

Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024 // dailypilot.com



Photos courtesy of the Costa Mesa Foundation

LOCALS AT Costa Mesa's Fairview Park enjoy a performance from Yachty By Nature during Concerts in the Park, taking place through July 30.

Costa Mesa's summer block party returns to Fairview Park

BY SARA CARDINE

Area residents in the know made Costa Mesa their destination for summertime fun Tuesday evening, gathering with friends and neighbors in the city's Fairview Park for the first installment of the annual Concerts in the Park series.

For more than a decade, the weekday evening happenings have invited families and 9-to-5 denizens to kick off their shoes, dance to live music and get to know local businesses, agencies and organizations working in the community — all for a good cause.

Presented by the nonprofit Costa Mesa Foundation and with support from the city of Costa Mesa, Concerts in the Park is run by volunteers, who donate proceeds from the event in the form of small grants to school groups, clubs and organizations looking to fund special trips, projects and goals.

Although admission is free, sales generated by a no-host beer and wine garden fund the



See **Party**, page A4 **LAST YEAR'S** Concerts in the Park, seen above, drew thousands to Fairview Park.

Nonprofit hits the waves for kids' summer camp



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ALEXANDER HERNANDEZ steps off a kayak after paddling across the bay with his parents as camp volunteer Tom Swanecamp guides them across the water during Miracles for Kids Surf & Paddle camp.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

On what was a surprisingly overcast July afternoon in Newport Beach, children screamed and cheered as they vaulted across the sand and water at the Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort and Marina.

It was an ordinary sight for most beaches this time of year, but this day was special. The kids at the shore Thursday were hosted by Miracles for Kids, a nonprofit focused on providing aid to families with critically ill children that is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

The foundation hosts a Surf & Paddle camp every summer to provide children they serve a chance to enjoy a day in the sun with their families.

"A lot of these kids have never been on a paddle board or they've never seen a kayak. So, it's something new for them to have fun with. It's the notion that we want to give a day of respite

See **Camp**, page A4

Pump station decision upheld

Coastal Commission upholds decision by N.B. City Council, Planning Commission on new wastewater facility.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

An appeal filed by Bayside Village Marina on the construction of a new wastewater pump station was rejected by the state Coastal Commission on Thursday with commissioners finding no substantive reason to deny the coastal development permit application submitted by Orange County Sanitation District.

The new project would replace the 4,800-square-foot pump station built in 1966 on East Coast Highway. The station currently pumps wastewater flow from properties east of Newport Bay, including Balboa Island and Crystal Cove, to a treatment plant in Huntington Beach.

The new pump station will encompass around 7,500 square feet but will expand the footprint of

See **Decision**, page A3

Fourth brought crowds, rescues

Laguna Beach marine safety personnel stayed busy last weekend, as town's visiting population swelled.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Along the boardwalk and long stretches of the sand in front of it, the crowds at Main Beach painted a picture of what was taking place across Laguna Beach during the Fourth of July weekend.

It did not go unnoticed by the residents of the town of approximately 23,000 people, some bringing concerns about the traffic, trash and other impacts attributed to visitors to the City Council on Tuesday night.

Umbrellas and canopies were

See **Crowds**, page A4

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Courtesy of the county of Orange

LONGTIME ORANGE COUNTY CEO FRANK KIM LOOKS FORWARD TO RETIREMENT

PAGE A2

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Longtime O.C. CEO retires, called 'calming influence'

BY PAUL ANDERSON

Orange County chief executive Frank Kim, who officially stepped down from his post Thursday amid tributes from colleagues, spent his last days on the job typically worrying about all the loose ends that he still needed to tie up.

"I've always worked," Kim said, recalling how his family emigrated from South Korea to Philadelphia when he was 4. From there, the Kims moved to Koreatown, he said.

His mother had less than \$1,000 to her name at the time.

"We were poor," Kim told City News Service. "So ever since I could, I've worked. Since I was 15 I worked part-time jobs ... You want your own agency. I worked because I wanted to buy things."

Kim first announced his pending retirement in November via a letter to the county Board of Supervisors, which then launched a search for new CEO. He has served in the role for nine years.

Kim said he has fielded many calls from friends and supporters offering him opportunities, but he said he is in no hurry to decide what to do with the rest of his life.

"I want to be thoughtful about it. And I don't have the space right now to do that ... I don't feel calm yet. I don't want to make a decision on my future until I'm calm and thoughtful. But I am happy to move on," he said.

Former Orange County Supervisor John Moorlach often used the word "calm" to describe Kim as he reminisced about the longest-tenured chief executive in the county's history.

"He didn't have all the drama [former county CEO] Tom Mauk had," Moorlach told CNS.

"It was a good, calming influence," Moorlach said of Kim's stints as budget director and then CEO. "He didn't have that drama. He's just a professional."

Former Orange County Supervisor Lisa Bartlett also praised Kim's tenure.

"I very much enjoyed working with Frank Kim in his capacity as the Orange County CEO," Bartlett said. "Frank's experience working in a multitude of county departments before taking on the CEO role enabled him to really help guide the Board of Supervisors in key decision-making over the years. His leadership, ability to think and react quickly and positive demeanor will definitely leave big shoes to fill. Frank's significant impact through his many years at the county presents a rich legacy and I am grateful



Courtesy of the county of Orange

FRANK KIM has retired after serving as Orange County's CEO for nine years.

for the opportunity to have worked with him."

The county's chief financial officer, Michelle Aguirre, will fill in while Board of Supervisors continues looking for Kim's permanent replacement.

Kim said the two were hired about the same time and grew up in the county together professionally.

Emerging from the infamous county bankruptcy in the 1990s, Kim said he sought to bolster the county's reserves when he was the county's CFO.

"We were both children of the bankruptcy," Kim said of his working relationship with Aguirre. "So we were always conservative. I felt we were very responsible."

Kim said there were times Orange County had to borrow money from other departments to make payroll and other necessary expenses.

"That's not the best way to run a county," he said. "So we focused with the board in setting milestones. Benchmarks."

Moorlach said one of Kim's greatest accomplishments was helping steer the county through the Great Recession of 2008-09.

"He and I met every Monday," Moorlach said.

Kim said he was grateful for the federal government bailout money that helped the county muddle through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"If we didn't get the COVID relief we'd

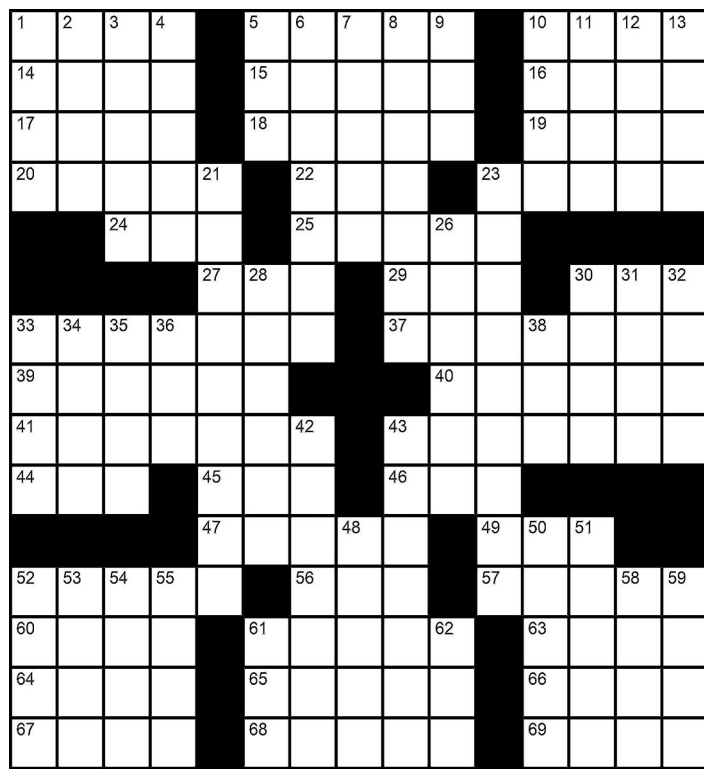
See **Kim**, page A4

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

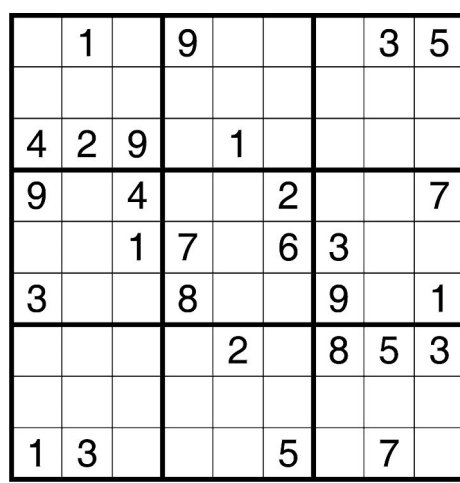
- 1 Fast, short run
- 5 Wave froth
- 10 Amorphous lump
- 14 Smitten by
- 15 Stengel of baseball
- 16 Like yellow bananas
- 17 Red traffic sign
- 18 Silly and stupid
- 19 "You said it!"
- 20 Big name, for short
- 22 A long time _
- 23 Representative
- 24 Non-native speaker's class: abbr.
- 25 Old mint brand
- 27 "Yuck!"
- 29 Rembrandt's specialty
- 30 Get on in years
- 33 "Take that!": 2 wds.
- 37 Went at great speed
- 39 One-celled creature
- 40 Not at rest
- 41 Enrages
- 43 Florida mammal
- 44 Finish
- 45 Nutritional letters: Abbr.
- 46 Spanish article
- 47 Rips to bits
- 49 Barcode type: Abbr.
- 52 Rome's country
- 56 Morse code sound
- 57 Canine or molar
- 60 After-bath garment
- 61 Tartan pattern
- 63 Sore feeling
- 64 Perfect sphere
- 65 Dollars and cents
- 66 Snowman's eyes
- 67 Tidy
- 68 Impolite look
- 69 Round of applause



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.



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A3.

DOWN

- 1 The D in CD
- 2 Poker payment
- 3 Shoulder wrap
- 4 _ and dreams
- 5 Biology, e.g.: Abbr.
- 6 Flamboyant style

- 7 Meter reading
- 8 Hanukkah candelabrum
- 9 Look over
- 10 Boast
- 11 Margarita ingredient
- 12 Not closed
- 13 Crooked

- 21 Muffin fruit
- 23 Space traveler
- 26 President after FDR
- 28 Singer Ariana
- 30 Landed
- 31 Kelly of "On the Town"
- 32 Slight advantage
- 33 Identical
- 34 Mideast nation
- 35 Sondheim's "Sweeney _"
- 36 "If only _ listened"
- 38 Federal power agency: Abbr.
- 42 Neighborhood ballfield
- 43 More stale, as air
- 48 1980s princess
- 50 Cook in liquid
- 51 Hot _ (winter drink)
- 52 Steel component
- 53 Ripped
- 54 "SOS" band
- 55 _ we forget
- 58 Holier _-thou
- 59 Clapsed
- 61 Afternoon hours: Abbr.
- 62 Easter egg coloring

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12:59
📶 53

Los Angeles Times TimesOC

California State Parks seasonal lifeguard Sierra Fockler discovered a 14-inch Pacific football fish around 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, near the lifeguard station located at Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County. It's the second such case of the fish washing ashore over the last three years. (Courtesy of California State Parks)

Good morning. It's Wednesday, Oct. 25. I'm Carol Cormaci, bringing you this week's [TimesOC newsletter](#) with a look at the latest local news and events.

Watch where you're stepping on O.C.'s famed sands, because you may encounter a rare specimen of marine life. One, in fact, that has very sharp teeth.

That's what happened on a recent afternoon to lifeguard Sierra Fockler, who found a spooky-looking black angler fish, specifically a Pacific football fish, while she was walking near the lifeguard headquarters building on Moro Beach, located within Crystal Cove State Park.

DECISION

Continued from page A1

the site to 14,592 square feet. As part of the project, two 1,300-foot-long, 24-inch-diameter force mains will be installed. The station will also include a new generator room, electrical room and odor control facility.

Bayside Village Marina is adjacent to the project.

The pump station received its first approvals from the Newport Beach Planning Commission in late January of this year; that decision was then appealed by Terra Vista Management, which owns and operates Bayside Village Marina, to the City Council in April.

Council members went back and forth during the April hearing, with some expressing concern for O.C. Sanitation's use of eminent domain, which allows the government to take private property for public use even if its owners don't want to sell. Ultimately the council denied the appeal by majority vote.

Appellant Terra Vista Management stated at the time the project was too large and that the development was inconsistent with the city's certified local coastal program.

An appeal of the city's approval was filed with the state Coastal Commission in May, reiterating similar concerns and arguing that the special district could potentially relocate the sewer lift station elsewhere on the Bayside Village Marina site or replace or refurbish the existing pump station; that the project disrupts the balance of land uses present; that the expansion would impact mandated coastal view corridors and that construc-

tion could adversely affect coastal resources as construction goes on.

In a report for Thursday's meeting, Coastal Commission staff said the project was compliant and that it was necessary to address aging public sewer infrastructure.

At the appeal hearing, Terra Vista Management's president and chief executive Michael Gelfand said there was a "far superior" alternative to the one proposed by O.C. Sanitation. Gelfand said the new pump station, as proposed, would require a complete redesign of the Back Bay Landing project.

"The city of Newport Beach approved it because they thought the eminent domain rendered the whole issue moot, but you, as a commission, have the ability to actually consider [placing the station in the northeast corner of the Back Bay Landing project]," Gelfand said, "which works on many, many levels better. That's all we're asking you today to do: Schedule a full hearing so that you can actually look at the alternatives thoroughly before you make your decision."

O.C. Sanitation director of engineering Mike Dorman said the Bay Bridge Pump Station was critical infrastructure as it handles about 50% of the flow from the city. He said the improvements are necessary due to severe concrete corrosion and an aging infrastructure. He said a new electrical building was needed to meet current codes and reliability standards set by the special district.

Dorman reiterated talks of the sites considered for the project, but they were deemed nonviable or lack-

See Decision, page A4

Daily Pilot A Times Community News publication. CONTACT US Carol Cormaci Executive Editor gabriel.sanroman@latimes.com Beth Raff Advertising Manager matt.szabo@latimes.com Sarah Cardine Costa Mesa sarah.cardine@latimes.com Sarah Mosqueda TimesOC sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com Lilly Nguyen Newport Beach lilly.nguyen@latimes.com

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Crossword grid with answers: DASH, STOP, CELEB, ESLS, UGH, SOTHERE, AMOEB, MADDENS, END, ITALY, ROBE, ORBS, NEAT, SPUME, CASEY, INANE, AGO, AGENT, CERTS, ART, HURTL, MOVING, MANATEE, UNANA, RENDS, UP, PLAID, MONEY, STARE, BLOB, RIPE, AMEN, AGENT, AGE, LED, E, UNATEE, UP, TOOTH, ACHE, COAL, HAND

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in a 9x9 grid.

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Legal Notices Notice of Public Hearing Annual Wastewater Charges Proposed Rate Assessment Costa Mesa Sanitary District Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors will be holding a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 22, 2024, via a hybrid in-person meeting and Zoom teleconference (https://zoom.us/join; meeting ID: 850 1825 3471) regarding the imposition of wastewater charges and solid waste charges on the annual assessment roll. Property owners may protest the assessment of their property if they believe their property has been unfairly assessed based on use, such as customer class or number of units.

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300 Business Names Fictitious Business Name Statement The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Greer's Mom, Druann, Made by Greer's Mom, Bark-Err's by Greer's Mom, 3205 Nebraska Place, Costa Mesa, CA. 92626-9262, Orange County, Druann Louise Greer-Cisneros 3205 Nebraska Place, Costa Mesa, CA. 92626-9262 This business is conducted by: an Individual The Registrant(s) Commenced to transact business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) listed above on: 05/12/2024 Signed Druann Louise Greer-Cisneros This statement was filed with the County of Orange on May 16th. 2024 20246690382 06/22,29,07/06,13/2024

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CROWDS

Continued from page A1

perched in the sand in the afternoon of Independence Day, and not a volleyball net went unoccupied leading up to nightfall. Following the completion of the city's drone show, which replaced the traditional fireworks spectacular, it took more than two hours for traffic to clear town.

Marine safety personnel stayed busy throughout the four-day weekend, as lifeguards executed 2,278 rescues during the period. There were also 486 medical aids, 11,140 ordinance enforcements and 41,134 preventive contacts.

The city brought the beaches in South Laguna under local control from the county of Orange ahead of last summer. Monitoring Laguna Beach's 7.5 miles of coastline, marine safety officials reported 460 rescues between July 1 and July 4 in 2023.

"The crowds have definitely increased," Marine Safety Capt. Kai Bond said. "It seems like it's been even a lot more since last year. It's driven by a lot of factors, but I think one of the primary ones is exposure through social media. ... From my perspective, the social media has been a big factor because it's just an avenue for everybody that has a camera or a cellphone to post pictures of our beautiful coastline and geotag it,



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE LAGUNA BEACH coastline looking north to Main Beach Park from Brooks Street shows the wall-to-wall crowds typical over the Fourth of July weekend.

and it draws visitors to those locations."

The Laguna Beach coastline presents opportunities for a variety of rescues, which Bond said occur when a person is physically assisted from the water. Individuals can be rescued from rip currents, in the surfline, for scuba divers and also from boats.

Bond said his department is at peak staffing, and it has been able to manage the demand of the last two summers so far due to its recruitment and training efforts.

Laguna Beach added a water rescue

vessel to its marine safety fleet in May with the addition of "Wave Watch." The vessel has been called into service four days per week.

"It's patrolling similar to our land-based vehicles," Bond said of the rescue vessel. "It's patrolling, it's making those prevents, it's making those contacts. Even marine protection violations, it gives us that platform to contact vessels offshore. It's an amazing tool."

andrewturner@latimes.com
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KIM

Continued from page A2

be in a world of hurt," Kim said. "Those funds were urgently needed."

Kim said the county's frugal culture is strong and will carry on without him. He was also confident that public erosion of trust in government would not worsen.

"I think people believe in the work we do," he said. "They just don't know we're doing it."

Kim has also been credited for his leadership on the homelessness crisis, working with homeless advocates and U.S. District Judge David Carter.

The county built homeless shelters and ensured that encampments were cleared out while a new system of care was put in place to get at the roots of homelessness.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR KIM?

Kim said he planned to take six months off before deciding what's next. He wants to spend more time

with his wife and aging parents to better care for them. Eventually he would like to do more volunteer work to keep serving the public.

He signed up for a half-marathon and bought some running shoes as part of his goal to improve his health. He was so worried about tying up loose ends, he said, "I think it will take two more weeks to relax."

He has a stack of books gifted to him from friends that he can't wait to tackle, and he said scuba diving is another passion. But he'll have to wait for his friends, who are still working, to go on vacation to join him for that.

Kim spent his final days on the job visiting all the departments he oversaw.

"To me that's more meaningful than charging everyone 50 bucks for a party," he said. "I've been to all of those parties. It's great for those who like that but I don't want that."

Paul Anderson is a reporter for City News Service.

PARTY

Continued from page A1

grant program, which is open to applicants each September through May, according to President Jojo Crowley.

"The main purpose of the Costa Mesa Foundation is to raise money and give money away to community groups in the city," Crowley said, adding that the average grant size is about \$2,000. "Throughout the entire year, we're deciding how much to give away in grants."

Volunteers looking to earn extra funds help set up and tear down the Concerts in the Park venue once the shows are over, a



Courtesy of the Costa Mesa Foundation

LOCAL BAND Tijuana Dogs closes out Costa Mesa's Concert in the Park series in 2023. This year's event began Tuesday and runs through July 30.

huge help to the tiny foundation, whose membership comprises about a dozen.

In addition to its spon-

sors, the nonprofit group also looks to local vendors willing to offer in-kind donations of food, beer and

wine to help keep costs down so Costa Mesa Foundation members can spread funds as far as possible.

The city, which formed the foundation, handles the event's finances and waives event fees and sends staffers out to run informational booths on local agencies, services and programs for residents.

Crowley said running the concert series on a Tuesday night creates a real neighborhood feel.

"A lot of families are off work and the kids are out of school. It's such a special time to get together with friends and to walk there from your home," he said. "There's just such a different atmosphere on a Tues-

day than you'd have on a weekend."

Bands take to the stage at 6 p.m., but this year they will be preceded by opening acts that will perform smaller, acoustic sets in the event's beer and wine garden, which opens at 5 p.m.

Visitors to Fairview Park Tuesday enjoyed yacht rock tunes from area band Yachty By Nature with opener Bobby Gray. Next Tuesday, Southern California '80s cover band Flashback Heart Attack will take to the stage, preceded by Bren Holmes, former bass player for the Young Dubliners.

On July 23, Orange County's beloved high-energy band the Tijuana Dogs — who recently head-

lined Costa Mesa's annual Fish Fry in June — will perform at 6 p.m. after opens Meself and Heself, a duo whose members hail from the Celtic rock band the Fenians.

And because this July happens to be replete with Tuesdays, a special performance by Pacific Symphony will close out the event on July 30 as part of its Symphonies in the Cities series.

Fairview Park is located at 2525 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa. Parking is available near the park's Train Lot, just east of Placentia. For more, visit costamesafoundation.org.

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LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, 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:

Housing Element Implementation Program Amendments – As background, the Housing Element is one of the seven mandatory elements of the Newport Beach General Plan. Every eight years, state law requires the City of Newport Beach (City) to update its Housing Element to plan for projected housing needs. As required by state law, the City adopted the 6th Cycle Housing Element for the 2021-2029 planning period (Housing Element) on September 13, 2022, which was certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development on October 5, 2022.

To implement the Housing Element by the statutory deadline of February 2025, the City Council will consider the following two options:

Option No. 1 – The City Council will take the following actions:

- **ALUC Override.** Override the May 16, 2024, Orange County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) determination that the amendments are inconsistent with the 2008 John Wayne Airport Environs Land Use Plan (AELUP) pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 21676(b);
- **General Plan Amendment.** Amend the General Plan Land Use Element to support housing production in the focus areas identified by the Housing Element;
- **Zoning Code Amendment.** Amend Title 20 (Planning and Zoning) of the Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC) to implement the Land Use Element's policy changes to include new Housing Opportunity (HO) Overlay Zoning Districts in the focus areas identified by the Housing Element, establish appropriate development standards, and create objective design and development standards for multi-unit residential and mixed-use development projects;
- **Local Coastal Program Amendment.** Amend the Newport Beach Coastal Land Use Plan and Title 21 (Local Coastal Program Implementation Plan) of the NBMC to include new Housing Opportunity (HO) Overlay Coastal Zoning Districts to support and allow housing development in the focus areas identified by the Housing Element within the Coastal Zone;
- **Charter Section 423 Election.** Authorize a ballot measure and calling a consolidated municipal election with the County of Orange to be held during the November 5, 2024, general election.

Option No. 2 – The City Council will take the following action:

- **Housing Element Amendment Initiation.** Determine a Charter Section 423 vote is precluded by state law and initiate an amendment to the 6th Cycle Housing Element removing Charter Section 423 voter approval requirements for the adoption of the General Plan Amendment and related legislative amendments for implementation.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) (SCH No. 2023060699) has been prepared in connection with the Housing Element Implementation Program Amendments identified above in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), the CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq) and Council Policy K-3. The deadline to provide the City with comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR ended on March 28, 2024. However, the City encourages members of the public to review the PEIR that addresses significant environmental issues associated with the Housing Element Implementation Program Amendments. Copies of the Draft EIR and supporting documents are available for public review and inspection at the Planning Division or the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/CEQA.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that on April 18, 2024, by a vote of (5-0), the Planning Commission of the City of Newport Beach recommended that the City Council adopt the Housing Element Implementation Program Amendments and certify the PEIR.

All interested parties may appear and present testimony in regard to the Housing Element Implementation Program Amendments. If you challenge this action 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. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapters 20.64 and 21.64. The above City Council actions to approve the Housing Element Implementation Program Amendments 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, and documents may be reviewed at the City Clerk's Office, 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 Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application.

For questions regarding details of the Housing Element Implementation Program Amendments, please contact Benjamin M. Zdeba, AICP, Principal Planner at 949-644-3253 or bzdeba@newportbeachca.gov.

Project File No.: PA2022-0245

Activities: General Plan Amendment, Zoning Code Amendment, Local Coastal Program Amendment, ALUC Override, Charter Section 423 Approval, PEIR Certification
General Plan/Coastal Land Use: Various
Applicant: City of Newport Beach

Zone/Coastal Zone: Various
Location: Citywide
Leilani I. Brown, MMC, City Clerk, City of Newport Beach

CAMP

Continued from page A1

for their families, so they can get away from the hospital and medical appointments and that day-to-day normal that they've been experiencing for the past few years so they're able to get out as a family and bond," said Sapphira Roberson, community programs director for the nonprofit.

"A lot of families say that it's been a while since they've had family time together, and we want that for our families to have fun and for the kids to do things that are quote, unquote normal for them to do," she said.

Families are asked to drive down to the summer camp, but Roberson said the foundation endeavors to make every part of the experience free by providing gas cards to pay for the costs of the drive. Participation in the program is free for families in Miracles for Kids. The nonprofit will host other summer camp events in Newport Beach and Huntington Beach this year.

Seven families participated Thursday, limited by the number of people who could reasonably fit in an outrigger canoe that took the group to and from the Newport Aquatic Center.

Part of the day's events were split between the center and the Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort and Marina. Food was provided by the Stand restaurant.

Zachary Wishengrad, vice president of the Stand, said all 19 California locations of the restaurant will participate in a monthlong campaign between now and the end of August, with the company donating \$2 to Miracles for Kids for every Cookies n' Dreams milkshake sold during that time. Donations will also be collected online and at the cash register, with the Stand



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

VOLUNTEER DOUG REESE paddles a board with Dante Lopez, a camp participant, at the Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort and Marina in Newport Beach on Thursday.

offering to match the first \$10,000 in donations.

"For the last 20 years, we have been a family-run business, and we are incredibly excited to announce our partnership with Miracles for Kids, an organization that supports the families we care deeply about," Wishengrad said in a statement.

One of Thursday's participants at the Surf & Paddle camp, Alexander Hernandez, 9, he'd said he'd never been surfing before.

"This is my first time surfing. Next time will be my second time surfing, but we don't know when," Alex said. "I really like to do some events and other things at the beach because I really like to reach for the water. Well, even though I don't want to go inside the water, I can go when it's little waves or something. But deeper or something? I don't know."

He added that the next time he's offered the chance to go paddling, he'll be excited to join in on the fun.

Alex's mother, Adilene Cano, said he was diagnosed with acute lympho-

cytic leukemia but is currently in remission.

Cano said she and her family had been involved with the foundation for about three years. She described the help given to them by Miracles for Kids.

"It's easier for me with my family because, you know, I have a lot of appointments for my son in the hospital, right? I need to stay with him. I cannot work 100% right now, so I love [Miracles for Kids]. It's given so much help to me and for my family. [Alex's] been pretty excited. He loves the water. It's a little bit scary ... but when I said, 'Do you want to go?' he said, 'Yes, Mom! Yes, I want to go,'" Cano said.

"He's finished right now [with treatment], but you know that cancer, sometimes it comes right back," she added. "But I'm crossing my fingers."

Another mom, Betsy Espinosa, she said her family attended the camp two years ago but had to skip last year after her son, Jayden Zarate, had a leg surgery that prevented him from taking part in water

activities. Jayden, who is currently in remission, was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia.

"Jayden has been struggling for a couple of weeks with pain in his leg, so he's getting distracted right now. At home, he's crying, 'My leg is hurting' and I try to make him go outside and play so he could forget for a little bit, but he was excited to come again," Espinosa said. "He gets to spend time like all the other kids."

"It's funny," she said. "He's allergic to fish. So, he saw one in the water and went, 'Oh no. I'm not going over there.' So they had to put him on a board and they paddled him over to [an inflatable water playset]. But every night [leading up to camp day] was, 'Mom, it's almost here!' Last night, [my kids] couldn't sleep until like two in the morning and I told them that we'd have to be up early."

"They were so tired, but they were just counting the days."

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DECISION

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ed sufficient space. He also rebuffed suggestions by Gelfand that the special district did not consider the northeast proposal, stating that the agency was conducting an environmental impact report and designing when it was told

the facility had been moved back to the existing location.

Don Schmitz, president of Schmitz and Associates, a representative of the O.C. Sanitation, said he did not hear any points made by the appellants in their presentations as it related to the Coastal Act.

"There are five grounds on which substantial issue

can be found. That doesn't mean going back and re-litigating things that happened at the local level. It's whether or not the local jurisdiction faithfully implemented the policies and regulations for the local coastal program," said Schmitz.

"There was a complete environmental impact report for this project," he

continued. "Fifty percent of the wastewater from Newport Beach goes through this aging facility. [If we] get a failure of this facility, it is going to dump a tremendous amount of pollution into that environmentally sensitive habitat area."

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