

Daily Pilot

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Costa Mesa site eyed for live/work housing

City Council members Tuesday considered plans for 2.3-acre property steps away from the recently preserved Banning Ranch.

BY SARA CARDINE

After long serving as a way station of Orange County surf and skate culture, a 2.3-acre parcel on Costa Mesa's 16th Street — the erstwhile headquarters of apparel company RVCA — is being eyed for housing.

City officials Tuesday screened a proposal for a 38-unit live/work development at 960 W. 16th St., adjacent to Costa Mesa's shared boundary with the city of Newport Beach and steps away from the 387-acre Randall Preserve, formerly called Banning Ranch.

Floated by Newport Beach developer Intracorp, plans include a series of three-story detached single-family residences with rooftop patios, ranging from 1,900 to 2,300 square feet, that would include first-floor workspaces that could be used for in-home businesses.

The property currently falls within the Mesa West Bluffs Urban Plan, a

See **Housing**, page A2

Junior lifeguards set to hit the waves



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

AN INSTRUCTOR DROPS down to do push-ups with one of over a hundred kids on day one of the Newport Beach junior lifeguards season at the new headquarters next to the Balboa Pier on Tuesday.

With school out and summer in swing, kids from all over Newport Beach hit the sands early Tuesday morning for the start of the junior lifeguard season.

About 1,400 youngsters are enrolled in two sessions, with dozens of instructors teaching them about ocean

and water safety. The program, which started in 1984 with founder and former lifeguard Reenie Boyer, is celebrating its 40th anniversary — an occasion marked by the opening of the Junior Lifeguards' headquarters earlier this month.

The 5,400-square-foot facility replaces

the trailer that the program previously operated out of near Balboa Pier.

This year's program will wrap in early August. In addition to regular lessons, an Iron Man competition is scheduled for July 13, and the famed "Monster Mile" is planned for July 25.

— Lilly Nguyen

Police chief in F.V. calls it a career



Andrew Turner

RETIRING FOUNTAIN VALLEY Police Chief Matthew Sheppard holds up a proclamation recognizing his service to the city.

BY ANDREW TURNER

More than one thing can be true at the same time, and that was the tenor of the comments from the dais as Fountain Valley recognized the impending retirement of its police chief.

Matthew Sheppard, who replaced Kevin Childe as Fountain Valley's top cop in December 2019, grew within a career he loved. Appropriately, he joined the Fountain Valley police department on Valentine's Day.

Sheppard indicated he had held just about every role except that of dispatch since being sworn in as an officer in 2000.

See **Chief**, page A3

Police arrest 7, cite 21 at DUI checkpoint in south Laguna Beach

BY ANDREW TURNER

A DUI checkpoint in south Laguna Beach led to seven arrests on Friday night, authorities said.

Police made six arrests on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Another individual was taken into custody for having an outstanding warrant, Laguna Beach Police Lt. Jesse Schmidt said.

The multi-agency operation was carried out between the hours of 8:40 p.m. and 1:40 a.m.

along Coast Highway near Aliso Beach. The California Highway Patrol, California State Parks and the Buena Park, Costa Mesa and Newport Beach police departments assisted the operation.

A total of 1,763 vehicles drove through the checkpoint, with officers contacting 535 drivers. Authorities also issued 21 citations related to unlicensed driving, and five vehicles were towed from the area.

Funding for the checkpoint

See **Arrest**, page A2

FLAG FOOTBALL

Costa Mesa Steelers honor late coach with Super Bowl win

BY MATT SZABO

Tim "TJ" Hicks loved coaching in the Matt Leinart Flag Football League.

The West Virginia native, a big Pittsburgh Steelers fan, would typically spend all Friday night at the field. If he wasn't guiding his own team, he would be scouting others.

Hicks died doing when he loved.

He suffered a heart attack at Jack Hammett Sports Complex in Costa Mesa while coaching a girls' team on Nov. 17, and passed away soon after. He was 56 years old and left behind his wife Cindy and two sons, Jackson and Sam.

His eighth-grade boys' flag football team knew something had happened to their beloved coach but didn't get the news from parents that he had died until they

got off the field following a loss.

"The parents were trying to hold it together on the sideline," said Dana Strader, whose son, Connor, was a member of the team. "Most of the moms are crying, and nobody wants to be the one to deliver the news, right? But we had decided, it's better that we deliver it to them while they're all together."

When the boys found out, those tears transferred to their faces. Hicks had coached several of the team's members — Kane Suh, Henry Birchard, Travis Reedy and Connor Strader — since first grade.

Dallal and Gavin Spears joined the team while in third grade, followed by Xavier Palhetas in fourth, Nolan Scott in seventh and Beckett Williams in eighth. All were

See **Steelers**, page A4



TRAVIS REEDY, Xavier Palhetas, Conner Strader, Nolan Scott, Henry Birchard, Kane Suh and Dylan Dallal, from left, of the Costa Mesa Steelers flag football team, gather around the Matt Leinart Flag Football League Super Bowl trophy.

Don Leach | Staff Photographer

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Second Harvest honored as Nonprofit of the Year

BY ANDREW TURNER

Dozens of volunteers had risen with the sun to begin working in the cabbage fields.

It's a common sight at Harvest Solutions Farm, due north of the Great Park in Irvine. Eager hands — young and old — strap on gloves ready to make a difference against food insecurity.

The farm sits on 45 acres of land, a partnership between Second Harvest Food Bank, the University of California South Coast Research and Extension Center, and Solutions for Urban Agriculture.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County and its volunteers received recognition for their collective efforts on Saturday, when Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine) visited the farm to present a proclamation naming it her district's Nonprofit of the Year.

"It makes me very proud to represent such an incredible community," Petrie-Norris said of seeing the crowd that showed up to serve on Saturday. "We call this 'Harvesting Hope,' but it does give me hope. I think we're living in a moment right now where there is a lot of negativity and a lot of cynicism, and moments like this, when you see people coming together to serve our community, to connect with one another, that's really special."

Petrie-Norris, who is nearing the completion of her third term in office, added that she had held four volunteer events over the past year at the farm, helping to harvest more than 25,000 pounds of produce.

Nominations were solicited from the community for the hon-



Andrew Turner

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COTTIE Petrie-Norris presents a proclamation on Saturday, June 15, recognizing Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County as her district's Nonprofit of the Year.

or.

"Harvest Solutions has provided 5.4 million [in] a little over two years, but the Food Bank is distributing close to 37 million pounds, so the need remains quite high, even this far out from the pandemic," said Claudia Bonilla Keller, the chief executive of Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. "Right now, the need is particularly high due to inflation, the end of COVID-era benefits, and the cost of housing. We all know it's more expensive to live in California, it's more expensive to live in Orange County, and a lot of folks need help accessing food."

Second Harvest Food Bank sends produce to more than 300 points of distribution, Bonilla Keller said.



Courtesy of Salma Elshakre

VOLUNTEERS WORK in the fields at Harvest Solutions Farm in Irvine. Food bank officials say the need for food assistance remains high.

ler said. The organization also buys food, takes donations and rescues items from grocery stores that might otherwise be thrown away.

At Harvest Solutions Farm in Irvine, the organization attempts to turn 1 acre a week.

"We're lucky to live in this climate," Bonilla Keller added. "There's never not a good time to plant, so we are basically 50 weeks a year. We close at the end of the year for Christmas, and one week in the summer to give our staff a break, but the crops don't wait, so if we have to pay people to come and harvest it, we will."

Many of the volunteers wore green shirts displaying the words, "Harvesting Hope."

"We're getting close to 9,000 volunteers that have come through here in the whole time that the farm has been open, which is coming close to three years," Bonilla Keller said. "We have a lot of repeats. We have a lot of regulars that are out here two or three days a week that have become kind of a de facto part of the leadership of the staff. ... We also enjoy the labor of ... over 20,000 a year at our distribution center here in Irvine."

Past nonprofit honorees in the 73rd Assembly District during Petrie-Norris' time in office have included Save Our Youth (2019), Families Forward (2020), Pacific Marine Mammal Center (2021), Alzheimer's Orange County (2022) and Trellis (2023).

Those interested in volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County can visit feedo-c.org.

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CHIEF

Continued from page A1

"It is the most noble career that's out there," Sheppard said. "I've said that my entire career. I still can't believe that the city hired me. I should have been the guy sitting in the back seat of the car, not in the front seat, but they took a chance on me, and I'm glad that they did."

While wishing the chief well in retirement, multiple council members playfully

pleaded for him to stay.

Mayor Glenn Grandis asked Colin Burns, who provides legal counsel to the city, if the council had the power to overrule the retirement request.

"We can do it ceremonially," Burns replied.

A significant portion of the attendees inside council chambers had come to see Sheppard off, a testament to the respect given to a chief that spent his entire career in law enforcement with one department.

Sheppard received a standing ovation from the room after reflecting on his career at the podium. In his remarks, he thanked the city staff, the community and those in the department. He added that while the city faces new challenges, the department is prepared to face them.

"I'm very happy that I chose this career, and I'm extremely grateful for the city of Fountain Valley, but I'm ready to start that next chapter," Sheppard said. "Forty years of work is a

long time. I am healthy. I'm happy. I've got a great family I'm ready to get back to, I've been missing for a while, but that's just part of the job. They are there for me, and I'm ready to jump into that role.

"I'm going to retire. I don't have another job lined up. I'm going to take some time off and enjoy it. The answer to your question before I came up here, 'No, it's denied.'"

During his time with Fountain Valley police,

Sheppard also served as an officer, senior officer, sergeant, detective, lieutenant and captain. Sheppard, a Fountain Valley High alumnus, will retire from the city on July 4.

Sheppard served as the 2022-23 president of the Orange County Peace Officers Assn.

"While we are excited for you embarking on this new journey, please remember that our city of Fountain Valley has a generous return policy," Vice Mayor

Ted Bui said. "Should you ever miss the thrill of the sirens or the camaraderie of the squad, you'll always have a badge and a desk waiting for you here."

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Sculptor's medium
- 5 Old anesthetic
- 10 Mark for life
- 14 Folktales, e.g.
- 15 Zora _ Hurston
- 16 Rock singer Turner
- 17 \$20 providers: Abbr.
- 18 Gem weight unit
- 19 Odd's opposite
- 20 "Quit whining!": 2 wds.
- 23 Sitting room
- 24 Tristan's love
- 25 No longer hidden
- 29 Big brass instrument
- 32 Like lemon juice
- 33 Voice part below soprano
- 37 Seemingly forever
- 38 Dudes
- 39 Close by
- 40 Indian clarified butter
- 41 Quiet summons
- 43 Superhero garment
- 44 Say incorrectly
- 47 Car that uses lots of fuel: 2 wds.
- 51 Curriculum part
- 55 Blockbuster genre: 2 wds.
- 59 Take a _ for the worse
- 60 Ex-Senator Hatch
- 61 Barbecue entree
- 62 A Great Lake
- 63 Gasp, e.g.
- 64 Fighting: 2 wds.
- 65 Drains of energy
- 66 Chair designer Ray
- 67 Allows

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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55						56	57	58						
59					60						61			
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

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.

3	2		9	8				
		7		1	3			4
		9	6			3	1	
	5	8	2			9		
	3	2			1	5		
4			3	2				
			7	9		5	1	

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

- 1 Necklace closure
- 2 Bunch of, slangily
- 3 Knight's protection
- 4 Polite acceptance: 2 wds.
- 5 Concert extenders
- 6 Pair of oxen
- 7 Angel's instrument
- 8 Israeli airline
- 9 Keep
- 10 Old courtroom pro
- 11 Not rude
- 12 Come to _ : 2

- 13 Kitchen appliance
- 21 URL ending
- 22 Follower's suffix
- 26 Cavorts
- 27 Estimate
- 28 Physicist Mach
- 29 Luggage label
- 30 "Gross!"
- 31 Buzzy insect
- 33 Hereditary
- 34 Actress Michele
- 35 Bar fixture
- 36 Mined resource
- 42 Natural gifts
- 44 Cow's sound
- 45 Pay no mind to
- 46 Midmorning hour
- 47 Fence openings
- 48 Luxury car brand
- 49 Get naked
- 50 Dancer Gregory
- 52 Group of rooms
- 53 Travel around
- 54 Birds' homes
- 56 Sector
- 57 Small drink of whiskey
- 58 Bad behavior

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