CITYSCAP

ON THE MOVE: Members of the Imua Outrigger Canoe Club begin their practice in Newport Beach.

Just one stroke and

Members of the Imua Outrigger Canoe Club combine strengths to enjoy an activity that began in Southeast Asia.

By Amanda Pennington
Daily Pilot

While paddling with an outrigger canoe club can be a tremendous workout, many who participate in local clubs say it’s really all about “ohana.”

Olana means “family” in Hawaiian and the sport does require a sense of brotherhood among teammates; something the Imua Outrigger Canoe Club knows well.

In order to be successful, teammates use their combined strength to paddle the canoe, which has a support float fastened to the hull, in order get it going fast.

The club isn’t just for fun, though, throughout the season, which lasts May through September. And they don’t just compete, they win.

So far the club has competed in two races, with the men’s novice team and the Bradley team — Bradley refers to a specific type of boat — coming in first. Another men’s team came in second in its division.

The men’s and women’s teams compete against 28 other teams from Southern California, Arizona and Nevada.

Outrigger canoes were originally developed by people in Southeast Asia. The canoes helped the people move to Polynesia and other areas, allowing them to spread their civilization to other parts of the world. It is widely associated with Hawaiian and Polynesian culture and adaptations of the boat can be found all over Southeast Asia.

“That’s part of the allure of the sport,” Imua men’s coach Corry Fitzgibbons of Costa Mesa said.

Saturday morning as the men’s team began their practice at North Star Beach. “It all dates back to the Polynesian men spreading their islands and it’s a great way to keep that family atmosphere, it’s a great workout,” Martyn said.

But the fun doesn’t stop there. After years of surfing, Martyn’s family is a way to keep being on the water.

Many of the club members seemed to be after the sport as well. Women’s head coach Sylvia Keddie started paddling when she lived in Hawaii and then moved to Costa Mesa. She said she wanted to continue the tradition of canoeing when she moved to Costa Mesa.

Council to reconsider Ware Disposal’s $6M contract

The Newport Beach City Council will reconsider a $6.8-million NewPort Coast trash contract it awarded to Ware Disposal on May 8, council members decided Tuesday.

The council will consider dismissing the contract on the basis that the company had not provided the city with its required alternative fuel trucks. The council also requested additional documents for the project.

In choosing a bidder, the council ended up negotiating on the deal, and that probably wasn’t the best process to follow, said Councilwoman Nancy Gardner, who asked that the contract be reconsidered.

Councilman Ron Webb agreed, saying, “If we’re going to allow one person to make significant changes to the bid, we really need all fairness need to be considered.”

A new contractor may be selected.

SHORT TAKES

Resuming would allow townhouse development

A townhouse development with 30 units would be built on Victoria Street between College and Thrift avenues in Costa Mesa, if the planning commission approves necessary rezoning Tuesday.

The “colonial revival”-style buildings would have balconies in front, and residents could walk pets on landscaped pathways around the site. To build the project, the developer would consolidate three lots totaling 1.08 acres. The units would be sold separately to individual owners.

The townhomes would replace 18 existing units built in the 1940s and 1950s. The Costa Mesa planning commission meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at 77 Fair Drive. To view the agenda visit www.ci-costamesa.ca.us.

— Alicia Robinson

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