

# Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**REBEKAH ROBECK**, right, a sophomore at Costa Mesa High School, hands out shirts to Costa Mesa Middle School eighth-graders on Friday.

## Let's Be Kind, Buenas Coffee congratulate class of 2020

BY ANDREW TURNER

A three-year stint in El Salvador left an indelible mark on young Rebekah Robeck.

While serving as a missionary with her immediate family, Rebekah experienced a degree of kindness she was not soon to forget.

When Rebekah was exposed to bullying at Costa Mesa Middle School, her mom, Cristina, would lend a sympathetic ear. Then one day, she asked her daughter what she was going to do about it.

Rebekah decided that she would counter with kindness. The first step was to deliver pizzas with little signs that said, "Let's be kind to each other."

"That's what we did this one time, and then it went from that to wanting to do more," Rebekah said. "My mom, she was a graphic designer, and she created the logo, and I was like, 'Hey, why don't we just put this on a bunch of T-shirts for my middle school and just pass them out to everybody?'"



Rebekah was keen to ensure that school would be an inclusive environment where all students in attendance would feel safe and welcome. She likened school to a second

home, noting that students attend for their education 10 months out of the year.

**COSTA MESA** Middle School eighth-graders, left to right, Wilbur Hancock, 15, Edward Wheelan, 14, Kennedy Walker, 13, Kaitlyn Yagerlener, 14, and Evelyn Ward, 13, pose together for Sarah Yagerlener, far left, wearing their "Let's Be Kind" T-shirts at Buenas Coffee on Friday.

See **Kind**, page A4

## Arrest made after homeless people were fed poisoned food

One person was arrested after eight homeless people in Huntington Beach were given poisoned food that sent several to the hospital, Southern California authorities said Friday.

The poisonings occurred over the course of about a week in

mid-May, authorities said.

The victims were given food laced with oleoresin capicum "twice as strong as the pepper spray used by police, and their reactions to the poisoned food were filmed," according to an advisory from the county district

attorney's office, which planned to provide more details at a news conference Monday.

"The victims suffered a variety of symptoms including seizure-like symptoms, difficulty breathing, vomiting, and intense mouth and stomach pain," the an-

nouncement said. "Several of the victims required hospitalization." No deaths were reported.

An investigation to determine whether there are more victims or suspects is continuing, authorities said.

— Associated Press

## L.B. Unified to hold drive-through graduation, plans possible in-person celebration in late July

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Laguna Beach Unified School District announced Friday it has received guidance from the Orange County Health Care Agency that will allow the district to hold a drive-through graduation.

The district is currently reviewing guidelines to hold an event for the original June 11 graduation date and plans to hold an in-person celebration later this summer on the week of July 27, if state and local agencies allow. More details will be provided at a later date.

The district previously said last week that it would be canceling its in-person graduation in favor of an online ceremony.

In a letter sent to parents and students by Laguna Beach High School Principal Jason Allemann on May 22, Allemann said, "School districts across the county and state are all grappling with the same challenges and trying to balance the importance of keeping our communities safe, while at the same time exploring options to recognize and celebrate our students."

"We want nothing more than to celebrate the class of 2020 and their extraordinary achievements," he said, "as well as honor the very personal sacrifices they



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**GEORGE KNAPP** greets attendance administrator Connie Byrnes as he enters the Irvine Bowl during the Laguna Beach High School commencement ceremony in 2019. The district intends to hold a drive-through graduation and an in-person event later in the summer.

have made for the public good and we recognize that a virtual ceremony is a disappointing alternative to the hats-off celebration you envisioned."

Caps and gowns were distributed Thursday. Further details on how the graduation will proceed on June 11 will follow.

During the district's board of trustees meeting on May 21, Supt. Jason Viloria said he had been in conversations with students and other community members on where things stood as far as the district in terms of

graduation.

"My understanding at the county health level is that an in-person, in any shape or form, graduation in June is not going to be possible," Viloria said. "If things change between now and then, we will pivot very quickly, and we will try to determine what we can do within the legal guidelines."

The district said it plans to hold an in-person celebration that is tentatively scheduled for July 27.

"We are not unlike most all Or-

ange County districts looking for a date to honor our seniors," Viloria said. "They deserve to be honored. It is a rite of passage and we are very hopeful that the directives will allow us to do that come later July."

Viloria pointed to other districts such as Tustin Unified School District and Irvine Unified School District that were also looking into holding summer celebrations. The Newport-Mesa Unified School District also is holding online graduations with potential in-person summer events, if regulations on gatherings ease.

"It could be a very busy time in Orange County with graduations. I am hopeful that it is to be honest," Viloria said. "I think they deserve that."

"Thank you, seniors, for your continued patience, understanding, and dedication to your education during distance learning; especially as you navigate the start of college, applying to jobs, and other life milestones in a world that looks very different from what you expected," Allemann said. "We have no doubt that you will continue to do great things in your future endeavors."

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com  
Twitter: @lillybirds

## Safety first for July 4 holiday

Costa Mesa outlines rules for purchase, use of fireworks this year in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

BY SARA CARDINE

To preserve a fundraising option for schools shut off from traditional money-making ventures during the coronavirus pandemic, Costa Mesa City Council members Tuesday approved rules for the sale and use of safe and sane fireworks during the July 4 holiday.

The city annually issues permits allowing local youth clubs and nonprofit groups to sell legal fireworks in the week leading up to the holiday. Typically, permits allowing for residential block parties are also issued.

But City Atty. Kim Barlow said this year state restrictions currently prohibiting the gathering of people from different households raised a question among city staff and public-safety officials as to how the sale fireworks might of be conducted more safely.

Consequently, the city of Costa Mesa will not issue any block-party permits for the Fourth of July weekend. The city will also implement safety guidelines calling for facial coverings, social distancing and regular disinfecting of all surfaces.

Preorders, online catalogs and signage will be used to limit the amount of time people spend at

See **Holiday**, page A4

## Infections, death toll from virus rise in O.C.

BY HILLARY DAVIS

Orange County is nearing 6,000 known cases of the virus that causes COVID-19, the county Health Care Agency said Friday.

The death toll from the disease caused by the pandemic coronavirus is now 145 overall and 60 in skilled nursing facilities, continuing a steady pattern of the most medically fragile, and generally elderly, patients being more likely to succumb.

The healthcare agency reported 185 new infections Friday and 1,484 additional tests over Thursday. This brings Orange County to 5,923 known cases of the coronavirus and 116,279 total tests given. Daily updates are preliminary and subject to change as the county receives new information.

Reported hospitalizations were at 255 with 98 in intensive care across 23 of the 25 hospitals eligi-

See **Virus**, page A4

## Newport looks for ways to fill its \$33.2M budget gap

BY HILLARY DAVIS

Newport Beach finance officials have found a way to balance next fiscal year's budget with no service cuts or layoffs despite an estimated \$33.2-million gap formed by the economic impacts of coronavirus lockdowns.

The finance office filled the hole through a combination of operational savings, a temporary hiring freeze, setting aside less for savings along with dipping into existing savings, and, especially,

See **Budget**, page A3



THE DAILY  
COMMUTER  
PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**  
1 Related  
5 Church seats  
9 Difficult child  
13 Lunch spot  
15 Skinny as a \_  
16 Cereal grain  
17 Gladden  
18 Choir accompanists  
20 List-shortening abbr.  
21 Reagan's party, for short  
23 Humble  
24 Hairdos  
26 Face, slangily  
27 School no-show  
29 Go back on a promise  
32 Aneurysm site, often  
33 Thanksgiving Day: abbr.  
35 Helper for Santa  
37 Uninteresting  
38 Closes  
39 Night twinkler  
40 Beautician's offering  
41 Graceful waterbirds  
42 Terre \_\_, IN  
43 Sailor  
45 Lent a hand  
46 Gent  
47 Hooded jacket  
48 Takes place  
51 Common street name  
52 "New Amsterdam" network  
55 Plato's famous pupil  
58 Nehru's nation  
60 Carry  
61 Room recess  
62 Caesar's robes  
63 Drove fast  
64 Jokes  
65 Have a snack

- DOWN**  
"Zip-\_-Doo-Dah"  
2 Bagpiper's attire  
3 Wrong  
4 Butterfly

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13				14	15					16			
17					18				19				
20				21	22			23					
		24	25					26					
27	28						29			30	31		
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	43		44					45					
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48	49	50					51			52	53	54	
55					56	57			58	59			
60					61				62				
63					64					65			

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).

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

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

- catcher's need  
5 \_\_ up; supports  
6 Semicircular canals' site  
7 Head topper  
8 Jails  
9 San Francisco's Golden Gate \_\_  
10 Shine's partner,
- in phrase  
11 Stage performances  
12 Midterm or final  
14 Capital of Saskatchewan  
19 Parts of speech  
22 Many a time  
25 Sworn

- statement  
27 Keep \_\_ on; watch carefully  
28 Acting parts  
29 Grooves  
30 Pep  
31 Fill with joy  
33 Rather \_\_; instead of  
34 Follower of Attila  
36 Gwynne or Dryer  
38 Farewell appearance  
39 Polio vaccine developer  
41 Brainy  
42 Solitary monk  
44 "We are not \_\_" (Queen Victoria's line)  
45 Actor Holbrook  
47 Takes a quick glance  
48 Cheerios ingredients  
49 Farmer's concern  
50 Refer to  
53 Unfair slant  
54 Money  
56 \_\_ T; perfectly  
57 Journal  
59 Prefix for stop or toxic

Tribune Media Services



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**TIGER TAHVILDARI** of Edison putts the ball in at the CIF Southern Section Southern California Golf Assn. Team Qualifier last year at Goose Creek Golf Club in Jurupa Valley.

Class of 2020 high school boys' golf showcase to be held at Costa Mesa Country Club

BY ANDREW TURNER

Edison High boys' golf coach Brendan Patch is working with Costa Mesa Country Club to put on an 18-hole senior showcase tournament.

The event — The Orange County Boys' Golf All-Star Senior Showcase (Class of 2020) — will be held on June 15 on the Mesa Linda Course at the local public country club. Tee times will start at 1:30 p.m.

Boys' golf was among the spring sports that saw its season shortened, and ultimately canceled, due to concerns over the novel coronavirus pandemic.

"Over the past few months, I've really wanted to do something for my graduating seniors," Patch said. "It really saddened me that they missed nearly their entire season. We had high expectations for the season and were hoping to repeat as CIF Southern Division champions.

"After speaking with coaches Dean Yoshiyama

at Huntington Beach and Ryan Kelaher from Mater Dei, we thought this might be a good idea, bring some fun back for the boys, and allow them to compete and get a taste of normalcy."

Patch has put together this invitational event to bring together some of the top seniors from high schools in Orange County and the surrounding area.

The tournament has enough room for 40 golfers, and those seeking to join the field should consistently shoot rounds in the 70s or lower.

Among the locals to have signed up for this "Class of 2020" showcase so far are Edison's Tiger Tahvildari and Dylan Delaney, Huntington Beach's Cathan Peterson-Cheek, and Estancia's Ian Hopp. Laguna Beach golfers Aiden Svenson, Will Keary and Cade St. Clair and Ocean View's Preston Ray.

Jaden Cantafio, a CIF individual runner-up last year for Mater Dei, and Andrew Hoekstra, a Long Beach State commit for

the Monarchs, are among the top players in the showcase thus far.

Danny Lane, the general manager of Costa Mesa Country Club, said the facility is happy to be able to support high school golf.

"I think it's a fantastic event," Lane said. "Fortunately, golf is one of the sports that we can get them out here comfortably, socially distanced, and give them one opportunity to compete. They had a lost season, and most of the kids aren't moving on to playing in college, so giving them one last chance to play is fantastic."

Patch said that the showcase has received 24 solid commitments. The cost to play is \$35. Those interested in playing can sign up at [edisoncglf.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/senior-showcase-registration-form-2.pdf](https://edisoncglf.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/senior-showcase-registration-form-2.pdf).

The deadline to sign up is June 6.

andrew.turner@latimes.com  
Twitter: @ProfessorTurner

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COMMENTARY | ANNA ELLI

# District put safety first with virtual graduation ceremony

I am writing in response to an open letter to the Newport-Mesa Unified School District board that claimed to represent the views of the class of 2020 and want to make it clear that some of us have a different view (“Commentary: An open letter to the school board seeking permission for Harbor seniors to attend commencement,” May 22).

I am in support of the school board’s decision to hold a virtual graduation. Although this was an unpopular decision among many students, the need to protect our students, faculty and families continues to be a priority.

I applaud the efforts of our school board to provide relief for the families who have been most impacted by the virus. Whether it’s providing free lunches, computers or Wi-Fi, they have been working tirelessly to serve our needs. While I don’t often voice my opinions, I feel our youth should be educated on the severity of the issue.

In the open letter, it was mentioned that “every single member in our community understands the magnitude of this virus” and that this has “heavily contributed to the decline in the amount of new cases every day.”

As of May 21, we experienced the highest number of new cases within the



Daily Pilot

**AN IMAGE** from the 2012 graduation ceremony at Newport Harbor High School. This year’s ceremony will be held online.

United States. Within Orange County, the number of new COVID-19 cases continues to rise daily at near record numbers. It seems many in our community don’t actually understand the real severity of the issue at hand.

As someone who is attempting to self-isolate and follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

guidelines, it has become increasingly frustrating to go on social media and see large groups of my classmates gathering in crowds. I have also seen offensive remarks aimed at our state legislators and particularly Gov. Gavin Newsom.

While this situation is not ideal for any of us, I often question the motivation behind this “activism.”

Many will argue that they want the economy to open back up to support our businesses and to stop the rising unemployment rate. Yet many of those who complain about the economic toll of the shutdown aren’t willing to wear masks to protect workers.

Given the behaviors that I’ve witnessed firsthand, I’ve come to realize that many

of us simply wish to return to the luxuries of experiencing dining out, shopping trips and haircuts but aren’t willing to do it in a responsible way.

We must realize there is a displacement of blame. We must not blame our school board for the events that have unfolded. Instead, we must work together to stop the spread and support the

decision of our school board as they are doing the same.

At 18, I have been forced to grow up over these past couple months. I have spent time witnessing the world around me while enjoying quality time with my family before heading off to college.

With this growing up, we must realize that in hard times it is our responsibility as healthy, financially secure young people to make sacrifices for the benefit of our community.

When it comes to the hashtag #wedesevebetter that has been circulating among my classmates, I strongly believe that we should spend more time recognizing how good we actually have it.

As many of us have been blessed to live in such an affluent place, I think the people who are more impacted by the virus are truly the ones who deserve better.

I invite my classmates to reflect on their time growing up in Orange County and to understand their privilege and find peace and pride in their upbringing thus far.

With growing up, we must realize that in crisis, we may not always receive the things we think we “deserve,” however we must show our true resilience by

See **Ceremony**, page A4

## BUDGET

Continued from page A1

deferring capital projects.

Deferred capital makes up about \$21 million of the proposed solution. Dipping into reserves chips in about \$2.3 million.

“We’re in the early stages of administering financial first aid,” City Finance Director Dan Matusiewicz told the City Council Tuesday. “The budget as pro-

posed is an initial bridge to financial recovery, but it’s not a long-term solution if the fiscal conditions persist past June ’21.”

The council will adopt the 2021 budget June 9. Fiscal year 2021 starts July 1.

Mayor Will O’Neill, who also chairs the city finance committee, said the plan isn’t sustainable for more than a year. He said if the economic battering that started in March drags on, next fiscal year could see

service cuts.

The budget, however, is also flexible, and the city will review it in November after the first quarter has passed.

Matusiewicz said nobody knows how long the impact will last. For example, the impacts on the travel industry are still unclear, putting plenty of question marks in the tourism-driven local economy.

City officials estimate sales taxes will dip about

17% and bed taxes will drop by 66% over the current year, which has been an “already bad year,” Matusiewicz said. Conversely, property taxes will improve moderately, as those tend to lag when other economic indicators start to falter.

Next year’s budget has been a moving target. Earlier this month, the city was eyeing \$16.9 million in cuts from capital projects while trying to avoid tapping reserves.

Next year’s potential \$33-million hole is in addition to the projected \$13.5-million impact on this year’s budget.

The deferred building and renovation projects partially or entirely put off until at least mid-2021 include Balboa Island beautification, several landscaping projects, streetlight repairs, a new Junior Lifeguards headquarters and the new lecture hall at the Central Library. Several

road repairs and an overhaul of the Newport Pier will go on as planned, though.

“We’re not doing some of the beautification projects and some of the other things that would be really nice to have, but fortunately because of the planning ahead we’re doing all of the need-to-have,” O’Neill said.

hillary.davis@latimes.com  
Twitter: @dailypilot\_hd

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### The Santiago – San Juan Group

**Dorothy Santiago, CPWA®, CDFA®, CPFA®**

Senior Vice President  
Wealth Management Advisor  
Portfolio Manager

949.721.6540 • dorothy.santiago@ml.com



**Margarita San Juan, CPWA®, CRPC®, CDFA®**

Senior Vice President  
Wealth Management Advisor  
Senior Portfolio Advisor

949.721.6545 • margarita.sanjuan@ml.com

### Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

520 Newport Center Drive  
Suite 1900  
Newport Beach, CA 92660

fa.ml.com/ssjgroup

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KIND

Continued from page A1

“Part of it was just wanting to make sure that these students felt welcome and they felt loved, even though sometimes love is a hard word to comprehend and just to tell people,” she said. “I feel like kindness is just a little bit of a step under there, and kindness is just part of our everyday lives, to be honest, so it’s a lot easier to understand.”

A 16-year-old finishing up her sophomore year at Costa Mesa High School, Rebekah has gained many fans. There were 14 schools prepared to hold their own “Let’s Be Kind Day” this year, but the events were impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting school shutdowns.

Let’s Be Kind has grown into a nonprofit organization, which teamed up with

Buenas Coffee in Costa Mesa on Friday to do more good works for the community.

Buenas Coffee opened its doors to the group, allowing Rebekah and her mom to distribute “Let’s Be Kind” T-shirts to seniors graduating from Costa Mesa High and eighth-graders being promoted from Costa Mesa Middle School.

“Our presence in the community, that’s something that we really value,” said Beto Castillo, a co-founder of the local coffee shop. “It’s interesting because while presence is our physical space in the community of Costa Mesa, [it is] also what kind of tone we set, inclusivity.”

“We want to be respectful. We want to be kind. We want to be generous. We just want to embody that.”

Castillo added that Rebekah’s values of spreading kindness and inclusivity were in line with what they

hope to emulate.

Doan Do, 43, a Costa Mesa resident, wanted to help bring the “Let’s Be Kind” movement to Kaiser Elementary School and several other schools.

“What Rebekah has accomplished at the age of 16, or 15 at the time, when I met her, it’s unbelievable,” Do said. “This girl is going to change the world. These are the role models that these kids need to look up to.”

Those who stopped by the event were appreciative of the effort and recognition.

“I wasn’t even really interested in the shirt all that much, but it was the thought that counts,” said Justice Sarte, who plans to study education science at UC Irvine. “I wanted to come and support that because I think it’s really nice when people do anything for us seniors to try to recognize our accomplish-



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**REBEKAH ROBECK**, 16, far right, her mother, Cristina, center, and grandmother, Rose Lopez, talk to parent Sarah Yagerlener, far left, at Buenas Coffee on Friday.

ments in this hard time.”

Malia Tufuga, who has signed with the Stanford women’s volleyball program, also wanted to support Rebekah’s cause.

“It’s refreshing to see a campaign like hers that promotes good mental health and positivity, especially during a time like this where students, especially

promoting eighth-graders and graduating seniors, are experiencing so many disappointments,” Tufuga said.

Rebekah’s campaign has been campus-centric to this point, but her mom believes that the message is spread beyond schools.

“We’ve heard parents talk about it at home,” Cristina Robeck said. “We know that when you begin to transform a kid’s experience at school through kindness, that’s going to translate to the home, and the home is going to translate into the neighbors, and the neighborhood is going to translate it to the city.”

“Although we’re focused primarily on school campuses and that’s where we will stay, we want to be able to empower students to do something for good.”

andrew.turner@latimes.com  
Twitter: @ProfessorTurner

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CONTACT US

**David Carrillo Peñaloza**  
City Editor  
(714) 966-4612  
**Raymond Arroyo**  
Advertising Director  
(714) 966-4608

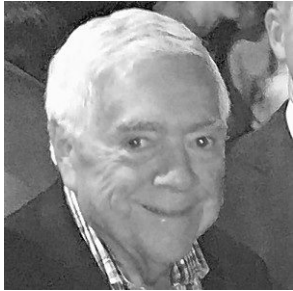
**TCN Legal Phone**  
888-881-6181  
**TCN Legal Email**  
LALegal@latimes.com

COMPANY INFO

**Address**  
10540 Talbert Ave.,  
Suite 300 West,  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
**Business Office**  
(714) 966-4600  
**Newsroom**  
(714) 966-4699  
**Sports**  
(714) 966-4612  
**Email**  
david.carrillo@latimes.com

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Garry Short

It is with sadness we announce that Garry Short passed away on May 12, 2020. He was born and grew up in Pasadena and attended Pasadena HS. After high school, he went to USC where he was a Phi Psi, Journalism major and involved in the school newspaper, the Daily Trojan. After college, he followed his parents, who moved to Newport Beach. He worked for the Daily Pilot, the Los Angeles Times and United Feature Syndicate. His entrepreneurial spirit then kicked in, starting his own business creating television guides for the local papers in Orange County. After retiring, he spent his time between Newport Beach, Palm Springs and making about four or five trips a year to St. Louis to see his growing grandchildren. He is survived by his son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren. Services will be held in Orange County when able to do so from COVID-19 standpoint. In lieu of flowers, we ask for a donation to the Alzheimer’s Association at the following link: [http://act.alz.org/goto/Garry\\_Short](http://act.alz.org/goto/Garry_Short)



Lori Anne Eckenweiler

Lori Anne Eckenweiler (McCoy), 65 years young, passed away peacefully in Orange County, California on Monday, May 18, 2020. She was born on July 19, 1954 in Long Beach and grew up in Riverside.

Once she took her first step, Lori knew that she was born to dance. She began studying ballet at age six and landed her first professional role at age ten with Inland Empire Civic Light Opera. She went on to dance professionally with companies including Ballet Pacifica, Pennsylvania Ballet and Ballet West, in addition to attaining her Bachelor of Fine Arts at University of California, Irvine. Within her extensive career in classical ballet, Lori also choreographed and performed in the television and film industries.

Lori married and after becoming a mother she began instructing young dancers, her daughter Ashley was one of her first students. She directed the youth ballet department at Jimmie DeFore Dance Center in Costa Mesa and taught master classes at dance schools across Southern California and beyond. She went on to work with the Joffrey Ballet as ballet mistress for the children’s cast in the company’s production of “The Nutcracker Suite,” performed across the country annually.

After over 30 rewarding years in the professional dance world, Lori took her love of ballet, children and families to heart and began offering companion caregiving services for others.

Lori was a loving and supportive mother, a thoughtful friend who brought joy and laughter, and an inspiration to so many young dancers. Throughout her life she gravitated towards the beach and had the fondest memories of special times spent in Laguna Beach, Corona del Mar, and on the islands of Kauai and Hawaii. She loved jumping in the waves at Big Corona, watching live dance and theater productions, and spending time with her friends, family and their four-legged friends.

Lori is survived and dearly missed by her daughter Ashley Patterson, father John McCoy, and sister Debbie McCoy Byars, and was preceded in death by her mother, Nancy McCoy. She will rest in peace at Pacific View Memorial Park in Corona del Mar and a celebration of her life will be announced later in the year. In loving memory, please consider making a donation in Lori’s name to OC Music & Dance, [www.ocmusicdance.org](http://www.ocmusicdance.org).

CEREMONY

Continued from page A3

standing up and sacrificing ourselves for those who are hit harder.

Although teenagers are less likely to suffer serious consequences from the coronavirus, our roles as carriers of the virus means we are all personally responsible for stopping its further spread. This will

help all of us return to normalcy sooner.

The bottom line is that holding an in-person graduation will not truly satisfy our desire for normalcy in the world we live in today. However, the potential spread of the virus could only make matters worse.

We have to be better than this. Within our community, there is a socially accepted idea that the need for large gatherings has outweighed

the risks of contracting and spreading the disease.

As seniors, I believe we are role models to students who may see these actions on social media and believe it is righteous to go against the advice of our school board, government and doctors.

While a virtual graduation may not keep students from ignoring guidelines, it serves as a reminder to those of us who have for-

gotten the severity of the issues at hand.

To my classmates: We must remember that in due time we will move beyond the uncertainties of the present and return to our normal lives. In the meantime, let’s remind ourselves to be thankful.

**ANNA ELLI** a Newport Beach resident, is a graduating senior at Newport Harbor High School.

HOLIDAY

Continued from page A1

each stand. Those who work at the booths must sign a waiver indemnifying the city should they fall ill due to the virus, and no cash will be accepted, according to regulations passed Tuesday.

City staff initially proposed that reducing the number of days groups could sell fireworks from five days to three and restricting the discharge of the missiles to only the Fourth of July would be more manageable and less demanding on local police and fire operations.

“The concern is that the more days you have fireworks going off, the more risk of big gatherings you have, as well as the difficulties in terms of illegal fireworks,” Barlow told the council.

Costa Mesa Police Chief Bryan Glass said the station typically staffs an additional eight officers and one sergeant in the days leading up to July 4 and

often employs as many as 24 additional staff members and three sergeants on the actual holiday.

“This is a big week for the city,” Glass said. “Our biggest concern is that we don’t want to pull away from our traditional patrol services that are out there on everyday calls for service.”

Considering the added workload of coronavirus-related response and enforcement on top of illegal fireworks patrols and responding to calls for service, public safety staff recommended sales be confined from July 2 through July 4.

But those who sell fireworks to raise money for schools and nonprofit programs said booth sales are a lifeline and a means of providing basic supplies to underfunded groups.

“This is our only major fundraiser,” said Brian Harris, who’s sold fireworks for 20 years for the Youth Services Assn. of Orange County. “Other groups are the same way — they’ve lost the opportunity to

make money this year. I’d like to keep operations normal unless we have to tighten things up.”

Harris also said since July 4 falls on a Saturday, and the holiday will be observed on Friday, it would be difficult for the city to keep people from shooting off fireworks both days.

“I don’t think trying to control that is really cost effective for the city,” he added.

Ultimately, council members decided to allow fireworks sales from June 30 through July 4 and permit the discharge of legal fireworks from July 2 through the holiday.

“These public-school groups are underfunded. They haven’t had the opportunity to do things like work at the fair ... because there is no fair,” said Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens. “This is a good opportunity for them to do their fundraising, and they should have a good opportunity to do it.”

sara.cardine@latimes.com  
Twitter: @SaraCardine

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE  
(Division 6 of the Commercial Code)  
Escrow No. 35884-MW

(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described  
(2) The name and business address of the seller are: NEWPORT PONTOONS, INC., 504 S. BAY FRONT, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92662  
(3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is: 3120 WEST CENTRAL AVE., SANTA ANA, CA 92704  
(4) The names and business address of the Buyer(s) are: UNIQUE FITNESS SOLUTIONS, INC., 2846 CORVO PLACE, COSTA MESA, CA 92626  
(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT of that certain business located at: 504 S. BAY FRONT, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92662  
(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: NEWPORT PONTOONS  
(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is JUNE 17, 2020 at the office of: ADVANTAGE ONE ESCROW, 19671 BEACH BLVD STE 103 HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648, Escrow No. 35884-MW, Escrow Officer: MARILYN WESTMORELAND  
(8) Claims may be filed with: ADVANTAGE ONE ESCROW, 19671 BEACH BLVD STE 103 HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648, Escrow No. 35884-MW, Escrow Officer: MARILYN WESTMORELAND  
(9) The last day for filing claims is: JUNE 16, 2020.  
(10) This Bulk Sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.  
(11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE  
Dated: MAY 27, 2020  
SELLER: NEWPORT PONTOONS, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION  
BUYER: UNIQUE FITNESS SOLUTIONS, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION  
LA2533187 DAILY PILOT 5/30/2020



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on **Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 10:00 am** 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 Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

**AT&T Small Cell SLC4735** – A minor use permit to allow the installation of a small cell wireless facility on a City-owned streetlight pole. Project implementation will be fully contained within the public right-of-way in a median on Avocado Avenue near Kewamee Drive. The project includes the following: (1) Removal and replacement of an existing City streetlight; (2) Installation of a small cell wireless facility that consists of four remote radio units, a raycap disconnect, and an omni-directional antenna within a 12-inch diameter screening shroud. This equipment would be fixed to the top of the replaced streetlight pole for a maximum height of 27 feet, 5 inches; and (3) Establishment of support equipment in an adjacent below grade vault.

Section 332(c)(7) of U.S. Code Title 47 (Telecommunications) preserves the City’s authority over zoning and land use decisions to regulate some aspects of the aesthetics and placement of wireless service facilities. However, federal law prohibits the City from rendering any decision based indirectly or directly on potential health and environmental impacts related to radio frequency (RF) emissions of wireless service facilities that will comply with the Federal Communications Commission’s regulations. The development will be consistent with all applicable provisions of Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC) Chapter 20.49 (Wireless Telecommunications Facilities) and City Council Policy L-23 (The Siting of Wireless Telecommunications Equipment on City-Owned Property) that provide the regulatory and policy framework for allowing the installation of small cell sites on City property. Under the current executed Master License Agreement, AT&T, the wireless carrier, is responsible for all installation, maintenance, and repair associated with the deployment of this telecommunication project, including all related costs and expenses.

The project is categorically exempt under Sections 15302 and 15303 of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines - Class 2 (Replacement or Reconstruction) and Class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), respectively.

All interested parties may appear and present testimony in regard to 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, at, or prior to, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the NBMC Chapter 20.64 (Appeals). The application 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.

**SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19**  
Given the Declaration of a State Emergency and Proclamation of Local Emergency related to COVID-19, we recommend that you submit your questions and comments in writing for the Zoning Administrator’s consideration by sending them to the Community Development Department at [CDD@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:CDD@newportbeachca.gov). To give the Zoning Administrator adequate time to review your questions and comments, please submit your written comments by **Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.** In addition, members of the public will have the ability to participate in this meeting telephonically. Please review the Zoning Administrator Agenda for further instructions. The Agenda, staff report and corresponding documents will be posted to the City’s website at [www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator), by end of business day on **Friday, June 5, 2020**. While the City does not expect there to be any changes to the above process for participating in this meeting, if there is a change, the City will post the information as soon as possible to the City’s website. The City of Newport Beach thanks you in advance for continuing to take precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. If you are unable to participate in the meeting via the process set forth in the agenda, please contact the Planning Division at 949-644-3200 or [CDD@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:CDD@newportbeachca.gov) and our staff will attempt to accommodate you.

For questions regarding this public hearing item, please contact Joselyn Perez, Assistant Planner, at 949-644-3312 or [jperez@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:jperez@newportbeachca.gov).

<b>Project File No.:</b> PA2019-108	<b>Activity No.:</b> UP2019-027
<b>Zone/General Plan:</b> N/A (Public Right-of-Way)	<b>Applicant:</b> New Cingular Wireless, LLC
<b>Location:</b> Public right-of-way, City streetlight number SLC4735, center median of Avocado Avenue at the intersection of Kewamee Drive and Avocado Avenue	



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Amend City Council Policy K-3 to Incorporate  
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Analysis  
Methodology


**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on **Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.**, 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 amending the City Council Policy K-3 to incorporate Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Analysis Methodology.

Due to the rapidly evolving public health response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the public are advised that the City Council meeting and public hearing will be convened telephonically or in an alternate format as deemed necessary by the City. Those individuals planning to participate in the public hearing are encouraged to check the City website at <https://www.newportbeachca.gov/agendas> for additional information concerning in-person participation on the day of the public hearing for any updates.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Senate Bill (SB) 743, signed in 2013, changes the way transportation studies are conducted in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) replaces motorist delay as the new metric for transportation impact determinations. The State requires all cities to adopt VMT policy guidelines to include new transportation impact thresholds.

The City is proposing an Amendment to City Council Policy K-3 to incorporate a methodology and framework for completing a VMT analysis in a CEQA document. The framework includes a) screening criteria, b) significance thresholds for land development projects (residential, office, retail, other), c) significance thresholds for transportation projects, and d) mitigation measures for significant impacts. The step-by-step analysis is outlined in detail in the proposed Amendment to City Council Policy K-3.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN** that all interested parties may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this decision in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the City at, or prior to, the public hearing. For information call (949) 644-3055.



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



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on **Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 10:00 am** 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 Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

**English Residence Addition** - A request for a modification permit to allow an addition to an existing single-family residence with a garage that is considered legal nonconforming due to its interior dimensions. The existing garage provides the minimum required depth of 20 feet; however, the existing width is substandard at 17 feet whereas the requirement is 20 feet. The Modification Permit is necessary because the applicant proposes to add more than 10 percent of the existing square footage without altering the garage for compliance. The proposed addition is 690 square feet and results in a total of 2,338 square feet for the residence (including the garage).

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

All interested parties may appear and present testimony in regard to 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, at, or prior to, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64. The application 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.

**SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19**  
Given the Declaration of a State Emergency and Proclamation of Local Emergency related to COVID-19, we recommend that you submit your questions and comments in writing for the Zoning Administrator’s consideration by sending them to the Community Development Department at [CDD@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:CDD@newportbeachca.gov). To give the Zoning Administrator adequate time to review your questions and comments, please submit your written comments by **Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.** In addition, members of the public will have the ability to participate in this meeting telephonically. Please review the Zoning Administrator Agenda for further instructions. The Agenda, staff report and corresponding documents will be posted to the City’s website at [www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator), by end of business day on **Friday, June 5, 2020**. While the City does not expect there to be any changes to the above process for participating in this meeting, if there is a change, the City will post the information as soon as possible to the City’s website. The City of Newport Beach thanks you in advance for continuing to take precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. If you are unable to participate in the meeting via the process set forth in the agenda, please contact the Planning Division at 949-644-3200 or [CDD@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:CDD@newportbeachca.gov) and our staff will attempt to accommodate you.

For questions regarding this public hearing item, please contact Joselyn Perez, Assistant Planner, at 949-644-3312 or [jperez@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:jperez@newportbeachca.gov).

<b>Project File No.:</b> PA2020-015	<b>Activity No.:</b> MD2020-002
<b>Zone:</b> R-1-10000 (Single-Unit Residential)	<b>General Plan:</b> RS-D (Single Unit Residential Detached)
<b>Location:</b> 1731 Centella Place	<b>Applicants:</b> Jeff and Haley English

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING


NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Newport Beach will establish the City’s Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2020-21, pursuant to Article 13B of the State Constitution on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. or soon thereafter in the Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach.

APPROPRIATION LIMIT:

Article 13B Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2020-21	\$208,442,683
Total Appropriations Subject to Limit	158,669,992
<b>Amount Under Limit</b>	<b>\$ 49,772,691</b>

Copies of the calculation of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Appropriations Limit are available for public inspection on the City’s website at <http://www.newportbeachca.gov/finance>.

For questions regarding this item please contact Dan Matusiewicz, Finance Director, at (949) 644-3123 or [dmatusiewicz@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:dmatusiewicz@newportbeachca.gov).



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



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
ORDINANCE SUMMARY

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on May 26, 2020, the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, introduced and adopted an Emergency Ordinance entitled:

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2020-005**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR TO GRANT EMERGENCY TEMPORARY USE PERMITS TO COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, PARKING LOTS, SIDEWALKS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY**

The Emergency Ordinance grants the Community Development Director the authority to approve emergency temporary use permits to allow commercial businesses or religious institutions the opportunity to expand their use and utilize the parking lots, sidewalks, or public property. The Emergency Ordinance also allows for extended banner permit durations to advertise modified business operations during this time period. The emergency temporary use permit application will be reviewed by the City departments, ensuring the expansion of use can be done in a safe manner with conditions added to ensure that granting the permit will not create a hazard to public health, safety or welfare.

This Emergency Ordinance was introduced and adopted by the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, at a special meeting thereof on the 26th day of May, 2020, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Mayor Will O’Neill, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Avery, Council Member Joy Brenner, Council Member Diane Dixon, Council Member Duffy Duffield, Council Member Jeff Herdman, Council Member Kevin Muldoon

The Emergency Ordinance is effective immediately.

Dated this 27th day of May, 2020.

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



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on **Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 5:00 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 City Council of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following item:


**Approval of the Fee Study Update, which includes, but is not limited to, changes in subsidies, revised annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) formula, and updated Parking Citation Violation Penalty Schedule** – The City Council will consider the establishment of cost-of-services fees, which include development review fees, amendments to Newport Beach Municipal Code Section 3.36.030, changing the formula for annual CPI updates, and updates to the parking fine schedule.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN** that this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to Section 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN** that on February 13, 2020, the Finance Committee of the City of Newport Beach was presented the Fee Study Update as a receive and file with no action requested.

Given the Declaration of a State Emergency and Proclamation of Local Emergency related to COVID 19, this meeting may occur telephonically. Anyone wishing to attend the public hearing should check the June 9, 2020, meeting agenda on the City’s webpage at [newportbeachca.gov/agendas](http://newportbeachca.gov/agendas) or contact the City Clerk at 949-644-3005 or [cityclerk@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@newportbeachca.gov), during normal business hours, to receive information on how to attend this meeting. If you challenge the Fee Study Update 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. As required by Government Code Sections 66016 and 66018, prior to the public hearing data indicating the amount of estimated cost required to provide the services, which is the basis for the proposed fees, will be provided by the City Clerk to any interested person. Please contact the City Clerk at 949-644-3005 or [cityclerk@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@newportbeachca.gov) if you would like to receive a copy of the report.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Theresa Schweitzer, Senior Accountant, at (949) 644-3140 or [tschweitzer@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:tschweitzer@newportbeachca.gov)



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

**Legal Notices**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**  
**LOUIS M. NIGRO, JR.**  
**30-2020-01132397-PR-LA-CJC**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **LOUIS M. NIGRO, JR.**  
**A PETITION FOR PROBATE** has been filed by **LOUIS M. NIGRO, SR. & CHRISTINE PETERSON**  
In the Superior Court of California, County of **ORANGE**.  
**THE PETITION FOR PROBATE** requests that **LOUIS M. NIGRO, SR. & CHRISTINE PETERSON** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
**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 on  
**June 17, 2020 at 10:30 A.M. in Dept. C6** located at 700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST, SANTA ANA, CA 92701  
**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 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 905.2 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 the Petitioner:  
G. STEVEN CUEVAS, ESQ  
LAW OFFICES G. STEVEN CUEVAS  
1002 N. ROSS ST.  
SANTA ANA, CA 92701  
(714) 667-0880  
Published in the ORANGE COAST DAILY PILOT: on 5/29, 5/30 & 6/05/2020  
BSC 218274



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
ORDINANCE SUMMARY

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on May 26, 2020, the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, adopted an Ordinance entitled:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-14**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, TERMINATING THOSE CERTAIN 2017 NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL SOLID WASTE AND DIVERTIBLE MATERIALS HANDLING SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH**

The Ordinance terminates the 2017 Franchises held with each entity listed below based on noncompliance with providing proof of the installation of an auto collision avoidance system pursuant to Section 18.C.4 of the 2017 Franchise:

- CAF Services, Inc;
- Genesis Dispatch, Inc;
- Goodwin Enterprises, Inc;
- Praiser Hauling & Demolition, Inc; and
- Jade Corporation.

The Ordinance also terminates the 2017 Franchises held with each entity listed below for noncompliance with providing proof of insurance pursuant to Section 9 of the 2017 Franchise and noncompliance with providing proof of the installation of an auto collision avoidance system pursuant to Section 18.C.4 of the 2017 Franchise:

- A2Z Recycling Services Inc;
- G.B. Services, Inc;
- RB Holt Inc; and
- Skyline Construction Services DBA SCOR Industries.

This Ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, at a regular meeting thereof on the 26th day of May, 2020, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Mayor Will O’Neill, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Avery, Council Member Joy Brenner, Council Member Diane Dixon, Council Member Duffy Duffield, Council Member Jeff Herdman, Council Member Kevin Muldoon  
**NAYS:** None


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

Dated this 27th day of May, 2020.

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

Need Transportation?  
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CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 5:00 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 City Council of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following item:


Proposed Budget for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year, pursuant to Section 1102 of the Newport Beach City Charter.

TOTAL BUDGET ALL FUNDS – INCLUDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:	
Salary and Benefits	\$176,160,403
Maintenance and Operations	109,285,822
Capital Outlay	11,744,272
Capital Improvements	29,597,224
Debt Service	10,568,526
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$337,356,248</b>

Copies of the proposed budget are available for public inspection on the City’s website at <http://www.newportbeachca.gov> and at the following locations:

City Clerk’s Office 100 Civic Center Drive Newport Beach, CA, 92660 949-644-3005	Central Library 1000 Avocado Ave Newport Beach, CA 92660 949-717-3800
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For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Dan Matusiewicz, Finance Director, at 949-644-3123 or [dmatusiewicz@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:dmatusiewicz@newportbeachca.gov).



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

**FIND**  
an  
apartment  
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DAILY PILOT DREAM TEAM | BOYS' SOCCER

## Simple is beautiful for Fountain Valley junior Sebastian Rus



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY** junior forward Sebastian Rus is the Daily Pilot Boys' Soccer Dream Team Player of the Year. Rus helped lead the Barons to the Wave League championship.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Things were going far from according to plan for the Fountain Valley High boys' soccer team as the calendar advanced into the new decade.

The Barons left the Laguna Hills Hawks Invitational at 2-6 overall, having lost their last four matches.

It did not appear as though the schedule would be forgiving, either. Fountain Valley was set to begin Sunset Conference cross-over play at Edison, which had just won the same tournament the Barons were swept out of.

Just when the season appeared to be unraveling for the Barons, when their patience was wearing thin and their resolve was being tested, a new plan of attack was being unleashed. Junior forward Sebastian Rus would have to go it alone at striker.

"I moved Sebastian to the lone striker, and what it did was it just made us more compact defensively," Barons coach Jason Smith said of transitioning the team from a 4-3-3 formation to a 5-4-1. "We made it more of a counter-attack team. We could only do that with a player like Sebastian."

The move worked for Fountain Valley, and Rus, the 2019-20 Daily Pilot Boys' Soccer Dream Team Player of the Year, led the way.

Rus scored 16 goals to go with eight assists for Fountain Valley this season. The Barons went 5-0-1 in the Wave League, winning the program's first league championship since the 2007-08 season.

The Barons, who went 9-7-3 overall, had first utilized the 5-4-1 in their final match of the Hawks Invitational against Manhattan Beach Mira Costa. Fountain Valley dropped a 2-1 decision against the Mustangs, who went on to reach the final of the tournament.

Looking to build off that outing, Fountain Valley ended its losing streak with a 2-2 draw against Edison on Jan. 3.

"That game against Edison was beautiful because everyone was fighting for each other, we all had a common goal, and we wanted the best out of everyone," Rus said. "We happened to find the best formation for us that game. We played our hearts out, and unluckily, not winning the game, but so be it. It was our major turnaround, and we went undefeated the rest of [the regular season]."

The Barons concluded the regular season on a 10-match unbeaten streak, going 7-0-3 in that stretch.

Mater Dei broke through the defensive dam for Fountain Valley in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 1 playoffs, defeating the Barons 6-1. Rus scored the lone goal for the hosts on a penalty kick in the first half.

"I am so proud of the way that we turned around our season," said Rus, who was named the Wave League MVP. "I keep bringing [up] the [nonleague season] because it was such a major letdown for all of us. We knew that we were better than that."

"I'm going to miss this team. I'm going to miss the seniors that left. I'm glad to have won a title for them."

With 43 goals in three seasons, Smith said that most teams know to account for Rus. Yet he still has ways of being effective.

"If you get the ball to him quickly, he's going to use his size and strength to hold off players, and he does a good job of holding onto the ball," Smith said of the 5-foot-11, 175-pound Rus. "Then he just gets the ball out wide to our outside fast guys and just go."

Rus does not consider himself to be a fancy soccer player, although he could not resist attempting flashy aerial crosses when he was younger.

Growing up in Chicago, he had a mentor named Jakub Lisek, who was his youth soccer coach until the age of 12. The message was always to simplify the game.

"It's been embedded in me since I started playing," Rus said. "Soccer is supposed to be played simple. As simple as it can be, it can be beautiful. That's the beauty of it."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Ignacio Cid

Newport Harbor

In his second season at the helm, Cid guided the Sailors to just their second winning season in the last seven years. Newport Harbor (11-7-1, 2-4 in Surf League) got off to a hot start out of the gates, winning eight of its first 10 matches. Although the Sailors finished in last place in league play, their overall résumé got them into the CIF Southern Section Division 2 playoffs, where they were able to take out Garden Grove League champion Santiago 1-0 in the first round before losing 2-0 to La Habra in the second round. Newport Harbor also earned a 2-1 win over Corona del



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**LOS AMIGOS'** Francisco Lopez, right, goes up for a header against Santiago's Javier Bello in a match on Jan. 24. Lopez was the Garden Grove League Offensive Player of the Year.

Mar on Jan. 29, its first win in the Battle of the Bay series since Dec. 21, 2016.

FIRST TEAM

Chase Marion

FW | Corona del Mar | Sr.

The Sea Kings offense was lethal in the attacking third with another left-footed striker leading it, just like Niko Urban the season before. Marion did not need much space to get his shot off, and he was clinical with the ball at his feet. The first-team All-Surf League selection provided 14 goals and five assists for CdM (11-8, 3-3), which tied with Los Alamitos for second place.

Francisco Lopez

FW | Los Amigos | Sr.

A repeat Dream Team selection, Lopez showed no signs of slowing down for Los Amigos (9-4-5, 6-2-2 in Garden Grove League) this season. He had 14 goals and five assists in just 14 matches before an ankle injury at Santiago on Jan. 24 sidelined him for the remaining four league contests. Despite the injury, Lopez's talents were recognized, as he was named the Garden Grove League Offensive Player of the Year.

Marcos Arreola

FW | Estancia | Sr.

Estancia had gone winless in seven straight and been shut out in four in a row when Arreola returned from club soccer to join the Eagles on Dec. 16. Although wins proved hard to come by for the Eagles all season, they were far more competitive with him in the lineup. The senior forward scored 12 goals to go with six assists, helping Estancia (5-12-7, 4-2-4 in Orange Coast League) qualify for the CIF Southern Section Division 2 playoffs by placing third in the league. Arreola shared

the Orange Coast League Offensive MVP award with Saddleback senior forward Omar Hernandez.

Armand Pigeon

FW | Edison | Sr.

The numbers might not jump off the page for Pigeon, but Chargers coach Charlie Breneman said that the senior brought energy up top every match. The Surf League MVP pivoted between forward and attacking midfielder, producing nine goals and two assists for Edison (15-6-1, 4-2). Pigeon also had the walk-off penalty kick in Edison's win over Manhattan Beach Mira Costa in the Laguna Hills Hawks Invitational title match.

Jack Starnes

MF | Newport Harbor | Sr.

Starnes was a dynamic playmaker for the Sailors in the midfield. Formerly a place kicker for the Newport Harbor football team, Starnes was an ideal choice to take set-piece opportunities for the Sailors. He finished the season with 13 goals and six assists, garnering the Surf League's Most Outstanding Offensive Player award.

Marcus Henze

MF | Edison | Sr.

Henze demonstrated the determination and toughness needed to play through a back injury early in the season. He possessed a dangerous shot, as he could strike from well beyond the top of the 18-yard box. The first-team All-Surf League honoree finished the season with three goals and four assists.

Aidan Holmes

MF | Corona del Mar | Sr.

Sea Kings coach Damien O'Brien did not have to tell Holmes twice to shoot the ball when he got an opportunity to play forward. The



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

**ARMAND PIGEON**, left, celebrates with the rest of his Edison teammates after scoring the winning penalty kick in the Laguna Hills Hawks Invitational championship match against Manhattan Beach Mira Costa on Dec. 28, 2019.

Boston University-bound senior made his mark as a distributor, too. Holmes, a first-team All-Surf League selection, had five goals and 16 assists.

Jared Rhone

DEF | Huntington Beach | Sr.

Fountain Valley won the Wave League championship, but Huntington Beach (10-8-5, 4-1-1) remained in the hunt going into the second half of league play by virtue of a scoreless tie in the teams' first meeting. The Oilers did not allow a shot on goal in the match with Rhone standing in the Barons' way. The Wave League's Most Outstanding Defensive Player helped the Oilers secure six shut-outs throughout the season. Huntington Beach also beat Fullerton on penalty kicks in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 2 playoffs, keeping a clean sheet through regulation and extra time. Rhone had three goals and one assist as a senior.

Nick Morrell

DEF | Edison | Sr.

The Chargers lost center back Wyatt Burris, last season's Daily Pilot Boys' Soccer Dream Team Player of the Year, to graduation. Defense remained a strength for the Chargers, with Morrell and Ethan Van Buren clogging the middle at center back. Morrell, a first-team All-Surf League selection, scored two goals for the Chargers, who went on to win their fourth straight league championship despite dropping the first two matches of league play.

Carson Webb

DEF | Corona del Mar | Jr.

Nowhere were Webb's contributions more crucial than in a second-place

tiebreaker match against Los Alamitos for the last automatic CIF Southern Section playoff berth allotted in the Surf League. He headed the ball off the goal line in the 80th minute, assisting Nik Darrough's nine-save effort in a 1-0 victory. Playing alongside fellow center back Zane Weaver, Webb and the Sea Kings allowed one goal or less in 10 contests this season.

Kyle Miller

GK | Marina | Sr.

A five-match skid to conclude Wave League play doomed Marina's CIF Southern Section Division 3 playoff aspirations, but the Vikings were in the conversation for much of the season. Miller, a first-team All-Wave League honoree, was tested perhaps more than one would like, but he still recorded five shutouts this season. Marina (7-11-3, 1-5) held opponents to one goal or less on 11 occasions.

SECOND TEAM

Position, Name, School, Year

FW Damian Campos, Marina, Sr.  
FW Jett Rocha, Laguna Beach, Sr.  
MF Marco Castrejon, Costa Mesa, Sr.  
MF Austin Pennella, Fountain Valley, Sr.  
MF Kai Peterson, Edison, Sr.  
MF Kevin Soltero, Newport Harbor, Jr.  
DEF Brandon Alfaro, Los Amigos, Sr.  
DEF Nathan Santy, Ocean View, Sr.  
DEF Ethan Van Buren, Edison, Sr.  
DEF Cantor Wright, Fountain Valley, Jr.  
GK Daniel Kotkosky, Huntington Beach, So.