave.; sponsored by St. Mary's Church; (714) 525-2500.
- DEC. 2-3 – "CHRISTMAS CABARET DINNER SHOWS," La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra; event will feature dinner and a serenade of Christmas music; there will also be a 12:30 p.m. performance Dec. 3; sponsored by Orange Empire Chorus; tickets (714) 871-7675.
- DEC. 3 - FULLERTON HILLS GIRLS SOFTBALL REGISTRATION, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Lions Field Clubhouse, 1440 N. Brea Blvd; signups for girls 4 1/12-14 years; visit [fullertonhillsoftball.org](http://fullertonhillsoftball.org) or (714) 296-0643.
- DEC. 3, 10 AND 17 – FULLERTON PONY BASEBALL REGISTRATION, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Duane Winters Field, Amerige Park, 320 W. Commonwealth Ave.; registration for 2012 spring season for boys and girls 3-14; parents should bring child's birth certificate and a current utility bill to register; [www.fullertonpony.com](http://www.fullertonpony.com); (714) 773-4215.
- DEC. 4 – AVIV QUARTET IN CONCERT, 3:30 p.m., Sunny Hills High School Performing Arts Center, 1801 Warburton Way; concert is free; sponsor Fullerton Friends of Music; (714) 526-5310 or [www.fullertonfriendsofmusic.com](http://www.fullertonfriendsofmusic.com).
- DEC. 6 – FULLERTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING, 5 p.m., Fullerton City Hall Council Chamber, 303 W. Commonwealth Ave.; agenda (714) 738-6351.
- DEC. 7 - FULLERTON HILLS GIRLS SOFTBALL REGISTRATION, 6-9 p.m., Lions Field Clubhouse, 1440 N. Brea Blvd; signups for spring for girls 4 1/12-14 years of age; [fullertonhillsoftball.org](http://fullertonhillsoftball.org) or (714) 296-0643.
- DEC. 10 - CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT, benefiting Marine Corps' Toys for Tots and Orange County Firefighters' Spark of Love Toy Drive; 7 a.m. registration, Coyote Hills Golf Course, 1440 E. Bastanchury Road; participants asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy; (714) 672-6800, ext. 239.
- DEC. 10 - SUNNY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL FUND-RAISER MATTRESS SALE, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunny Hills High School, 1801 Warburton Way; proceeds will support Lancers Marching Band and Color Guard; (714) 626-4200.
- DEC. 10-11 – "THE NUTCRACKER," 2 p.m., Fullerton College Campus Theater, 321 E. Chapman Ave.; the holiday classic will be performed by the Nouveau Chamber Ballet under the artistic direction of Lois Ellyn, with full orchestra led by Kimo Furumoto; tickets (714) 992-7150
- DEC. 10 – "THE NUTCRACKER," 8 p.m., Fullerton College Campus Theater, 321 E. Chapman Ave.; the holiday classic will be performed by the Nouveau Chamber Ballet under the artistic direction of Lois Ellyn, with full orchestra led by Kimo Furumoto; tickets (714) 992-7150.
- DEC. 20 – FULLERTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING, 5 p.m., Fullerton City Hall Council Chamber, 303 W. Commonwealth Ave.; agenda (714) 738-6351.
- JAN. 1-6 AND 9-13 – FULLERTON PONY BASEBALL REGISTRATION, 5-8 p.m., Duane Winters Field, Amerige Park, 320 W. Commonwealth Ave.; registration for spring for boys and girls 3-14; parents should bring child's birth certificate and a current utility bill to register; [www.fullertonpony.com](http://www.fullertonpony.com) or (714) 773-4215.
- Jan. 27 – "Lunch with the League," 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Meridian Club, 1535 Deerpark Drive; sponsor League of Women Voters of North Orange County; guest speaker will be Marilyn Lees, government and advocacy director of the Orange Coast League and former Orange County analyst and legislation drafter; reservations (714) 254-7440 or [lunchwithleague@lwnvoc.org](mailto:lunchwithleague@lwnvoc.org).
- JAN. 29 – CHAMBER MUSIC PALISADES IN CONCERT, 3:30 p.m., Sunny Hills High School Performing Arts Center, 1801 Warburton Way; free; sponsored by Fullerton Friends of Music; (714) 526-5310 or [www.fullertonfriendsofmusic.com](http://www.fullertonfriendsofmusic.com).

Send Calendar items to Public Information Office, Fullerton City Hall, 303 W. Commonwealth Ave., 92832. Mark them "Attention: Focus on Fullerton." Items may also be emailed to [SylviaP@ci.fullerton.ca.us](mailto:SylviaP@ci.fullerton.ca.us) or faxed to (714) 738-6758. Nonprofit groups only. The items will also be placed on the City's cable channel and the City's web site.