

Homeless lawsuit settlement update

The City of Costa Mesa is continuing to negotiate with the plaintiffs and working to resolve the OC Catholic Worker case.

The lawsuit was filed against the City of Costa Mesa, Anaheim, Orange, Santa Ana and the County of Orange regarding the Santa Ana River trail and the individuals who were illegally camping there and were scheduled to be moved.

As part of that lawsuit, Federal District Court Judge David Carter ordered the city of Costa Mesa to provide shelter beds equal to 60 percent of the city's last homeless count numbers. In January of 2017, the count found 103 unsheltered homeless individuals in Costa Mesa.

The City of Costa Mesa has been aggressively searching to identify appropriate locations throughout the city for potential purchase and development of a new community shelter. The city's commitment with any location will be to design the highest quality facility that is securely operated, free of loitering or neighborhood disruptions and any impacts to the greater Costa Mesa community will be minimized.

By opening the required 50-bed community shelter, the city will avoid further litigation, and the court will allow the city to put a heightened focus on the city's anti-camping laws and apply a much stricter enforcement.

Chief Sharpnack issues update on coyote sightings

Police Chief Rob Sharpnack reports police officers conducted an investigation into reports of a coyote den in the College Park area and found that no such den exists.

“Based on our observations, we believe an adult and two teenage coyotes have habituated the area,” Chief Sharpnack said. “In response, we have conferred with Fish and Wildlife and placed traps in the neighborhood. The “Havahart” traps have been out for a few weeks and are checked multiple times per day by Animal Control. Thus far, we have yet to trap a coyote.”

Chief Sharpnack notes that these actions are consistent with the city’s Coyote Management Plan.

[Click here](#) for our Coyote Information page for the Coyote Management Plan, video tips and more.

It should be noted that although the department employs humane traps, it is against the law to relocate captured coyotes. Additionally, the Police Department has and will continue to remove coyotes who have become aggressive and a threat to the community.

The police department has also placed traps in the Monticello area, near City Hall, and around Vanguard. No dens have been identified or located in any of these areas as well. In working the previously described areas, Animal Control staff have observed the presence of a variety of coyote attractants. For example, one resident had an elevated plate full of peanuts and sunflower seeds. It appeared the resident was leaving the food out for squirrels, which in turn will bring in coyotes.

The department has also seen evidence of coyotes feeding on fruit trees, easily accessible trash and food waste and pet food. In addition, the department continues to request residents with overgrown shrubs and plants cut them back so coyotes will not bed down in those concealed locations.

Chief Sharpnack urged residents to continue to report sightings on the Coyote Cacher, [click here](#) for that tool.

The Coyote Cacher enables authorities to track activity and to help determine when or if coyotes are habituated in an area. The benefit for residents is that authorities may be able to identify trends and respond to their area in a more timely manner.

Depending on the circumstances, the Coyote Cacher information may also help in deciding whether to deploy traps and/or seek out the coyotes with tranquilizer guns. In those cases, the coyotes that are captured are euthanized.

[Click here](#) for a Coyote Warning flier.

Free Landlord Workshop to Teach Fair Housing Rights and Responsibilities

The Fair Housing Foundation will be holding a Landlord Workshop at the Balearic Community Center; at 1975 Balearic Drive, Costa Mesa from 10:00am – 12:00pm on Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2018.

This workshop is free and open to the public. Attendees will learn how to seek prospective tenants, the rental process, and

credit checks. They will also be educated about Fair Housing Laws and their rights and responsibilities as a landlord or property management professional.

The Fair Housing Foundation services residents of the city of Costa Mesa. The Foundation is contracted by the city of Costa Mesa and receive funds through the Community Development Block Grants.

The Foundation educates the public about Fair Housing rights and responsibilities through workshops, trainings, and community events. FHF provides mediation and counseling services through our housing assistance hotline 1-800-446-FAIR and walk-in clinics. It also investigate issues of discrimination related to housing.

For more information or to RSVP for the Landlord Workshop, call 1-800-446-FAIR

About the Fair Housing Foundation:

Founded in 1964, the Fair Housing Foundation (FHF) is a private, non-profit, non-partisan educational agency dedicated to promoting the enforcement of fair housing laws and encouraging an atmosphere of open housing through education, enforcement activities, counseling services, and outreach programs. The Fair Housing Foundation is an approved HUD Housing Counseling Affiliate. We are contracted with cities throughout Orange and Los Angeles counties to provide Fair Housing services. Fair Housing Foundation serves over 10,000 clients annually through our programs.

ARTventure slated to take place at Segerstrom Center for the Arts this Friday Oct. 5 and Saturday Oct. 6

The Cultural Arts Committee along with the Parks and Community Services Department are proud to host the fourth annual ARTventure event.

This free two-day cultural arts event is scheduled for Friday Oct. 5 and Saturday Oct. 6 at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in the beautiful, multi-tiered glass lobby of the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.

On Friday, Oct. 5 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Concert Hall will be transformed with more than 325 pieces of art. Live musical entertainment will be provided by the Dylan Romaine Quartet band, and refreshments will be served as the city celebrates the incredible talents of local artists with an opening reception and awards presentation.

This one-of-a-kind juried exhibition of art, will showcase the work of local artists in a variety of media, including but not limited to: oil, watercolor and acrylic paintings, metal sculpture, wood and leather crafting, fashion, photography, fiber art and mixed media.

On Saturday, Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Concert Hall and the Argyros Plaza will offer an incredible family-friendly day full of live art entertainment, including musical, theatrical, literary, culinary, and hands-on demonstration. Art activity booths are sponsored by Art Steps, OC Fair, Newport Mesa Unified School District, Chuck Jones Center, Inspired Art and Wine and Vanguard University.

This free community event is organized in partnership with the City of Costa Mesa and The Segerstrom Center for the Arts, highlighting Costa Mesa's "City of the Arts" motto.

For event details, parking information or to RSVP, visit www.ARTventureCM.com.

Fire & Rescue to hold open house at Fire Station No. 4 this Saturday Oct. 6

To mark fire prevention month, Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue is inviting the public to an open house this Saturday Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fire Station No. 4.

Members of the public can meet local firefighters and department staff, observe the operations of front-line fire equipment and take part in a fire ground challenge event for adults and kids.

Free parking is available at Estancia High School (south lot).

For more details [click here](#) to see the flier.

Fire Station No. 4 is located at 2300 Placentia Ave.

Update on Community Shelter Location search

To satisfy a federal court requirement to find a community shelter, the City of Costa Mesa has been aggressively searching to identify appropriate locations throughout the city for potential purchase and development.

The city's commitment with any location will be to design the highest quality facility that is securely operated and free of loitering or neighborhood disruptions and any impacts to the greater Costa Mesa community will be minimized.

When we open our community shelter, the city will avoid further litigation and regain the ability to enforce the city's anti-camping laws. These laws ensure the safety and well-being of residents, business owners and visitors.

[Click here](#) to read our Fact Sheet on the court's requirement.

The city is seeking the community's help as the process moves forward. Members of the public who have ideas about potential properties or locations for the community shelter are urged to call Public Information Officer Tony Doderio at 714-754-5288 or via email at citynews@costamesaca.gov.

Costa Mesa unveils new Fire Station No. 1 to thankful

community

Costa Mesa officially re-opened Fire Station No. 1 with an emotion-packed ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday Sept. 29 that was well attended by both high-ranking dignitaries, elected city leaders, city staff and several hundred members of the general public.

Attending the event was Congressman Dana Rohrabacher and State Sen. John Moorlach, both of whom gave presentations to the city, along with a representative from Assembly Member Matt Harper's office.

The event began with comments from City Manager Tom Hatch along with Costa Mesa Mayor Sandy Genis, Mayor Pro-Tem Allan Mansoor, Council Members Katrina Foley, Jim Righeimer and John Stephens.

"This was a phenomenal event for the entire community," Fire Chief Dan Stefano said. "Our fire family is grateful and honored to have this extraordinary resource for our residents and firefighters. We look forward to having this serve as our flagship fire station for decades to come."

Also speaking at the event was Public Services Director Raja Sethuraman, who credited his team and others for building the new station at 1570 Adams Ave., which is an 11,740-square-foot facility that comes equipped with the latest in fire services technology and daily amenities.

The new facility replaces the original Station 1 that was built in 1961.

This new building is a \$10 million city investment that came in \$350,000 under budget and is LEED Gold Certified. It has a new public lobby, three fire offices, rooms for laundry, communications, exercise and training. There is also is a kitchen and dining room and 10 bedrooms and five restrooms.

This is the first fire station built in Costa Mesa since Station No. 6 was built over 25 years ago in 1993.

Saturday's festivities also included a color guard presentation, plaque unveiling and a flag raising as well as opportunities for the public to take guided tours of the station. Children, some dressed as firefighters, climbed on fire equipment and trucks and the Maltese Cross was also unveiled. The Maltese Cross dates back hundreds of years. It is a symbol of protection and means that a firefighter is willing to lay down his/her life and works in courage.

Maintenance Supervisor Ruben Salas receives City Manager Leadership Award for September

City Manager Tom Hatch presented Maintenance Supervisor Ruben Salas with the September City Manager Leadership Award at the monthly Meet and Greet celebration on Thursday Sept. 27.

"Ruben sets a great example to all of his team members with his dedication and hard work," City Manager Hatch said. "Ensuring the city's fleet of vehicles are in great shape is an important job and Ruben and his team consistently rise to that challenge. I appreciate all he does for Costa Mesa."

As the supervisor, Salas is charged with purchasing vehicles, monitoring contracts and overseeing the daily challenges

associated with running a successful municipal fleet.

Hired by the City of Costa Mesa in April 2006 as an Equipment Mechanic III, Salas has a diverse background. He spent 17 years working as a mechanic for OCTA and prior to that served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Salas is an ASE Certified Master Mechanic with certificates in Automotive and Heavy Truck Repairs. He is a state certified Fire Mechanic and was recently awarded the 25-year Master Automotive Service Excellence medallion.

His hobbies include weightlifting, basketball and martial arts. He is an assistant instructor at the South Orange County Martial Arts Academy under Master Frank Ebrahimi. He has been a student of Kung Fu for over 26 years and holds the rank of 6th degree black belt in Kung Fu.

In addition to honoring Salas, City Manager Hatch welcomed several new employees and one for a promotion.

New to the city are Jeff Trujillo, a video production coordinator for the Communications and Marketing Division. Also new in Parks and Community Services are Nicholas Kinnart, Recreation Leader II and Getsemani Orozco Ceja Recreation Leader I.

In Public Services, Elena Polyakova White is the new Engineering Division Intern, and Hatch honored longtime city employee Bruce Lindemann for his promotion to Maintenance Services Manager.

OCTA to close 405 Freeway in Costa Mesa from 11 p.m. Friday Sept. 28 to 5 a.m. Saturday

OCTA Crews will close the northbound lanes of I-405 between Fairview Road and Harbor Boulevard at 11 p.m. Friday to remove a sign structure as part of the I-405 Improvement Project.

The sign structure, which must come down to allow crews to start constructing the new outside lanes as part of the freeway widening, spans the northbound lanes. The northbound lanes of the freeway must be closed to safely remove the sign. Two lanes on southbound I-405 also will be closed for the activity.

Motorists on northbound I-405 will be detoured to the Fairview Road off-ramp, then directly back onto northbound I-405 at the Fairview on-ramp. Motorists on northbound State Route 73 also will exit at the Fairview off-ramp and be directed to northbound I-405 at the Fairview on-ramp.

Up-to-date closure and construction information is available on the project's interactive map at www.octa.net/405map.

Reminder: Full I-405 Closure Begins Saturday Night in Fountain Valley

Drivers and nearby residents are also reminded that, the next night, a full closure of the I-405 in Fountain Valley is scheduled. That closure, which will close all lanes of I-405 between Brookhurst and Magnolia streets, is set to begin Saturday, Sept. 29, lasting from approximately 11 p.m. to 8 a.m. Sunday, to safely demolish the Slater Avenue bridge.

The remaining work on the Slater bridge will be done during a second full closure on Saturday, Oct. 6, also from approximately 11 p.m. to 8 a.m.

The Slater bridge is the second of more than 18 bridges to be built, widened or replaced as part of the project, which will speed up travel times on I-405 between Costa Mesa and the Los Angeles County line, an area traveled by more than 370,000 vehicles a day. The McFadden Avenue bridge was demolished last month.

During the freeway closures, northbound drivers will be detoured off the freeway at Brookhurst Street, and southbound motorists will be detoured off the freeway at Magnolia Street.

Nighttime lane closures on I-405 are also expected during the weeks of Oct. 15 and Oct. 22 for additional demolition activities, but those will not require the freeway to be fully closed.

Drivers should expect nighttime delays in the area and are encouraged to use alternate routes if possible.

The \$1.9 billion I-405 Improvement Project will add one regular lane in each direction between SR-73 and I-605 and a second lane in each direction in the center of the freeway that will combine with the existing carpool lanes to form the 405 Express Lanes.

This 16-mile segment of I-405 is one of the most heavily traveled stretches of highway in the nation, and both the regular lanes and carpool lanes are heavily congested during rush hour and on weekends. The project is critical to accommodate expected employment, population and housing growth throughout the region.

People are encouraged to visit the project website at www.octa.net/405improvement to sign up for construction alerts via automated call, text message or email.

Costa Mesa to hold ribbon-cutting ceremonies for Fire Station No. 1 this Saturday Sept. 29

The City of Costa Mesa will officially open a new fire station for the first time in 25 years this Saturday morning Sept. 29 as the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly rebuilt Fire Station No. 1 takes place.

“This is a proud moment for the City of Costa Mesa and all of our residents,” Mayor Sandy Genis said. “Congratulations to Public Services Director Raja Sethuraman and Fire Chief Dan Stefano and their teams who worked hard to make this vision a reality and continue the legacy of excellence we have all come to expect.”

Fire Chief Stefano said he is also proud to open this new state-of-the-art facility.

“Our fire family is grateful and honored to have this rare opportunity to open a new station for our Costa Mesa community,” Chief Dan Stefano said. “In addition to being a picturesque and contemporary facility, it will be an extraordinary resource for our residents and firefighters. It will clearly serve as our flagship fire station for decades to come.”

The new station at 1570 Adams Ave. is an 11,740-square-foot facility that comes equipped with the latest in fire services technology and daily amenities.

This multi-year endeavor is a joint effort between the Fire & Rescue and Public Services departments and began in March of 2017 with the razing of the original Station 1 that was built in 1961. That building was outdated and obsolete and was in critical need of replacement.

This new building is a \$10 million city investment that came in \$350,000 under budget and is LEED Gold Certified. It has a new public lobby, three fire offices, rooms for laundry, communications, exercise and training. There is also is a kitchen and dining room and 10 bedrooms and five restrooms.

This is the first fire station built in Costa Mesa since Station No. 6 was built over 25 years ago in 1993.

The event will take place at 10 a.m. and will include comments by City Council members, City Manager Tom Hatch, Fire Chief Stefano and Public Services Director Sethuraman.

The festivities will also include a color guard presentation, plaque unveiling and a flag raising as well as opportunities for the public to take guided tours of the station. Children will be offered kid-friendly activities and fire equipment will be on display. Refreshments will also be available.

Court requires Costa Mesa to create emergency shelter beds

- The City of Costa Mesa has been a county leader in finding creative solutions to help individuals experiencing homelessness, while at the same time

appropriately conducting enforcement efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of residents, business owners and visitors.

- The City provides support and resources to aide Costa Mesa's homeless population through the city's Network for Homeless Solutions, which housed nearly 300 people in five years and reconnected more than 120 individuals with family and loved ones outside of Costa Mesa.
- And while the City and community of Costa Mesa is committed to doing its fair share, a federal court has now established a new expectation that each agency in this lawsuit (Anaheim, Orange, Costa Mesa, Santa Ana and the County of Orange) contributes emergency shelter beds.
- In the future, the court indicated that other and/or all cities in Orange County may be expected to do the same.
- To avoid further litigation, satisfy the court and allow Costa Mesa to enforce its laws, the city will need to provide emergency shelter beds equal to 60% of the last official count of unsheltered homeless in the city, which was 103 individuals. 60% of 103 equals 62 beds.
- Costa Mesa has already begun working on a solution and recently approved an application from College Hospital, a longtime and respected provider of mental health and medical treatment in the community, to create 12 new emergency beds at the hospital to treat those who are in mental health crisis.
- With the availability of these beds, our law enforcement officers and firefighters will be able to quickly refer people they encounter on the streets who are a threat to themselves or the community to this emergency unit. This will result in fewer individuals with mental health issues on Costa Mesa streets, which will make the

community safer.

- The availability of this emergency unit reduces the number of beds needed in Costa Mesa from 62 to 50.
 - Finding 50 emergency shelter beds in Costa Mesa or by partnering with surrounding cities is going to take a tremendous amount of civic engagement and support by elected leaders and the greater Costa Mesa community as the city's goal will be to ensure any impacts are minimized. Costa Mesa city staff is in the early stages of working with the Network for Homeless Solutions and other non profits as it seeks to fulfill the court's request and balance that with the wider Costa Mesa community input and feedback.
 - Costa Mesa continues to have its outreach team, more than 100 volunteers and over 50 social service providers and agencies make daily contact with 60 to 80 people each week (more than 3,000 a year) and assist park rangers, police officers and residents who encounter homeless individuals seeking assistance.
 - The city partners with the Lighthouse Church of the Nazarene, which serves as a homeless service center and inclement weather shelter for extremely vulnerable individuals, as well as Trellis and The Crossing Church to provide a check-in center with 63 bins to safely store materials for homeless individuals and keep it out of public streets and parks.
 - For more information on the city's efforts and to provide feedback contact Public Information Officer Tony Doderio at 714-754-5288 or via email at citynews@costamesaca.gov.
-

Street sweeping will be postponed for week due to Labor Day holiday

Due to the observation of the Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 3, there will be no residential street sweeping through Friday Sept. 7.

This coincides with the Costa Mesa Sanitary District, which also observes this holiday by pushing trash collection back one day.

This results in residential gutter lines being cluttered with trash cans making it impossible for street sweeper operators to do an efficient job. There should be no parking citations issued during this time.

Street sweeping will resume back to normal schedule the week of Sept. 10.

In lieu of sweeping streets, the following are a list of task that clean streets operators will be conducting next week.

- City wide alley street sweeping
- Sweeping of park parking lots and other city owned facilities
- Accident call outs and special request
- Night route sweeping on all arterial streets

For more information, residents can call the city's street sweeping hotline at (714) 327-7471, which has been updated with this information.