

# Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023 /// dailypilot.com

## Laguna Beach mayor urges anti-fire efforts

As community marks 30th anniversary of the 1993 Laguna Beach fire, the mayor renews calls for risk mitigation.

BY ANDREW TURNER

In the minds of many Laguna Beach residents, the events of Oct. 27, 1993, serve as an inflection point, a day that ensured that the risk of fire is always top of mind.

While it did not result in loss of life, the Laguna Beach fire of 1993 burned more than 400 homes and 16,000 acres.

As the 30th anniversary of one of the largest wildfire events in state history arrived, Mayor Bob Whalen penned an open letter to the community, remembering the inferno and recognizing the efforts taken as a city to mitigate wildfire risk.

“Those of us who were here then will never forget the howling winds, the smoky skies and the pure speed of the fire as it first hit Emerald Bay and then headed east, where it leaped across Laguna Canyon Road, went through Canyon Acres and across Mystic Hills,” he said.

“Thankfully, and remarkably, no lives were lost, but it was the wake-up call of a lifetime for the city.”

As for the road ahead, the mayor urged continued collaboration between the city and residents to protect the community from the danger of wildfire.

Whalen pointed to a recent town hall meeting led by public safety officials on Sept. 19 and ongoing utility undergrounding projects as examples of working toward that goal. Some of the undergrounding districts include Diamond Street, the Diamond-Crestview neighborhood, Park Avenue and Coast Highway. Another proposed district for Woods Cove

See **Mayor**, page A2



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**RON YEO** and Councilwoman Lauren Kleiman, from left, unveil the plaque officially recognizing the former location of Hotel Del Mar as a historic landmark during a dedication ceremony on Friday.

## History buffs put the shine on erstwhile Hotel del Mar

BY LILLY NGUYEN

It's hard to believe that little over a century ago there was nothing on the acreage where bustling Corona del Mar sits today.

In fact, when Hotel del Mar opened on July 20, 1907, it was the only building in sight and remained so for a few years.

“It was basically vacant land, but vacant land you couldn't give away,” joked Nancy Gardner, a former mayor of Newport Beach. “I mean, it was like Gertrude Stein's Oakland. There was no there there, but what [the Hotel del Mar] did was introduce the area to a lot of people and began the transformation from ‘Oh no, we don't want your property’ to ‘We can't afford the property.’”

On Friday, about 30 years after its demolition and more than a century since it was built, the Hotel del Mar — or at least the land where it once stood — was designated a historic landmark due to the collaborative efforts of residents, the Corona del Mar Resi-

See **History**, page A3



Courtesy of the Newport Beach Historical Society

**AN UNDATED PHOTOGRAPH** of the Hotel del Mar. The structure, opened in July 1907, was demolished in 1991 and replaced with a condominium complex.



Courtesy of B. Riley Retail Solutions

**THE SHOWROOM** of a Z Gallerie home furnishings store in Florida's Tampa International Plaza. The South Coast Plaza location among those offering deep discounts.

## Is it curtains for South Coast Plaza's Z Gallerie?

BY SARA CARDINE

Z Gallerie — an art-inspired home decor and furnishing retailer with a storefront in Costa Mesa's South Coast Plaza — is holding store-closing sales with deep discounts after its parent company filed for bankruptcy earlier this month.

News came Wednesday from representatives of B. Riley Retail Solutions, a retail consultant for Direct-Buy Home Improvements,

Inc., a member of Indiana-based CSC Generation Holdings that bought the Z Gallerie brand and its assets from its prior debtors during a bankruptcy sale in 2019.

The closing sales, which offer 40% discounts on all in-store merchandise on a no-returns basis, are being held in 21 locations in nine states.

In addition to the Costa Mesa store, another California location holding a closure sale is in Sherman

Oaks, where the brand got its start operating as a poster shop in 1979.

“This is a unique opportunity to buy high-end, quality home décor at deeply discounted prices,” Tim Shilling, executive vice president of B. Riley Retail Solutions, said in a news release Wednesday.

“We encourage shoppers to visit their nearest store before merchandise sells out. This sale will be avail-

See **Gallerie**, page A4



Susan Hoffman

**DR. LISA KARAMARDIAN**, medical director of maternal child health at Hoag, received her requested funding of \$299,000 for Artificial Intelligence in Fetal Telemetry during Thursday night's Hoag Innovators meeting, where \$1 million was awarded.

## Philanthropy group invests \$1M in medical innovations

BY MATT SZABO

Newport Beach resident Robert Brunswick described Thursday night's Hoag Innovators fall meeting as “Shark Tank” meets “Ted Talks.”

Brunswick and his wife, Kitty, founded Hoag Innovators in 2017 with the goal of promoting innova-

tion at Hoag through collecting and engaged giving, he said.

“Most importantly, our investments in the latest technology and research are measurably impacting patient care at Hoag, while also enhancing the recruitment of nationally recognized physicians who are bringing innova-

tion to their specializations,” Brunswick said.

There are now 63 member families and 121 members, with each Hoag Innovator contributing at least \$250,000. That leads to a sizable pot of philanthropic funds — \$22.5 million total has been raised,

See **Invests**, page A3



**HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL**

**LOS AMIGOS**

quarterback Maysen Navarro (2) finds an opening against Santiago on Thursday in a Garden Grove League football game.



James Carbone

# Lobos share league title for second year

BY ANDREW TURNER

Los Amigos' belief in themselves, at times, bordered on refusal to accept reality, an injury list as long as a freight train plotting to derail the aspirations the Lobos had for themselves.

The internal expectation was to repeat as the Garden Grove League champion, and after dropping their league opener, the Los Amigos football team did what was necessary.

An opportunistic defense led Los Amigos to a 24-8 win over Santiago, giving the Lobos their fourth straight win and a share of the league title on Thursday night at Garden Grove High.

"You got to go through things to get through things," Los Amigos coach Romel Guess said of how his team has handled the adversity it has faced. "I think that's exactly what we did. We understood what our team looked like on paper. We understood what the assignment was, that we had to weather the storm until we got guys back."

Los Amigos (6-4, 4-1) forced turnovers on the first three possessions for Santiago (4-6, 1-4). Rocco Rivera ended a red zone visit for the Cavaliers when he intercepted James Gonzalez in the end zone on the opening drive.

"Oh, man, we needed that play," Rivera said of

his interception. "I was just doing my thing. I saw [Santiago tight end Larry Bravo], I saw he was wide open, so I was like, 'I'm just going to go cover him,' and he threw the ball right to me."

It allowed the Lobos to take the lead, courtesy of a 14-play, 71-yard drive that ended with a short field goal by Miguel Radilla.

The Lobos took the ball away on two of the next three plays run by the Cavaliers. Jacob Aguilar picked off another pass. After Maysen Navarro's deep pass was intercepted, the Lobos got the ball right back when Alejandro Carrillo's sack resulted in a

See **Lobos**, page A4

**MAYOR**

Continued from page A1

is going to a vote of the affected property owners on Dec. 12.

Laguna Beach has three ways in and out of the city — Coast Highway in both directions and Laguna Canyon Road. A Caltrans project north of El Toro Road is removing a dozen

utility poles and adding a second outbound lane along Laguna Canyon Road.

Whalen advised the public that emergency kits are available for purchase through the Community and Susi Q Center. He also encouraged residents to make their homes defensible spaces by managing vegetation on their property.

"I am very proud of our city team that works constantly to prepare to protect the community in an emergency," Whalen concluded. "We will never forget the 1993 fire that ravaged so many homes and will never forget our responsibility to be prepared to protect those we serve."

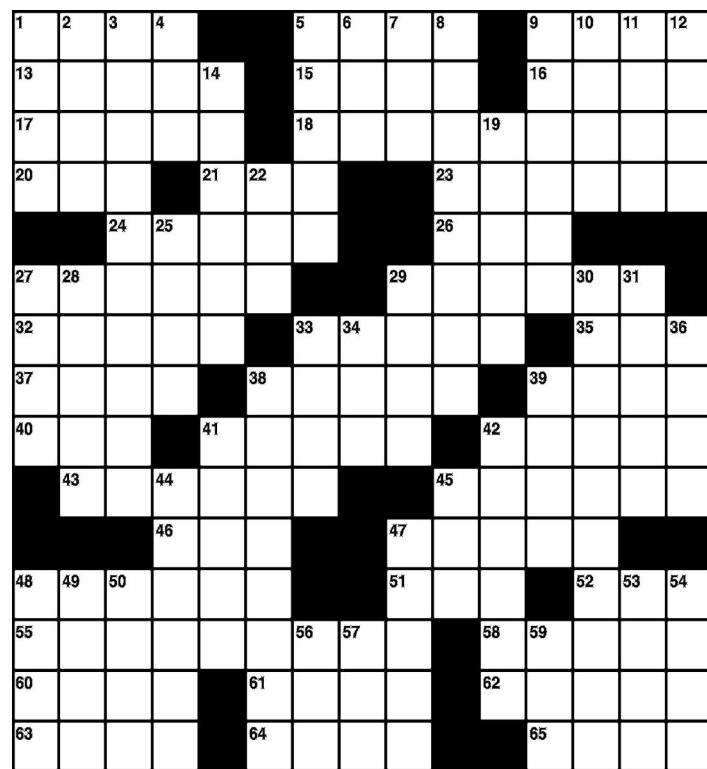
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**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

**ACROSS**

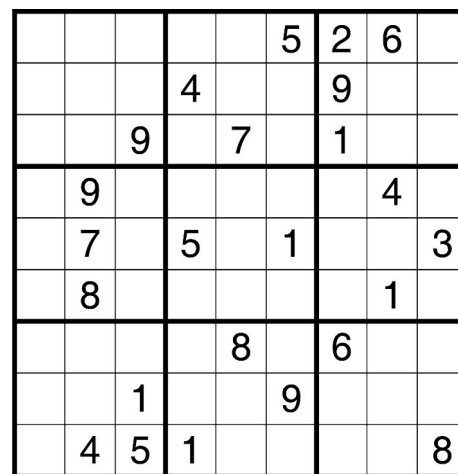
- 1 Con game
- 5 Santa's landing spot
- 9 Close angrily
- 13 Items in Superman's wardrobe
- 15 A single time only
- 16 Passport stamp
- 17 "Home \_"; hit 1990 film
- 18 Rancher
- 20 Prof. sports league
- 21 Stir-fry pan
- 23 Group of ants
- 24 Removes the lid from
- 26 Shanty
- 27 VP before Dick Cheney
- 29 Halve
- 32 Important English city
- 33 Glisten
- 35 Weather forecast
- 37 Gentle touches
- 38 Moved back & forth
- 39 Destiny
- 40 Enjoy the slopes
- 41 Clothing tear sites, often
- 42 Lean and limber
- 43 Meager
- 45 Was a tattletale
- 46 Spoil
- 47 TV remote button
- 48 Spinning
- 51 Fragile edible
- 52 Winnebagos
- 55 Unfinished business
- 58 Customary practice
- 60 Only
- 61 Chess castle
- 62 Kitchen appliance
- 63 Likelihood
- 64 "Don't go"
- 65 Test



**SUDOKU**

By the Mephram Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk).



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.

**DOWN**

- 1 MRI, for one
- 2 Leg part
- 3 Remorseful
- 4 Males
- 5 Lawn mower obstacles
- 6 \_ leash; restrained

- 7 Current calendar pg.
- 8 Fun activity for Rover
- 9 Slender
- 10 Star's car
- 11 As wise \_ owl
- 12 Numerous
- 14 Tailors

- 19 Scumbag
- 22 Late bedtime
- 25 Okra & snow peas
- 27 Sight from Innsbruck
- 28 Air mattress problems
- 29 Canisters
- 30 Motormouth
- 31 \_ point; relevant
- 33 Convince
- 34 Word attached to bug or dinger
- 36 \_ off; irritated
- 38 Colonists
- 39 Is the right size
- 41 Saw logs
- 42 Guffaws
- 44 Comes up
- 45 Scrap of cloth
- 47 Annoying
- 48 Furthermore
- 49 Carpenter's material
- 50 Grasp
- 53 Paper towel brand
- 54 Goblet part
- 56 "To be or \_ to be"
- 57 \_ 180; reverse one's views
- 59 Feasted on

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**HISTORY**

*Continued from page A1*

dents Assn. and the Newport Beach Historical Society.

Ron Yeo, chair of the association's historic resources committee, said talks to bestow the historical designation at the site, now home to the Palisades condominium complex on Carnation Avenue, date back at least eight years. But talks stalled when the question of money came up. It was at the encouragement of resident Kent Moore that the association finally took up the charge of fundraising for the plaque itself at the start of 2023. Six donations of \$300 each later, the moment finally arrived Friday.

Corona del Mar's existence largely is credited to George Hart, who in 1904 partnered with Henry Huntington, owner of the Pacific Electric Railway, to purchase 700 acres of land to develop what he considered "the jewel of the sea."

But development of the area was difficult, according to information preserved at the Sherman Library & Gardens that was recounted at the dedication by library director Jill Thrasher.

As things turned out, Huntington never expanded the electric railway to Corona del Mar, and it stopped at the Balboa Pavilion. Another challenge in marketing

the land was that it was relatively barren and lacked fresh water. Sales were low, and Hart was on the hook for the property. The Corona del Mar Historical Assn. said that roughly half of the 700 acres were returned to the Irvine Co., and Hart developed what would eventually become Hotel del Mar.

In 1910, three years after the hotel opened for business, the first Corona del Mar houses were built by Mary Everett and Alice Alden, two friends who had come south from Pasadena. By 1915, a dozen more homes were built, and by 1916, Hart abandoned his investment in the community and sold the remaining 400 acres to E.D. Cornell Co. for 5,000 acres in Riverside County.

Corona del Mar was annexed by Newport Beach in February 1924, which allowed for needed city services.

The hotel changed hands and was remade into the Balboa Palisades Club, then a hotel again before it eventually became the Palisades Apartments in the 1960s, which stopped operating in 1987, according to Thrasher's research. By 1991 the structure was razed and afterwards faded into memory.

"I think one of the big problems with the way we look at history and, particularly in Corona del Mar, is that it took place in the 20th century and that's just not



*Don Leach | Staff Photographer*

**JANICE BILLINGS** and Councilwoman Lauren Kleiman, at right, unveil the plaque officially recognizing the Hotel Del Mar location as a historic landmark on Seaview Avenue on Friday.

old enough. It doesn't 'qualify' as history. Most of us were born in the 20th century. How could that be history? But, I think part of that is why we lost a lot of our history," Gardner said. "We didn't pay much attention. That's changing, and we are, at least for the last decade, memorializing so much of our past."

The plaque dedicated Friday

sits on the side of the condominium complex along Seaview Avenue.

"It is important, of course, as we've heard, to acknowledge the seeds of our past that have cultivated everything that we know and love about the Corona del Mar of the present and ... to commemorate our rich history for all the generations to come," said

Councilwoman Lauren Kleiman, who represents Corona del Mar on the City Council. "This is such a special place that I think even George Hart himself probably could not have envisioned. I know we're all just so grateful to be able to appreciate it."

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**INVESTS**

*Continued from page A1*

Brunswick said — and \$1 million was up for grabs Thursday.

Three Hoag doctors saw their pitches either fully or partially funded following voting at the conclusion of the meeting, held at Lido House, Autograph Collection hotel in Newport Beach.

Dr. Lisa Karamardian and Dr. Charles De Mesa both received full funding of \$299,000 and \$400,000, respectively, for their pitches.

Karamardian, medical director of maternal child health at Hoag, sought funding for PeriWatch Vigilance, an automated early warning system for obstetrics.

De Mesa received his full request as he seeks to pioneer a national model for



*Susan Hoffman*

**FROM LEFT,** Hoag Innovators co-founder Robert Brunswick, doctors Rashmi Kumar, Lisa Karamardian, Sourat Darabi and Charles De Mesa at Lido House, Autograph Collection.

pain management. And Dr. Sourat Darabi, the clinical genomics scientist for Hoag's Center for Applied Genomics Technologies at the Hoag Family Cancer Institute, also received some funding for her request to build a translational research lab.

Each of the four doctors present were given six minutes to make their pitches to the Hoag Innovators, who then were able to ask questions. Before voting, Brunswick moderated a panel with each of the doctors.

Karamardian, who has

been an active staff member at Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian since 1996, had plenty of humor and quips during her pitch. Innovators member Mike Gray, impressed, called her "the closer" as she stepped off the stage.

The PeriWatch Vigilance software will help her and her team at Hoag, where about 8,000 babies are born annually, via artificial intelligence and field telemetry.

"This is technology that improves outcomes for both moms and baby," Karamardian said, adding that her mothers at Hoag Newport often tend to be at an advanced maternal age, considered high risk. "This is the first step toward building what we call a PeriGen Command Center, and there are three command centers in this country right now."

Karamardian, a Newport Beach resident, said in a phone interview Friday that she was very excited when she got the text message — all of the doctors had to leave the meeting when voting commenced — that her request would be granted.

"This is going to allow us to accurately prioritize attention, and in some instances realize that things are OK and we've got more time," she said. "It's really important, because there is such subjectivity to reading a monitoring strip, and I think there's a lot that can be learned from taking millions of bits of data, digitizing it and using that to look at standards and norms."

De Mesa, who joined Hoag earlier this year, noted during the meeting that pain is the No. 1 reason that people go to the

hospital, and that there are more than 100 million people suffering from chronic pain in the United States.

"At the same time, the costs are incredible," he said. "Over \$300 billion in medical treatments and also loss of productivity. That's more than cancer, diabetes and heart disease combined."

De Mesa's pitch dealt with looking at different approaches to pain, including the use of biomarkers to zap distressed nerves and stimulating muscles to restore function.

"The reason for the investment ask is for the imaging technology to allow our elite group of pain physicians to carry out these novel therapies," De Mesa said.

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# Carpool Closures for 405 Express Lanes Testing!

## 405 EXPRESS LANES ARE OPENING SOON!

First, crews must close the I-405 carpool lanes between SR-73 and I-605 to test the 405 Express Lanes operating system. This closure will be in place for approximately one month.

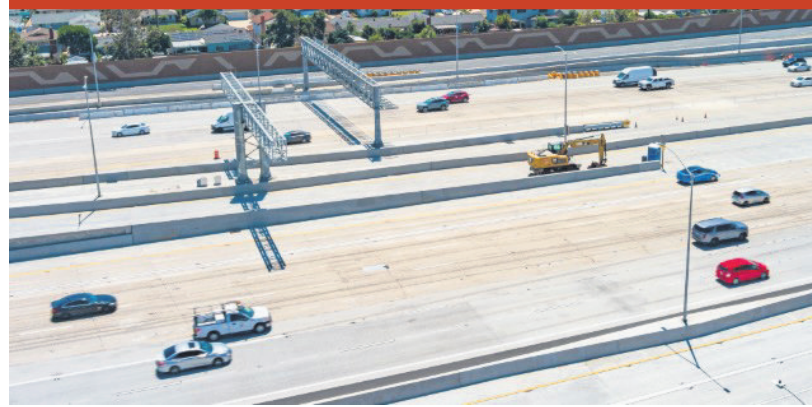
## WHAT ARE THE CLOSURES?

**At 11 p.m. Wednesday, October 25,** crews closed the northbound I-405 carpool lane at SR-73.

**As early as 11 p.m. Wednesday, November 1,** crews will close the I-405 carpool lanes and connectors between SR-22 and I-605.

**FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CREWS AND THE TRAVELING PUBLIC, DO NOT ENTER THE EXPRESS LANES.**

**TRAVELERS SHOULD EXPECT SIGNIFICANT DELAYS AND USE ALTERNATE ROUTES WHEN POSSIBLE.**



I-405 Improvement Project is still an active construction zone. **#550NTHE405**

## CREWS WILL BE TESTING THE 405 EXPRESS LANES SYSTEM.

You will see test vehicles utilizing the Express Lanes intermittently.

- Traffic delays are expected on I-405 and I-605.



For more information regarding the 405 Express Lanes, visit **405expresslanes.com**



CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Crossword answers grid with words like SCAM, ROOF, SLAM, CAPES, ONCE, VISA, ALONE, CATTLEMAN, NFL, WOK, COLONY, OPENS, HUT, ALGORE, BISECT, LEEDS, SHINE, HOT, PATS, SWUNG, FATE, SKI, SEAMS, LITHE, SCANTY, RATTED, WHOT, PAUSE, AWHIRL, EGG, RVS, LOOSE, ENDS, HABIT, SOLE, ROOK, STOVE, ODDS, STAY, EXAM.

Sudoku grid with numbers 7, 1, 8, 9, 3, 5, 2, 6, 4 in the top row.

LOBOS

Continued from page A2

fumble recovered by Rivera. Navarro, a senior quarterback who has returned after a shoulder injury in the opener, threw three touchdown passes, one each to Radilla, Isaac Galindo and Chris Flores. The Lobos' defense afforded the offense time to find its footing.



James Carbone

LOS AMIGOS defenders tackle Santiago's Larry Bravo (88) in a Garden Grove League game on Thursday.

The touchdowns book-ended halftime, with the third coming after Jovanny Regalado, playing with a cast over his right wrist, blocked a punt in the third quarter. Rancho Alamitos (7-3,

4-1), which beat Loara (0-10, 0-5) on Thursday, joined Los Amigos atop the Garden Grove League standings. La Quinta (6-3, 3-1), which was scheduled to play Bolsa Grande (5-4, 2-2)

on Friday, had a chance to forge a three-way tie for the league championship with a win. The CIF Southern Section will release its football playoff pairings at 10 a.m. on Sunday. "It's a big thing," Regalado said of the Lobos repeating as league champions. "We're making history. It was expected from us, and all that hard work we did during practice, I got to give it to the guys for putting it all in practice and coming and showing it out on the field."

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GALLERIE

able for a limited time only." South Coast Plaza representatives declined to comment on the bankruptcy proceedings but confirmed the retailer signed its initial lease in 2001 in a storefront now occupied by Williams Sonoma. Z Gallerie relocated in 2014 to the first floor of the center's Macy Home Store Wing.

In an Oct. 16 declaration filed with the U.S. bankruptcy court in New Jersey, Robert Fetterman, chief financial officer and interim CEO for DirectBuy Home Improvement, Inc., cited adverse macroeconomic trends and "industry specific headwinds" as factors that placed serious constraints on the company's liquidity.

"Specifically, supply chain and import costs significantly increased in late 2021 and into 2022, severely impacting the brand's profitability and cash position," Fetterman declared.

"Interest rates increasing based on inflationary pressures, and mortgage rates increasing to some of the highest rates in approximately a decade or longer, new home purchases and the housing market [have] slowed significantly, which is a major driver of business for the brand."

Although it is unclear when or whether the storefronts will close altogether, officials have indicated Z Gallerie gift cards may be used until Nov. 15.

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CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, November 09, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted in the Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. The Planning Commission of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Dawson Residence Appeal - An appeal of the Zoning Administrator's August 10, 2023, approval to remodel and add 2,511 square feet to an existing, non-conforming 5,781-square-foot, single-unit residence, which results in a total of 8,292 square feet of gross floor area. The following discretionary approvals are requested to implement the project:

- Coastal Development Permit: Required to authorize the remodel and addition of the existing non-conforming residence. The scope of work includes grading and excavation, landscape and hardscape, drainage, a swimming pool, and various accessory structures;
Modification Permit: Required to authorize retaining walls and associated guardrails located within the front yard setback along Ocean Boulevard which exceeds the maximum 42-inch height limit and Ocean Boulevard curb height elevation; and
Staff Approval: Required for determination of substantial conformance with a previously approved variance which authorized deviations to height, floor area, and setbacks.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15303 under Class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines.

All interested parties may appear and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City or before the public hearing. The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date; if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapters 20.64 and 21.64. The project site is located within the appeal area of the coastal zone; therefore, final action by the City may be appealed to the California Coastal Commission.

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/planningcommission.

Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Planning Commission to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact David Lee, Senior Planner, at 949-644-3225, dlee@newportbeachca.gov, at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Table with project details: Project File No., Zone, Coastal Land Use Plan, Location, Activities, General Plan, Filing Date, Applicant.

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CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on October 24, 2023, the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, adopted an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-15

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE NEWPORT VILLAGE PLANNED COMMUNITY (PC-27) DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO UPDATE THE DEFINITIONS AND ALLOWED USES WITHIN AREA 5 (RETAIL) (PA2023-0122)

The Ordinance modifies the definitions and allowed uses listed under Section V. of the Development Plan, which regulates the area designated as Area 5 (Retail) and commonly known as the Corona del Mar Plaza Shopping Center. The applicant desires to remove outdated references, make the Development Plan more consistent with the Newport Beach Municipal Code, and allow more streamlined review of new tenants.

This Ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, at a regular meeting thereof on the 24th day of October, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Noah Blom, Mayor Pro Tem Will O'Neill, Councilmember Robyn Grant, Councilmember Lauren Kleiman, Councilmember Joe Stapleton, Councilmember Erik Weigand
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Councilmember Brad Avery

The Ordinance shall become final and effective thirty (30) days after adoption.

Dated this 25th day of October, 2023.

/s/ Leilani I. Brown, City Clerk, City of Newport Beach

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JEFFERY R. GARDNER

CASE NO. 30-2023-01356171-PR-PW-CMC

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JEFFERY R. GARDNER.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CHRISTINE GARDNER in the Superior Court of California, County of ORANGE.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CHRISTINE GARDNER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. THE WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/04/24 at 1:30PM in Dept. CM06 located at 3390 HARBOR BLVD., COSTA MESA, CA 92626-1554

NOTICE IN PROBATE CASES

The court is providing the convenience to appear for hearing by video using the court's designated video platform. This is a no cost service to the public. Go to the Court's website at The Superior Court of California - County of Orange (occourts.org) to appear remotely for Probate hearings and for remote hearing instructions. If you have difficulty connecting or are unable to connect to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance. If you prefer to appear in-person, you can appear in the department on the day/time set for your hearing.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner DONALD E. SLAUGHTER - SBN 67574, SLAUGHTER & SLAUGHTER, LLP 4 UPPER NEWPORT PLAZA, SUITE 100 NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660, Telephone (949) 721-9091 10/27, 10/28, 11/3/23 CNS-3751485# NEWPORT HARBOR NEWS PRESS COMBINED WITH DAILY PILOT

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LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on November 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted in the City Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. The City Council of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following: CHANGES TO WATER AND SEWER RATES - City Council will consider the adoption of a resolution to change the water and sewer rates collected through the municipal services bill. These rates fund the operations, maintenance and replacement activities associated with the City's water and sewer systems.

The Utilities Department retained the consulting services of a specialty financial consultant to conduct a financial review and prepare rate studies for the City's water and sewer systems. The financial review analyzed operations/maintenance costs, current and future inflationary factors such as labor, materials, construction, and water supply costs, and future capital replacement needs of the systems. The studies concluded that water rate and sewer rate increases are recommended to ensure adequate funds are available to continue providing high quality water and sewer system services. Along with the publication of this notice, the City mailed written notice of the proposed water and sewer rate structure and adjustments to the record owners and customers of each identified parcel subject to the water and sewer rates.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN The project is exempt under Section 15060(c)(2) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines because it will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change to the environment.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN All property owners and active water and sewer customers subject to the City's water and sewer rates were properly notified as required by California statutes including, but not limited to, Proposition 218. Under the Proposition 218 requirements, the rates will not be adjusted if a majority of the property owners subject to the water and sewer rates submit a valid written protest to the City Clerk by the close of the 45-day notice period. If the total number of protests is less than half of the number of properties served by the City, then the Clerk may advise the City Council of the absence of a majority protest without determining the validity of all protests.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN - SENATE BILL 323: 120-Day Statute of Limitations for New or Increased Water and Sewer Rates: With the enactment of Senate Bill 323, customers must bring a civil action to new or increased water or sewer rates within 120 days of the effective date or date of final passage, adoption or approval of the resolution adopting the applicable water or sewer rate(s).

All interested parties may appear and present testimony in regard to this change. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing. The change may be continued to a specific future meeting date, and if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Prior to the public hearing, the agenda, staff report, the 2023 water rate study, the 2023 sewer rate study and documents may be reviewed at the City Clerk's Office, at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, California, 92660 or at the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov. Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Utilities Department or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this item.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Josh Rosenbaum, Utilities Department Senior Management Analyst, at 949-644-3011 or jrosenbaum@newportbeachca.gov or UtilitiesHelp@newportbeachca.gov.

/s/ Leilani I. Brown, MMC, City Clerk, City of Newport Beach

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