

Longtime gymnastics instructor calls it a day

Antje Morris, the program director for the City's popular Gymnastics Program said goodbye on Sept. 1 after a nearly 40-year career.

Morris has taught three generations of Costa Mesa residents while overseeing the program and has been instrumental in the safety training of staff and in the equipment upgrades that have taken place over the years.

Morris is leaving the program in safe hands as she moves into her retirement years.

As a token of appreciation, Morris was presented with a plaque from department staff.

New Mobile Recreation Program van is unveiled

The city's Mobile Recreation Program is unveiling its new van that will rollout as the program reboots late September with this new vehicle that will be full of athletic equipment, games, art supplies, books and [Los Angeles Chargers](#) branding.

It was the Chargers who donated \$50,000 to help get the project rolling.

The vehicle will pop-up in various locations throughout the community where park space may be limited or where there is no access to after-school programs.

The Mobile Recreation van has an artistic wrap to represent the essence of the program and the wrap was created with the help of Fleet Services and City Graphic Designer Gina Clark.

The Chargers announced in January that the team would be moving to Los Angeles and then subsequently announced that the team would move its headquarters to the Hive office complex in Costa Mesa.

In March, the team agreed to enter into a 10-year use agreement with the city to practice at the Jack Hammett Sports Complex during the NFL team's Summer Training Camp. As part of this training camp agreement, the team will provide Costa Mesa with \$150,000 a year to use the site for a potential \$1.5 million over 10 years and pledged a \$50,000 donation to be used for the Mobile Recreation Program.

City Parks & Community Services offers a multitude of programs this fall for all age groups

Costa Mesa Parks & Community Services will again offer after-school programs for both early childhood and teens starting this school year as well as swim lessons for adults and youth.

For elementary-aged children the city offers to the Recreation on Campus for Kids, or R.O.C.K.S, Afterschool Program at 11 sites throughout the city.

The R.O.C.K.S Program will also offer Youth Fitness Programs,

showing kids that health and exercise can be fun.

After-school care for teens is offered at three Teen Center locations. These free programs take place at the Downtown Recreation Center, TeWinkle Intermediate, and Costa Mesa Middle School and will be open on the first day of school, Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Any teenagers who want to stop by after school, make a few new friends, try something new and have a good time are welcome.

Teen Center permission slips will be available at 7th and 8th grade registration days at Costa Mesa Middle School, TeWinkle Intermediate, and Ensign Intermediate. Please call (714) 327-7562 for more information.

[Click here for more.](#)

Additionally, fall youth and adult swim lessons will be held at the Downtown Aquatic Center at 1860 Anaheim Ave. beginning Tuesday, Sept. 5. Registration will begin on Wednesday, Aug. 23 at 8 a.m. online or at the Downtown Aquatic Center.

The pool is heated year-round. Please call (714) 327-7564 for more information.

Check out the city's website for a full listing of fall programs and classes by [clicking here](#).



Lions Park Projects Groundbreaking Ceremony set for Friday July 28

The City will hold an official Groundbreaking Ceremony this Friday July 28 at 10 a.m. for the planned Lions Park Projects.

The \$36 million public works projects will include a new 20,000-square-foot Donald Dungan Library as well as the

refurbishment of the existing library into a new Neighborhood Community Center.



City Council members, staff and other dignitaries are expected to attend, including the architect of the project Steve Johnson as well as Orange County Librarian Helen Fried.

The Boy Scout Troop No. 339 will be the Color Guard that morning.

Click here [for more information about the Lions Park Projects](#).

Plans for 127th OC Fair announced as day one of the annual extravaganza is fast approaching

Mayor Katrina Foley and City Manager Tom Hatch recently attended a meeting at the OC Fair & Event Center to learn about some of the changes coming to this year's event as well

as details about the City Day at the fair.

The 2017 OC Fair runs July 14 – August 13 (Wednesday-Sunday).

City Day for Costa Mesa will take place on Friday July 21. The event, which will begin at will include a raising of the Costa Mesa city flag as well as a performance of the National Anthem.

The theme of the 127th Fair is “Farm Fresh Fun,” and is a tribute to agriculture in the county. There are several new offerings including new weekend hours. Hours of operation are Wednesday-Friday: Noon – Midnight and Saturday-Sunday: 11 a.m. – Midnight. The Fair is closed on Monday and Tuesday. Pricing has also changed. Click [here for more information](#) on pricing and admission.

There will also be a new ride at the fair called “Endeavor,” as well as full-contact jousting, an olive oil competition, a mini-van demolition derby and an e-sports tournament.

Also new at the fair this year is the Heroes Hall veterans museum and the Pacific Symphony will have its summer concert series at the Pacific Amphitheatre.

New brochures highlight the economic advantages for businesses in Costa Mesa

The City continues to provide important economic information to the community and to potential investors in Costa Mesa.

The [Community Economic Profile](#) provides up to date information

in a variety of categories, emphasizing the City's strategic location, strong socio-economic indicators, temperate climate, and it also provides valuable contact information for important services.

A second handout, the [Costa Mesa Advantage](#) brochure, conveys the City's vision for Costa Mesa. These handouts help to persuade businesses to establish here, attract investment to Costa Mesa and equip residents with reliable information about their community.

Upgrades to Angel's Playground near completion

At its March 21, 2017 meeting, the City Council awarded a contract for removal and replacement of Angel's Playground surface at Tewinkle Park.

This project is now nearing completion. Final color overlay of the playground surface was completed on Thursday May 11 and will need to cure for a period of five days. The area was cleaned on Tuesday May 16 and the fence will be removed today, Wednesday May 17.

Public Services staff will be installing a new bench, swings and other hardware after the fence is removed. The playground will be open for children by the afternoon of Wednesday May 17.

Costa Mesa to Celebrate Action Sports and Art with mural painting and skateboard event this Saturday

Highlighting the City of Costa Mesa's ties to art and action sports, the Action Arts in the Park exhibition returns this year to TeWinkle Park and will feature the work of four muralists, a skateboard competition, a dance demonstration and interactive public art projects at TeWinkle Park.

The second annual event, scheduled this Saturday April 29 from 12 noon to 4 p.m., was the brainchild of the city's Cultural Arts Committee.

"Costa Mesa is such a fun, diverse, interesting place to live and we wanted to put on a high-energy event that reflected some of the best elements of this City – the artists, the action sports and the opportunities for families to spend the day in the park," said Cultural Arts Committee Chair Andrea Marr.

For the city's Parks & Community Services Department the event presents another avenue to promote Costa Mesa as the City of the Arts and share the City's unique vibe and melting pot dynamic, Recreation Manager Justin Martin said.

"The Action Arts in the Park event is a really unique event that serves to highlight Costa Mesa's vibrant arts scene in conjunction with the City's edgy and ever-growing action sports scene," Martin said. "The goal is to have community members of all ages come together in one of the City's most beautiful parks to enjoy an afternoon that is artistic, athletic, adventurous, energetic and family oriented."

Four muralists, Josh Madrid, Maxx Gramajo, Ben Brough and Janelle Hinshaw, will paint a new mural from scratch onto a plywood canvas. In addition there will be a skate competition; live music by Cali Conscious and Sturgeon Rock; a dance performance from West Coast School of the Arts; and interactive art stations where patrons can paint a car, design a skateboard and spin art.



Newport-Mesa Unified School District high school students will be demonstrating their clay throwing skills and there will also be a Kids Zone with an Extreme Jumper and a Mechanical Surfboard

On the culinary side, Inspired Art & Wine is offering a design your own bottle event and several food trucks will also be on hand including The Big Cheese Truck, Scooter's Ice, and Burger Monster.

The title sponsor of the event is Segerstrom Center for the Arts and other sponsors include Vans, The Art Institute of California – OC, Inspired Art & Wine, Papa Murphy's, Chuck Jones Center, Attic Skateshop, Raising Canes, Garcia Chiropractic and Urban Workshop.

City Manager Hatch provides update to Mesa Verde Community Inc.

On Tuesday Jan. 18, City Manager Tom Hatch gave a presentation to the Mesa Verde Community Inc. to update the group on several city initiatives.

Hatch brought them up to speed on the Fire Station No. 1 replacement efforts and noted that the groundbreaking for the new station will take place on March 11, 2017 with completion scheduled for the following spring of 2018.

He also told the group what was going on with the Lions Park improvements which includes a new library and community center. Hatch also gave updates on the new City Council, the Mesa Verde medians, city staffing, the homeless and the news that the Chargers are moving the team headquarters here.

City seeks volunteers to sit on Parks and Recreation, Planning and Senior Commissions

The Costa Mesa City Council is currently seeking interested

individuals from the community to serve on the following Commissions:

Parks and Recreation Commission – This Commission assists the City Council and various City departments with issues related to parks and parkways. Currently, there are five (5) vacancies, two (2) with a term expiration of February 2021 and three (3) with a term expiration of February 2019. Applicants must be registered voters in the City. For further information, please contact Recreation Manager Justin Martin at (714) 754-5065.

Planning Commission – This Commission derives its power from the provisions of the California Government Code, and has the power, by law, to act upon or recommend to the City Council: 1) the regulation of future growth, development, and beautification of the City in respect to its public and private works; 2) consistency with municipal plans to ensure that future growth and development do not impede upon sanitation, public utilities, and transportation facilities; 3) the location of any proposed buildings, structures or works; and, 4) the design and improvement of proposed subdivisions of the land. Currently, there are five (5) vacancies, two (2) with a term expiration of February 2021 and three (3) with a term expiration of February 2019. Applicants must be registered voters in the City. For further information, please contact Interim Assistant Development Services Director Peggy Schneble at (714) 754-5182.

Senior Commission – This Commission serves as an advisory body to the City Council in matters related to the operation of the Costa Mesa Senior Center. Currently, there are seven (7) vacancies, three (3) with a term expiration of February 2021 and four (4) with a term expiration of February 2019. Applicants must be a Costa Mesa resident. For further information, please contact Recreation Manager Justin Martin at (714) 754-5065.

Application Process – Residents who are interested in getting involved in local government are encouraged to complete a Committee Application Form from the City Clerk’s Office or from the City’s website (www.costamesaca.gov/apply). The completed application may be submitted online; mailed to Costa Mesa City Clerk at Post Office Box 1200, Costa Mesa, California, 92628-1200; faxed to (714) 754-4942; emailed to cityclerk@costamesaca.gov; or hand-delivered to the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa.

The deadline is **5 p.m., Wednesday, January 18, 2017**. City Council will be holding special meetings on Tuesday, January 24 and Tuesday January 31 at 6:00 p.m. to interview applicants and make appointments to the Commissions. For further information regarding Commission appointments, please contact the City Clerk’s office at (714) 754-5225 or cityclerk@costamesaca.gov.

Downtown Recreation Center pool gets new equipment and deck

The pool at the Downtown Recreation Center has been undergoing some much needed updating.

The installation of a new pool pump VFD (Variable Frequency Drive), new chemical controller and new backwash controller was recently completed and all are performing up to expectations.

The rusted rebar areas in the plaster on the pool floor have been repaired by scuba divers from Underwater Unlimited and a

new pool heater is scheduled to be installed soon.

All work is expected to be completed in January 2017.

[Costa Mesa's Snoopy House hits 50 years of making families merry for the holiday season](#)

This year, the iconic Snoopy House will mark its 50-year anniversary in Costa Mesa and fifth year at City Hall with an expanded holiday display that will feature a new Main Street look and three nights of snow.

[Snoopy House](#), which features holiday scenes populated by "Peanuts" characters, is a free event available for viewing at City Hall from 5:30 to 9 p.m. nightly from Dec. 10 through Dec. 23.

"It has been an honor to have Snoopy House here these past five years," Costa Mesa Mayor Steve Mensinger said. "It's a wonderful tradition that now further connects the community to City Hall."

The opening night of Snoopy House will begin with a formal presentation by the mayor and City Council members at 5:30 p.m.

In addition, Jim Jordan, whose family started the display at their Eastside Costa Mesa home in 1966, will be honored for

the 50-year tradition.

The Jordan family members and friends put together a series of Christmas scenes that eventually took up most of their front yard, side yard and even the roof of their home.

Since its inception, the display has attracted an estimated 80,000 visitors annually.

Snoopy House moved to Costa Mesa City Hall in 2011, when city officials learned the fate of the annual tradition was in jeopardy.

The city of Costa Mesa agreed to host the display and provide other assistance and has been doing so every year since with the help of devoted staff members as well as Jim Jordan and his wife Linda, who have worked to help create the City Hall display for the last five years.

Over the last five years, Snoopy House has added several new features including nightly live music, snow, free apple cider, free photos with Santa and free train rides for children.

To complement the Snoopy House, the city also puts on a nightly light show on the façade of City Hall.

The Santa visits take place each night between 7 to 9 p.m. beginning opening night, Dec. 10, through Dec. 23. Children and their families will have opportunities to receive free photos with Santa.

In addition, several youth nonprofit groups will have booths at the Snoopy House display each night selling beverages and snacks.