

# Daily Pilot

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Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**SAN MIGUEL** Park along San Miguel Road in Newport Beach on Thursday. A \$902,475 makeover has been approved for the park.

## Renovations to make dated playground accessible to all

**K**ids with disabilities will be able to take on the challenge of scaling a 12-foot tower and experience the rush of sliding all the way back down thanks to a \$902,475 makeover of San Miguel Park approved by the Newport Beach City Council last week.

The renovation of the 5,500-square-foot play area on San Miguel Drive between Spyglass Hill Road and Yacht Coquette was approved as part of the consent calendar at the council's Oct. 8 meeting. The contract for work on the park was awarded to R.E. Schultz Construction, Inc., which was the lowest bidder among five firms that had submitted estimates, according to reports from city staff. A sixth company was also considered, but it did not have all of the necessary credentials.

Mayor Will O'Neill commended the city staff for their efforts to ensure that all residents will be able to enjoy San Miguel Park and other local playgrounds.

"It's a really big deal," O'Neill said. "I just want to say thank you for everything you've been doing to get us to this point, especially at all of the other parks, taking the steps to make sure kids, especially kids but also folks that have developmental disabilities, have access to our playground equipment."

Crews plan to tear out and replace all of the existing playground equipment and worn-out rubber flooring at the park, Newport Beach Recreation & Senior Services Dept. Deputy Director Justin Schmillen told the Daily Pilot in an email.

The new play area will feature two main structures. One is a "Super Netplex" by play equipment designers Landscape Structures. It includes a long tube slide that children who use

wheelchairs can reach via a spiraling belt of suspended play mats, instead of stairs or ladders.

The other structure features a wheelchair-accessible ramp leading to an area with a roller slide and freestanding pod climbers. Another ADA-friendly addition coming to the park is a Wee-saw, a reimagined version of a see-saw that has seats with back support.

The renovated park will also have traditional bucket and belt swings, a sand pit with digging tools and a learning wall, Schmillen said. City officials expect crews to break ground on the project next summer and plan on opening the park to the public in the fall.

— Eric Licas



**THE ENTRANCE** to San Miguel Park, which is slated for renovations that will make it more accessible to kids with disabilities.



**EXISTING SLIDES** at San Miguel Park in Newport Beach will be replaced with all new equipment.

## Bar's plans get OK despite protests

Costa Mesa officials say Westend can stay open until 2 a.m. two nights, with live music and alcohol sales on patio.

**BY SARA CARDINE**

When the Costa Mesa City Council in January approved an outdoor dining ordinance codifying pandemic-era changes to the way patrons consume food and drinks at local eateries, the move was roundly approved by customers and proprietors alike.

But an application of the law — which allows the creation and expansion of outdoor offerings to be approved by city staff without full review by the Planning Commission — was challenged this week and placed before commissioners over noise and parking concerns.

Owners of the Westend bar and restaurant, located at 814 West 19th St., propose expanding a rear patio from 296 square feet to 720 square feet to accommodate outdoor dining, a bar and live musical performances. They also seek to extend closing time from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. nightly.

The renovation calls for removal of two of the site's three parking

See **Protests**, page A3

## Double reverse: Pay raise wins out after all

Fountain Valley City Council takes a third vote on bumping up monthly compensation for its future members.

**BY ANDREW TURNER**

Future members of the Fountain Valley City Council will receive a \$1,200 monthly stipend after all.

The current council, which had already voted twice on compensation over the past two months, brought the matter back for further discussion on Tuesday evening.

An increase from the current stipend of \$500 per month was approved during a first reading on Sept. 3, but it was voted down when Mayor Glenn Grandis and Vice Mayor Ted Bui flipped their votes at the second reading of the ordinance on Oct. 1.

Grandis and Bui are both up for

See **Raise**, page A3

## Huntington Beach explores light, music show at Central Park

**BY MATT SZABO**

Huntington Beach could soon be bringing a new long-term light show to Central Park East.

The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to direct city staff to work with the Symphony of Flowers operator on the feasibility of an agreement to bring the show to Huntington Beach.

Symphony of Flowers was created by Normand Latourelle, co-founder of Cirque De Soleil and creator and director of touring shows Cavalia and Odyssey. It features more than 100,000 luminous flowers and more than 500,000 low-emitting LED lights, which are choreographed to classical music.

As many as 2,000 spectators start the 30-minute show in bleacher seating, before walking down the pathways within the fields of flowers along an ADA-compliant plastic walkway.

The show, which would run in a space adjacent to the Central Library, debuted in Montreal, Quebec last year. This would be its first time in the United States.

"We're looking for signature events like this," said Councilman Tony Strickland, who brought the item forward along with Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark. "We are a destination community, and I think this would be an incredible value add to Huntington Beach."

See **Show**, page A2



**SYMPHONY OF** Flowers is a show with more than 100,000 luminous flowers. Huntington Beach officials are considering bringing the show to the city's Central Park.

Courtesy of Symphony of Flowers



# PROTESTS

Continued from page A1

spaces, but the city's outdoor dining ordinance allows for such displacement. Also, because the bar's interior footprint is not being changed, no new parking is required.

Zoning administrator Scott Drapkin approved the proposal on May 28, but that determination was appealed by Councilman Don Harper who, two days later, submitted a call for review "regarding adequate parking for both the applicant and surrounding businesses that will be impacted." Commissioners considered the matter Monday.

Tyler Hertzke opened Westend in 2017 with business partners Pat Lloyd and Roland Barrera, in the site formerly occupied by Big Belly Deli. Initially a coffee bar with beer and wine and a retail space for antiques, the business now offers a full menu with cocktails and live music.

"My contribution to the community was to have a place where you could have local artists, local musicians and maybe even run into your hero one day and have the option to see them [perform] in a small, intimate place free and unannounced," Hertzke said Monday.

Situated on the north side of 19th Street, between Placentia and Federal avenues, Westend is book-ended by other bars with zero street parking out front. But a relatively ample parking lot exists across 19th Street, serving businesses within the Vista Center.

However, that parking is for



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**A RED CURB** outside Westend, a bar and restaurant on Costa Mesa's 19th Street, highlights a lack of parking for area establishments. The venue has won approval to stay open until 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

plaza businesses, whose owners cite numerous problems contending with bar patrons taking up all the spaces and dangerously dashing across the street to their destinations.

"We do not have any available parking for bars across the street that are currently open until 2 a.m., and we'll not have any parking for this new establishment that's trying to [stay] open until 2," Vista Center property manager Leila Lester told commissioners.

Lester and other proprietors, along with neighbors who also described parking and noise is-

sues created by bar patrons, opposed the expanded patio, live music and late-night hours.

"Noise until 11 p.m. is fine, that's just a part of life. But noise until 2 a.m. is new and it's a problem, said Kari Nieblas, who lives in the nearby Freedom Homes neighborhood. "I want to be able to live in my house and sleep at night with my windows open and not have to listen to somebody's music."

Westend owners prepared a mitigation plan with soundproofing measures in the rear patio's construction, regular noise level

readings and a specially designed audio system. They also contracted with an industrial business at 1945 Placentia Ave., to use 17 spaces to the rear of the bar at night. But those spaces are not adjacent to the business, nor are they visible from the street.

Hertzke said owners were in talks with creating a direct path from the spots to the establishment and promised employees would advise customers on parking and noise.

Concerned neighbors raised the issue that Hertzke's partner, Barreraas, was charged with a

misdemeanor in 2020 after repeatedly failing to mandate face coverings for customers and employees, declining to enforce social distancing requirements and continuing to operate during restricted hours during the COVID pandemic.

"We have an applicant who is someone who isn't following our rules," said a neighbor who identified himself only as Dan. "I don't think we can trust them to uphold these conditions."

After a lengthy discussion about the compatibility of Westend's expansion and how the city might enforce the terms of a minor conditional use permit, the panel upheld Drapkin's approval with some modifications, including recommending signage about parking and noise.

They allowed the expanded hours, live music and alcohol sales until 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays only, agreeing to revisit the matter in six months. If there are no issues, the full proposal would be approved.

"Bringing it back in six months after approval with the data of taking it all the way to 2 a.m., just for those two nights a week, gives us a benchmark to see if anything has gone wrong," Chair Adam Ereth reasoned.

But commissioners Jon Zich and Karen Klepak opposed, saying what's already a problem won't be made better by more allowances.

"There's a lot of hope in here, and I hope it all pans out for your sake," Zich said.

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# RAISE

Continued from page A1

reelection in November.

"After the second read, I received two independent and separate inquiries asking about reconsideration, so I took the initiative — given time constraints — to go ahead and put on a motion to renew, and if the motion to renew passes, a second read on the actual ordinance," said Colin Burns, who provides legal counsel to the city.

The council voted 4-1 to renew the motion and to pass the 140% increase in compensation for council

members. Councilman Jim Cunneen remained firm in voting against the pay increase. The raise will go into effect with the seating of the next council following the general election.

Burns reiterated that the council had not seen an increase in compensation since at least 1997, noting that the council received benefits at that time.

"After the great financial crisis, the council got rid of its benefits, so you today are making less on a nominal basis than what they were making in 1997 — nominal meaning not counting inflation," Burns added during an introduc-

tion of the item to the council.

The previous vote at the second reading included a bit of drama, with Bui waiting until well after other council members to cast a dissenting vote electronically. The council verbalized its votes — one at a time — on this occasion.

Ahead of the vote, Councilwoman Kim Constantine said the move to increase the stipend was warranted. "This does make sense," she said.

Councilman Patrick Harper and Constantine voted in the affirmative, before Bui pushed the raise over the line.

"As mentioned, I donate [the pay]," Grandis said in explaining his vote. "It's not something that really affects me, and I think, since we have a council majority, I will go in favor of it, as well, just to keep the peace and not bring it back."

Bui also said that he would donate his stipend to a "nonprofit organization that does great work in the city."

Public comments before the vote were mixed, though a few expressed dismay with the inconsistency of the voting record.

"I am very uncomfort-

able with the revote," resident Anna Katsuki said. "What happened between last meeting and this one? Call me cynical, but what occurred to have someone now change their vote? What precedence does this set? Whoever changes their vote tonight did not do their due diligence in this matter."

Alicia "Rudy" Huebner, a candidate who repeatedly opposed the compensation increase, called the discussions inappropriate and inefficient.

"I would expect that my council, once a decision has been made, that that decision is final and coun-

cil moves on to other city business, and yet this keeps coming up time and time again," she said.

Candidate Katy Wright remained consistent in voicing support for the raise.

"I want to see young people get in here," Wright said. "I want to see all of these people that keep coming back, not coming back. I want to see absolute term limits, and I want to see a reasonable stipend [so] that a young person can afford to come in here and serve."

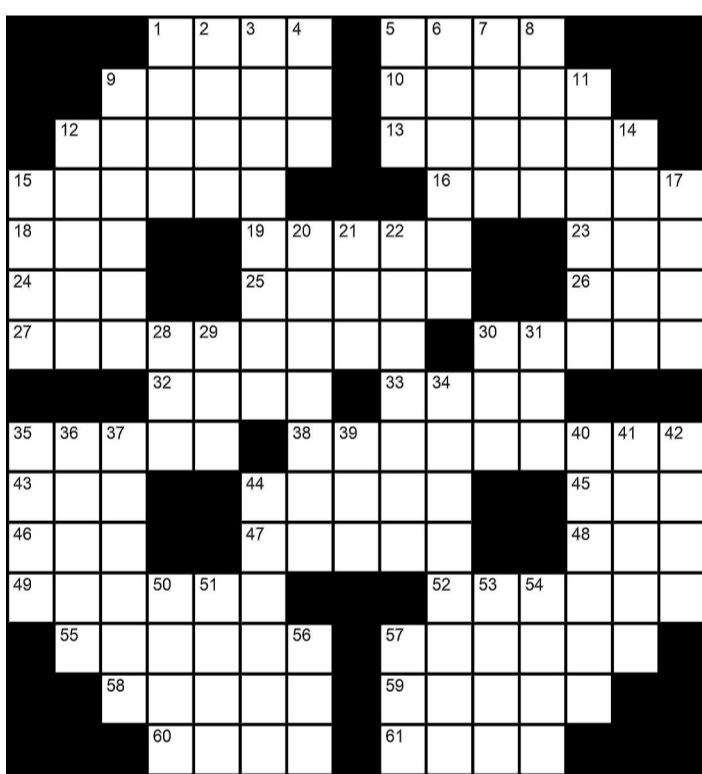
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# THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

## ACROSS

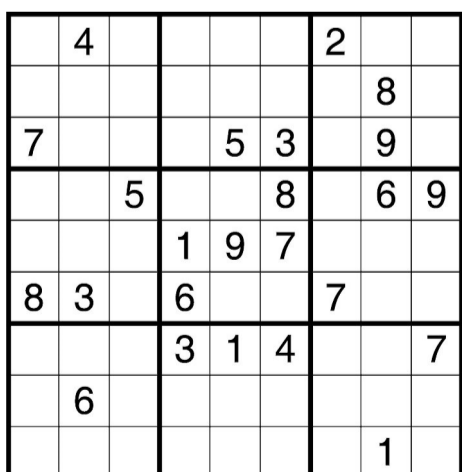
- 1 Accompanied by 5 Singer Fitzgerald
- 9 Buffalo NHL player
- 10 Breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- 12 Small, \_\_, and large
- 13 Bulb veggies
- 15 Self-effacing
- 16 Santorini's country
- 18 Flight board posting: Abbr.
- 19 Nun's outfit
- 23 Pitcher's stat: Abbr.
- 24 Auction offering
- 25 Just-picked
- 26 Pimple
- 27 Money manager
- 30 Staircase parts
- 32 Strong wind
- 33 Malaysia's continent
- 35 Garment worn in a kitchen
- 38 Doubtful
- 43 Spy group: Abbr.
- 44 Vodka brand
- 45 World Cup cheer
- 46 Once around a track
- 47 Sprinter Bolt
- 48 Moral crime
- 49 Complete agreement
- 52 Spoke in public
- 55 Western Texas city
- 57 "Time permitting": 3 wds.
- 58 \_\_ and marketing
- 59 Volunteer
- 60 "Goodbye, Columbus" novelist
- 61 Draws upon



## SUDOKU

By the Mephram Group

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



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

## DOWN

- 1 Walk in water
- 2 Nile bird
- 3 Honest
- 4 Bottom of a skirt
- 5 Moody music genre
- 6 Skirt measurement
- 7 Animal den
- 8 \_\_ vera
- 9 Give anesthesia to
- 11 Reaction to pollen
- 12 Car engine
- 14 Rx, for short
- 15 Go from solid to liquid
- 17 Has a meal
- 20 Brings into the station

- 21 Spelling contest
- 22 Tel Aviv native
- 28 In the past
- 29 \_\_ Andreas Fault
- 30 Take a chair
- 31 Mai \_\_ (rum drink)
- 34 "Better Call Saul" and "Young Sheldon"
- 35 Group with a Drag Defense Fund: Abbr.
- 36 Instrument with keys
- 37 Cedar \_\_, Iowa
- 39 RV campground brand
- 40 One who shares top billing
- 41 Extraterrestrial
- 42 Let borrow
- 44 When daylight ends
- 50 Cook in a hot pan
- 51 Norway's capital
- 53 Teeming (with)
- 54 High-value cards
- 56 Volcano output
- 57 Debtor's letters

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