

Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 /// dailypilot.com

Costa Mesa council to reconsider city's pot laws

Nearly 2 years after drafting laws allowing retail cannabis, and with lawsuits piling up, city leaders eye changes.

BY SARA CARDINE

Nearly two years after Costa Mesa officials approved an ordinance regulating the sale of retail cannabis dispensaries — agreeing

to see how the rules played out as a local marketplace matured — it appears a municipal tune-up may be in order.

City Council members are poised Tuesday to open the hood on the ordinance, considering what has and hasn't worked, now that 18 enterprises, including 10 retail shops, have received the cannabis business permits necessary to open, and the fate of another 31 applications still hangs in

the balance.

The panel will consider a set of recommendations offered by the Costa Mesa Planning Commission, which did the yeoman's work of logging resident concerns and discussing possible amendments over the course of three public hearings in November, December and January.

Commissioners suggested city

See **Laws**, page A4



SINCE COSTA MESA voters legalized retail cannabis, the city has approved 22 applications for conditional use permits and has 31 more pending.

File Photo



Susan Hoffman

PEDESTRIANS, far right, making their way along Marine Avenue toward the South Bayfront squeeze past an underground utility construction crew and machinery on Balboa Island on Friday. Phase 1 of the project is expected to be completed in June 2025.

Crews dig in on \$33M utility undergrounding project

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

Central Balboa Island is teeming with construction activity as a project to underground utilities continues in the endeavor to move overhead power lines out of sight in Newport Beach's Assessment District 124.

A 50-block area between Agate Avenue and Grand Canal is Phase 1 of the project, which got underway on Feb. 12. It encompasses the 100 block of Marine Avenue between Park Avenue and the South Bayfront and Grand Canal alleys. The targeted completion date for

Central Balboa Island is teeming with construction activity as a project to underground utilities endeavors to move overhead power lines out of sight in Newport Beach's Assessment District 124.

the work, which carries a \$33-million price tag, is June 17, 2025.

Work started last winter on the North Bayfront portion of this district, according to Michael Sinacori, project manager and assistant city engineer for the city of Newport Beach.

"We just completed the entire North

Bayfront last week," Sinacori said. "We worked from February 2023 until June 2023, then stopped and restarted the area between Onyx and Grand Canal in January 2024 and just finished this past week."

Sinacori noted the record rainfall in Janu-

See **Project**, page A5

Arborists, volunteers add 19 trees to Central Park

BY MATT SZABO

The Huntington Beach Tree Society wants to plant 50 replacement trees in Central Park this year, to celebrate the massive park's 50th anniversary.

On a sunny Friday morning, they got a good start on that objective.

Huntington Beach's city Arbor Day celebration included a final mulching and watering of a restoration grove in the picnic meadow at Central Park East, near Gothard Street.

The 19 trees, acquired and placed by West Coast Arborists, included jacaranda, Chinese pistache, sycamore and dawn redwoods, flowering, native pollina-

See **Trees**, page A5



MESA VIEW

Middle School eighth-graders Jay Nesor and Nathan Boyce plant a tree on a hillside during an Arbor Day celebration at Central Park on Friday.

Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CDM BOYS' TENNIS DOUBLES UP WOODBRIDGE, STAYS UNDEFEATED PAGE A2



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BOYS' TENNIS



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CDM'S JONATHAN HINKEL reacts to putting away a volley between two opponents during Wednesday's nonleague tennis match against Woodbridge.

CdM doubles up against Woodbridge, stays undefeated

BY MATT SZABO

The Corona del Mar High boys' tennis team finds itself in a unique position early in the season.

The Sea Kings have been excellent the past couple of years, advancing to the CIF Southern Section Open Division title match before losing to rival University each time.

Now they find themselves top-ranked in the Open Division, after beating the second-ranked Trojans 9-9 (89-79 on games) in a nonleague match on Feb. 15.

That was CdM's first win over University since 2006, before many of the Sea Kings were even



CDM DOUBLES player Tristan Pham hits a serve against Woodbridge on Wednesday.

born. "We've just had a lot of losses to them," CdM senior doubles player Jonathan Hinkel said. "It

was nice to finally take them down, especially as a senior. It's my last year,

See *Tennis*, page A3

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

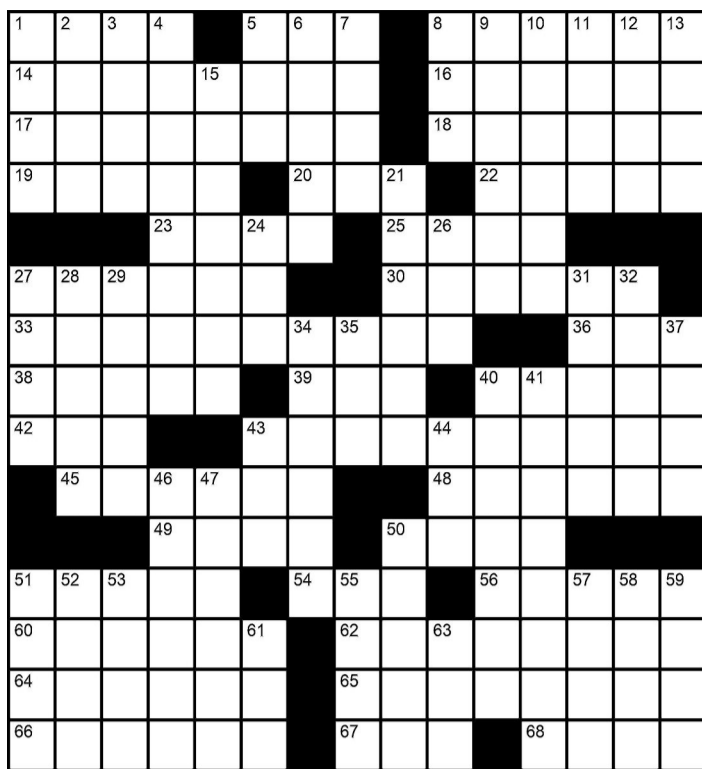
By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Celebrity
- 5 Short-lived craze
- 8 Fully prepared
- 14 Ominously predict
- 16 TV controller
- 17 Keep for future generations
- 18 Wild West watering hole
- 19 Medicine amounts
- 20 WSJ story, often
- 22 Actor DeVito
- 23 Texter's "ciao for now"
- 25 Russian's "no"
- 27 Cute baby shoe
- 30 Saintly Mother
- 33 Fruity green cocktails
- 36 "Gross!"
- 38 Uncovers
- 39 Aries animal
- 40 Summer camp craft
- 42 In the style of
- 43 Pay before bonuses: 2 wds.
- 45 Steamed pork dumplings
- 48 Railroad vehicles
- 49 Cooking vessels
- 50 Contented cat's sound
- 51 Truffle brand
- 54 Moody esthetic
- 56 Gives off
- 60 Pilot a plane
- 62 Language-learning app
- 64 Desired
- 65 Highly varied exercise program
- 66 Scornful looks
- 67 "Sorta"
- 68 Bean curd

DOWN

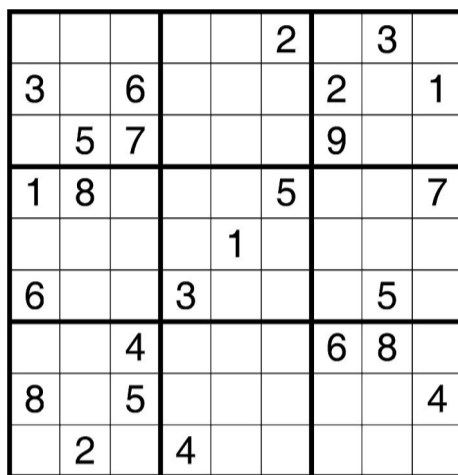
- 1 "Dagnet" grp.
- 2 Matador's adversary
- 3 Greek war god
- 4 Find a new



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.

- home
- 5 " _ Pete's sake!"
- 6 Pain relief brand
- 7 Shallow's opposite
- 8 7, on old phones
- 9 Librarygoer
- 10 "Gotta run!": 2 wds.
- 11 Astronomical sighting
- 12 _ mess (Brit dessert)
- 13 Refuse
- 15 Tight pals
- 21 Prompt: 2 wds.
- 24 To date
- 26 "Sure thing!"

- 27 Ali _
- 28 Iridescent gems
- 29 Billionaire with a book club
- 31 Biblical mount
- 32 Nut from an oak
- 34 Bold poker statement: 2 wds.
- 35 Nose: Prefix
- 37 Piano parts
- 40 Library desks
- 41 Danger exaggerator
- 43 Forbid
- 44 Nickname that drops "art"
- 46 News briefing
- 47 Make a difference
- 50 Decants
- 51 Code parts
- 52 "Terrible" tsar
- 53 SCOTUS number
- 55 The year 1601
- 57 Deets
- 58 End-of-workweek cry
- 59 Pres. address
- 61 Masthead names: Abbr.
- 63 "Tell me more!"

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THE CROWD | B.W. COOK

Newport Beach Country Club ready to again welcome PGA champions

Next week the Hoag Classic welcoming PGA champions takes Newport and all of the SoCal golf world by storm, unveiling an outstanding week of sport, celebration and community outreach hosted by Newport Beach Country Club.

All the action benefits the life-saving work of the Hoag Hospital healthcare umbrella covering multiple institutes involved in cutting edge research and all aspects of



treatment, recovery and patient care. On Tuesday, the

Hoag Classic Hall of Fame Community Breakfast welcomes golf legend **David Duval** at Hotel VEA, Newport Beach, for a lively one-on-one interview and interaction with the crowd. Then, on Wednesday, Aston Martin Newport Beach, a major tournament sponsor, produces the much-anticipated Aston Martin Newport Beach Legends Pro-Am. More than 400 golfers are registered to join the pros.

Tea times for the opening round Friday, presented by City National Bank, are set for 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Round 2 on Saturday is billed as Military Appreciation Day, welcoming both active duty and veterans with complimentary admission including a guest. Sponsor CoreLogic makes this possible. At the end of play, a Military Honoree Recognition Reception is planned to take place on the 17th and 18th greens. A surprise celeb entertainer, yet to be revealed, will entertain the golf fans.

The final Sunday round of golf at Newport Beach Country Club may determine if defending champion **Ernie Els** will take the trophy for a second year in a row. Competing in the legends field will be local fan favorite and former Hoag Classic champ **Fred Couples** joining **Billy An-**



Courtesy of Hoag Classic

ONLOOKERS TAKE IN the view from a grassy knoll overlooking Newport Beach Country Club at a previous Hoag Classic.



GOLFERS PUTT a final stroke as the crowd gathers to watch from tents at Newport Beach Country Club.

dred, John Daly, Jay Haas, Kirk Triplett, Duffy Waldorf, Corey Pavin, Tom Lehman, and Y.E. Yang, among many more. Kingston Technology sponsors play on the final day with an awards ceremony and celebration capping the afternoon.

Sunday is also "Student Day" on the greens. Young people 18 and under will receive complimentary admission and a special

chance to meet the players at the Kingston Technology Autograph Arena. On the first tee, a chipping clinic will have kids at 2 p.m. on the chipping green for a little real competition. In addition, Kingston joins Hoag Charity Sports funding \$70,000 in student scholarships through Hoag for employee family grants. A Sunday reception will present the awards to deserving students advancing



THE ROAR of the crowd rises as golf pros make the shot at a previous Hoag Classic benefiting Hoag Hospital charities.

their educational goals. Of course, all week long the parties and hospitality tents will draw crowds raising a toast to their favorite players and to the charitable community work of Hoag. VEA Newport Beach Resort will be a central gathering locale for much of the social action, beginning with an opening event unfolding on Friday. Of special note this year, a unique experience is

offered. It's billed as the "Newport Beach Luxury Club" in conjunction with the planned Ritz-Carlton Residences on the edge of Fashion Island, adjacent to the Hotel VEA and overlooking Newport Beach Country Club and the ocean. The exclusive sponsor hospitality package pulls out all stops for the select Classic supporters who are seeking the best of the best experience on and

off the course during the weeklong event.

"Guests who purchase the special pass will be entitled to enter an exclusive area near the VEA, along with valet parking, shuttle service to the tournament, a private space in the NBCC clubhouse and entrance to two exclusive spectator structures on the No. 5 and No. 17 tees, where menus curated by the executive chefs of the Pendry Newport Beach and Balboa Bay Resort will be available," stated Tournament Executive Director **Scott Easton**.

Joining the classic executive team this year, Easton, 56, comes with a resume boasting top level experience in association with major national event productions including shows with Live Nation and sports events with Desert Charities.

"I got my dream job," Easton said. "This event is one of the finest on the PGA Champions Tour, and it is because it takes place here at Newport Beach Country Club."

The sports and entertainment pro explains that the success is in large part due to local enthusiasm and support. Easton and team will manage some 800 volunteers making the tournament happen. With a purse of \$2 million and even more world-class golfers including **Colin Montgomerie, Vijay Singh, Jim Furyk, and Steve Strickers**, the Hoag Classic will be televised on the Golf Channel and seen on some 145 countries including outlets provided by PGA Tour overseas television associates. Since its early days, the Hoag Classic on the PGA Tour has raised more than \$25 million for charity. That's a qualified hole-in-one like no other.

For more information, and tickets visit HoagClassic.com.

B.W. COOK is editor of the Bay Window, the official publication of the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach.

TENNIS

Continued from page A2

and I was happy to go out there and give it my all."

The Sea Kings kept their winning ways going Wednesday, improving to 6-0 after a 12-6 nonleague victory over Woodbridge at their home courts.

Seniors Niels Hoffmann and Jack Cross, who are committed to USC and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, respectively, both swept in singles for CdM. That included a pair of victories over standout Woodbridge sophomore Brayden Tallakson.

The younger Tallakson has taken the mantle as his team's No. 1 player after his older brother Avery, a CIF Individuals singles semifinalist last year before losing to Hoffmann, graduated and made his way to the University of New Mexico. Hoffmann was up a double-break on him before settling for a 6-4 win, while Cross took a 6-1 victory.

"It's great to have two players who will always do their job, no matter what," CdM junior Roger Geng said. "Us in doubles, we just help out and make sure we secure the win."



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CDM DOUBLES player Ansel Lee returns a shot during Wednesday's match against Woodbridge.

Hinkel and Geng did so at No. 1 doubles against Woodbridge, sweeping to move to 16-0 this season, while sophomore Ivan Pflueger earned a pair of singles wins.

Coach Jamie Gresh could be heard questioning his doubles teams after the Sea Kings beat the No. 7-ranked Warriors, however. Woodbridge won five doubles sets and it was almost more.

Hinkel and Geng nearly lost a 5-1 lead in their first set before surviving two set points in the tiebreaker

for a 7-6 (8-6) win over Woodbridge's Ulyse Ver-rando and Chinh Dang.

CdM's other doubles win also came via tie-breaker, from Ansel Lee and Jack Knox in the last round.

"I don't think he was criticizing specific people," Hinkel said of the post-match chat from Gresh, who declined to be interviewed. "I think just as a whole, our doubles needs to be a little bit more steady. We need to play better, especially if we want to really set ourselves

as the No. 1. We have a lot of good teams on the road ahead of us, and we've got to play well. We've got to be ready."

CdM hosted Laguna Beach (0-5) in a Sunset Conference crossover match on Thursday. The Sea Kings open Surf League play at home against Edison on Tuesday, before playing at University in a nonleague rematch showdown on Wednesday.

"I'm super-excited to be No. 1," Hinkel said. "I think it's great that we're ranked high, but our ranking only means so much until we get to playoffs. We just have to keep playing like we are, play like No. 1s."

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CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE SUMMARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 12, 2024, the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, adopted an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-5

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, ADDING CHAPTER 10.75 (PROHIBITION OF THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM) TO TITLE 10 (OFFENSES AND NUISANCES) OF THE NEWPORT BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE

The Ordinance adds Chapter 10.75 to the Newport Beach Municipal Code, prohibiting the sale and distribution of any product containing kratom within the jurisdictional boundaries of Newport Beach.

This Ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, at a regular meeting thereof on the 12th day of March, 2024, by the following vote:

- AYES: Mayor Will O'Neill, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Stapleton, Councilmember Noah Blom, Councilmember Robyn Grant, Councilmember Lauren Kleiman, Councilmember Erik Weigand

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

Dated this 13th day of March, 2024.

/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, March 28, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online via Zoom.

Baja Sharkeez - A request for a limited term permit and coastal development permit to retain an existing 765-square-foot outdoor dining area for a one-year term (January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024).

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 Class 1 - (Existing Facilities) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines.

All interested parties may appear and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Daniel Kopshever, Assistant Planner, at dkopshever@newportbeachca.gov or 949-644-3235, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Table with 2 columns: Activity (Limited Term Permit and Coastal Development Permit), General Plan (Mixed-Use Water (MU-W2)), Filing Date (January 9, 2024), and Applicant (Baja Sharkeez)



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE SUMMARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 12, 2024, the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, introduced an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-6

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 10.08.030 (USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES) OF THE NEWPORT BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE

The Ordinance would amend the Newport Beach Municipal Code to authorize impoundment of equipment, goods, materials, merchandise and property by authorized City employees, for a minimum of 30 days if said equipment was involved in the unauthorized use of public property for commercial purposes.

This Ordinance was introduced by the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, at a regular meeting thereof on the 12th day of March, 2024, by the following vote:

- AYES: Mayor Will O'Neill, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Stapleton, Councilmember Brad Avery, Councilmember Noah Blom, Councilmember Robyn Grant, Councilmember Lauren Kleiman, Councilmember Erik Weigand

Second reading of Ordinance No. 2024-6 will occur at the March 26, 2024 City Council meeting. If adopted on March 26, 2024, the Ordinance shall become final and effective 30 days after adoption.

Dated this 13th day of March, 2024.

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

CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH: ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1696

ADDING LAGUNA BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 7.90, RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY - NOTICE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR TENANT EVICTIONS, TO SUPPLEMENT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S TENANT PROTECTION LAWS

A new Chapter 7.90 (Residential Property - Notice and Reporting Requirements for Tenant Evictions) is hereby added to Title 7 of the Laguna Beach Municipal Code to read in its entirety as follows:

7.90.010 Purpose The purpose of this Chapter is to supplement the provisions of state law governing the rights and duties of owners and tenants of residential property in the City of Laguna Beach and to partially mitigate potential hardships created when residents are forced to seek new housing when an owner seeks to evict a tenant for the purpose of demolishing or substantially remodeling the rental property.

A. "Substantial remodel" means either of the following that cannot be reasonably accomplished in a safe manner that allows the tenant to remain living in the place and that requires the tenant to vacate the residential real property for at least 30 consecutive days:

- a. The replacement or substantial modification of any structural, electrical, plumbing, or mechanical system that requires a permit from a governmental agency.
- b. The abatement of hazardous materials, including lead-based paint, mold, or asbestos, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws.

A tenant is not required to vacate the residential real property on any days where a tenant could continue living in the residential real property without violating health, safety, and habitability codes and laws.

A. For a Tenancy for which just cause is required to terminate the Tenancy under Tenant Protection Act of 2019 ("AB 1482"), codified in part in California Civil Code section 1946.2 ("section 1946.2"), the following additional requirements apply to any required notice to terminate Tenancy for just cause for intent to demolish or to substantially remodel the residential real property:

- a. The Owner shall provide a copy of the required notice to terminate tenancy and, if applicable, copies of the permit(s) or signed contract to undertake the work identified in the notice, to the City of Laguna Beach. Owners shall file the documents with the City within three calendar days of the owner serving the notice and/or documents to the tenant.
- b. If the Tenant notifies the Owner of acceptance of offer to re-rent the unit under Civil Code Section 1946.2(b)(2)(D)(iii)(IV) (as such offer to re-rent is required to be included in the subject written notice to terminate a tenancy), the Owner shall provide a copy of the Tenant's notice to accept the offer to re-rent to the City of Laguna Beach within five days of receiving the notice.

c. The Owner of residential real property shall, in the notice to the Tenant, inform the Tenant that a copy of the tenancy termination notice will be provided to the City of Laguna Beach and shall become a publicly searchable record on the City of Laguna Beach's website.

- 7.90.040 Penalties A. Failure to file the notices with the City shall be an affirmative defense to a cause of action for unlawful detainer. B. Failure to file notices with the City shall result in the City withholding inspections for the building permits for substantial remodels. 7.90.050 Nonliability of the City Neither the enactment of the ordinance codified in this chapter nor the preparation and delivery of any disclosure statement required hereunder shall impose any liability upon the City for any errors or omissions contained in the statement. 7.90.060 Administrative Regulations The city manager may adopt administrative regulations to implement the provisions of this Ordinance.

Ann Marie McKay, City Clerk

T.S. No.: CR23-1063 A.P.N.: 426-232-02 Order No.: 2388291-05 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE [PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE § 2923.3(a), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE RECORDED OR PUBLISHED AND THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION NEED ONLY BE MAILED TO THE MORTGAGOR OR TRUSTOR] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 2/18/2014.

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The Ordinance adds Chapter 10.75 to the Newport Beach Municipal Code, prohibiting the sale and distribution of any product containing kratom within the jurisdictional boundaries of Newport Beach.

LAWS

Continued from page A1

leaders consider capping the number of approved retail dispensaries at 30 for now and then letting the marketplace sort out winners and losers until just 15 storefronts are left standing before establishing 15 as a permanent cap.

They also asked the council to consider a separation requirement between cannabis businesses and residential properties and among other cannabis retailers.

City figures indicate 10 of the 22 businesses that have already received a conditional use permit from the Planning Commission are located within 500 feet of another approved business.

The issue of proximity has reared its head lately at commission meetings, as cannabis proprietors present proposals for a shop inside retail complexes in which one or more dispensaries are already operating.

Some jilted applicants sought to have the commission denials overturned by the City Council, ostensibly on the grounds that not-

ing in the letter of the law prohibits such a concentration, and were successful, but in the last year, even council members have been questioning whether the ordinances need to be revised.

Furthermore, Costa Mesa has been the defendant in multiple lawsuits filed by pot proprietors related to the fairness of the city's application process, the withholding of promised permits and allegations of unfair denials at the planning commission and council levels.

In addition to a potential cap on the number of stores in the city and distance separation requirements, the council will discuss Tuesday whether to increase an enforced buffer between dispensaries and "youth centers" from 600 to 1,000 feet and what qualifies for the youth center designation, cannabis storefront signage and whether the city might provide assistance for businesses displaced by pot shops.

The council meeting begins Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Costa Mesa City Hall, 77 Fair Drive. For the meeting agenda, visit costamesaca.gov.

sara.cardine@latimes.com Twitter: @SaraCardine

LIBRARY

Continued from page A1

ership over the libraries and that it keeps a "strong" relationship with local Friends of the Library organizations. It currently operates public libraries in Escondido, Simi Valley and other California cities.

Friends of the Huntington Beach Library member Carol Daus said she and her fellow members were not convinced the company will be able to follow through on its promises to the city.

"We've known about this for a while. We were concerned, but we weren't sure if they were doing a research study on this proposal. We're all familiar with Library Systems & Services," said Daus, who noted that former Councilman Mike Posey is a regional sales executive for the company.

Daus pointed to the Escondido Library, where volunteers said in a story from the San Diego Union-Tribune in May 2021 that Library Systems & Services "relentlessly" purged the library's shelves in the years following the City Council's vote to outsource operation of the city library to the company in 2018.

"In the end, [Library Systems & Services] has to give returns to their investors. To make that work, you need to cut. To have that happen to [the Huntington Beach Public Library],



File Photo

PEOPLE COME and go from the Huntington Beach Public Library in May of last year.

which is about to have its 50th anniversary in its location — it's the crown jewel of the city outside of the beach," said Daus. "People love our library. It's ranked highly for its services. But to have something like that turned over to a for-profit corporation, we're just aghast."

She said that she, and other members, were unopposed of the move because they felt the cost savings are negligible when compared to how much the Friends of the Huntington Beach Library contributes in donations and volunteer labor.

The agenda item comes as other changes have affected the city's library system. Librarians at the Huntington Beach Public Library started recataloging books in February after a controversial ordinance passed last October allowed for a parental advisory board to determine which children's books are allowed to appear on shelves.

"We feel like it's a very odd decision after everything they're doing with censorship, book relocations — it seems like it's more performative," Daus said. "It seems to be something that's more political than rational."

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Daily Pilot

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ON AN INCLINE at Huntington Beach Central Park, Mesa View students watch and listen to John King, a volunteer from the Huntington Beach Tree Society.

TREES

Continued from page A1

tor ceanothus — commonly known as California lilacs — and toyon were planted up on the nature plateau.

“It’s so great to have them in the park,” Tree Society volunteer Sheila Holliday said. “They’re the pollinators, and they bring so much color. Those toyons will have red berries in the fall, and the ceanothus has these beautiful blue lilacs in the spring. We’ll kind of have something going all year ... Color is always nice. We don’t want a monotone green.”

Volunteer Steve Engel said a group of 10 Torrey pine trees is also being prepared for the east side of the park.

The trees were purchased as Chevron has gifted the park with \$50,000 for 50 trees, Holliday said, through a grant proposal written by herself, Juana Mueller and Tree Society President

Jean Nagy.

“That was a big amount to ask for, we thought, and they responded, which was really, really nice,” Mueller said.

More than 20 California Junior Scholarship Federation eighth-graders from Mesa View Middle School also were on hand Friday to help at Central Park, the largest city park in Orange County.

“Jean reached out to me a couple of years ago and now we have this wonderful partnership,” said Mesa View teacher Sarah Roberts, the CJSF group advisor. “This is how they fulfill part of the service aspect of being a member of this club.”

Mesa View is very close to Central Park, though the school is displaced this year as the campus undergoes modernization.

“[Central Park] is near and dear to us,” Roberts said. “It’s where we come to run our mile for P.E. ... I think it’s really awesome for these kids to get to give

back to this park particularly because this is their park, right? It’s a part of their community, which makes it really special for them to get to give back.”

One group of Mesa View girls, Jacqueline Le, Noelle Kim and Sydney Lam, stopped for a quick interview as they looked for some mulch to aid their efforts.

“Walking into this, we didn’t really know what we were celebrating, but then we learned about Arbor Day and stuff,” Kim said. “It makes me feel a lot happier to be helping out here because it’s such an important cause to help out our nature.”

Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark, Mayor Pro Tem Pat Burns and City Council members Natalie Moser and Rhonda Bolton were some of the other public officials at Friday’s event, as well as director of community and library services Ashley Wysocki.

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Susan Hoffman

MEMBERS OF the underground utility construction crew lay cable pipes near Little Island bridge on Park Avenue on March 15, 2024.

PROJECT

Continued from page A1

ary had not been helpful when workers were trying to finish the final piece along North Bayfront.

The city’s phasing map for the undergrounding project shows a Phase 0, which refers to North Bayfront from Collins to Grand Canal. “Really, it is part of Phase 1, but we released it to construction to expedite things last winter,” said Sinacori. “It really was a game changer for this project.”

Balboa Island resident liaison to the project Lee Pearl explained the West End work is now complete, with the exception of pole removals dependent on nonelectric utility companies, such as cable and internet, connecting to homes and removing wires. Once poles are gone, new pavement will be installed.

“The Central Balboa Island Underground project

has three phases,” Pearl explained, adding that closing the Marine Avenue entrance bridge and North Bayfront alley during Phase 0 had been the most disruptive to traffic.

“It was smart to do the worst part, first water line and electrical and now that alley will be open throughout the project except for final paving.”

Pearl said one of the most difficult challenges has to do with a few electrical vaults on Park Avenue.

“The city is working with the contractor to deal with the traffic issues,” Pearl said. “Most of it is a learning curve, trying to keep traffic moving when the contractor needs to cross a street with the trench or place the vaults in the holes.”

The expectation, according to Pearl, is that once the Park Avenue vaults have been completed, there should be fewer traffic issues.

He added that there have

been some odor issues while the trenches are de-watered to allow the digging and that the contractor has been adjusting the system to reduce the odor as much as possible.

Phase 2 will include the 200 and 300 blocks between Grand Canal and Diamond Avenue. Sinacori said the timing of that phase depends on the progress of Phase 1, but the city plans to start it in either the spring or fall of 2025.

“[It] could be 12 to 18 months after they start to finish Phase 2. Connections by residents will be after that. Overall completion is in early 2028,” he said.

Susan Hoffman is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.

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**CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online via Zoom. The Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

McGinnis Residence – A coastal development permit to allow the demolition of an existing duplex to construct a new three-story, 2,424-square-foot, single-unit residence with a 161-square-foot junior accessory dwelling unit (JADU) and a 387-square-foot two-car garage. The project also includes appurtenances such as walls, hardscape, and landscaping.

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

All interested parties may appear and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing. 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. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapters 21.64 (Appeals or Calls for Review). A fee is not required to appeal any final action on a coastal development permit to the Planning Commission. The project site is located within the appeal area of the coastal zone; therefore, final action by the City may be appealed to the California Coastal Commission.

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing, and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or at the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator. Please review the **Zoning Administrator Agenda for Zoom participation instructions**. Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City’s website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on the business day immediately prior to the meeting. This allows time for the Zoning Administrator to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Jerry Arregui, Planning Technician, at 949-644-3249, jaregui@newportbeachca.gov or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2023-0169	Activity: Coastal Development Permit
Zone: Single-Unit Residential (R-1)	General Plan: Single Unit Residential Detached (RS-D)
Coastal Land Use Plan: Single Unit Residential Detached (RS-D) (20.0 – 29.9 DU/AC)	Filing Date: September 26, 2023
Location: 4901 Seashore Drive, Units A & B	Applicant: Eric Trabert and Associates

**NOTICE OF PETITION
TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
JAMES EDWARD FRANCIS,
AKA JAMES FRANCIS AND JIM FRANCIS
30-2024-013769964-PR-LA-CMC**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **James Edward Francis, aka James Francis and Jim Francis**

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **Lisa Isola** in the Superior Court of California, County of Orange

The Petition for Probate requests that **Lisa Isola** 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 **05/09/2024 at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. CM06** located at Superior Court of California, County of Orange 3390 Harbor Blvd Costa Mesa, CA 92626-1554 Costa Mesa Justice Complex

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

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

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the **later** of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**

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

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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. Ore, in fact, that has very sharp teeth.

That's what happened on a recent afternoon to lifeguard Sierra Fockler, who found a spookily-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.



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For Sale

209 VIA DIJON, LIDO ISLE

4 Beds / 4 Baths / 3,761 SF / 5,816 SF Lot / Asking Price: \$6,350,000



Sold

235 VIA LIDO SOUD, LIDO ISLE

3 Beds / 4 Baths / 2,794 SF / 2,880 SF Lot
List Price: \$12,600,000 / Represented Buyer & Seller



Sold

231 VIA FIRENZE, LIDO ISLE

3 Beds / 4 Baths / 3,176 SF / 3,600 SF Lot / *List Price: \$3,895,000 / Represented Seller
Sold For Over Asking Price With Multiple Offers



Sold

2511 BAYSHORE DRIVE, BAYSHORES

4 Beds / 5 Baths / 3,813 SF / Sold Price: \$13,000,000
Represented Buyer



Sold

218 VIA ITHACA, LIDO ISLE

4 Beds / 2 Baths / 1,939 SF / List Price: \$3,595,000
Represented Buyer & Seller



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