

Street Rehabilitation work starts on Nutmeg Place

Public Services contractor Eagle Paving is well underway with the city's Street Rehabilitation project.

While the improvements on Newport Boulevard Frontage Road continue, work has also now started on Nutmeg Place. The improvements include new sidewalks, wheelchair ramps, curbs and gutter, catch basin, and other improvements, which are currently under construction.



This will provide a new sidewalk connection along the south side of Nutmeg Place to Harbor Boulevard. The next phase of the project includes roadway resurfacing improvements on Nutmeg Place as well as approximately 15 streets on the upper Eastside of Costa Mesa.

The roadway resurfacing work includes grinding and placing a new layer of asphalt on top of the existing roadway surface. Prior to resurfacing each street, Eagle Paving will provide advanced notice of construction by way of door hangers and signage reflecting applicable parking restrictions for the duration of the work.

City Council to fill vacancies on Parks and Recreation and Senior Commissions

The Costa Mesa City Council is currently seeking interested individuals from the community to serve on the Parks and Recreation and Senior Commissions.

Parks and Recreation Commission – The Commission meets monthly and assists the City Council and various City departments with issues related to parks, parkways recreation programs and community services. Currently, there is one (1) vacancy, with a term expiration of February 2021. Applicants must be registered voters in the City. For further information, please contact Administrative Secretary Allison Burch at (714) 754-5009.

Senior Commission: The Commission meets every other month and functions as an advisory body to the City Council on issues related to the Costa Mesa Senior Center and senior programs and services within the community. Currently, there is one (1) vacancy, with a term expiration of February 2021. For further information, please contact Administrative Secretary Allison Burch at (714) 754-5009.

Application Process – Residents who are interested in getting involved in local government are encouraged to complete a Commission 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, May 2, 2018.**

Appointments are tentatively scheduled for the June 5, 2018 City Council meeting.

Mayor Genis honors Parks Commissioner Kim Pederson with Mayor's Award

Mayor Sandy Genis presented longtime Parks and Recreation Commissioner Kim Pederson with the Mayor's Award to commend him for his years of service to the community and youth sports.

"For your years of service to this community, your extraordinary leadership, and your passion for serving on the Parks Commission, it is my honor and privilege to present you with the Mayor's Award."

Pederson, who spent 30 years a Newport Beach city employee, served on the Parks and Recreation Commission beginning in 1999 and only recently announced he was resigning from the commission to spend more leisure time with his family at a summer home he recently purchased in northern Minnesota, where he was born and raised.

He said he was very humbled by the Mayor's Award recognition.

"There are so many other people who deserve this, but I

appreciate you to take the time to honor me this way," he said.

He credited his wife Carolyn for supporting him in his endeavors and he cited his sons and all the kids in the city as what motivated and drove him to be involved. He also paid special tribute to those who take the time to voice their opinions at public meetings and thanked City Council members and city staff for their dedication.

To see more about Pederson, watch the video below:

Grinding and drilling operations to occur on I-405 Improvement Project this week

Grinding operations and drill exploration work will occur intermittently throughout the project area from April 2 to April 7. Grinding operations involve the formation of joints or breaks in a concrete slab by the use of mechanical cutting tools.

Drill exploration is performed to obtain information on the soil and rock around a site in order to design structures. Crews will be on the northbound (NB) and southbound (SB) lanes of the I-405 freeway and on- and off-ramps.

Please see below for specific work locations.

Costa Mesa

Weekday Nighttime Work – 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Weekend Nighttime Work – 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.

- NB 405 from SR-73 to Fair View Road. *
 - NB 405 from Fairview Road. to Harbor Boulevard.*
 - NB 405 Harbor Boulevard. On-Ramp
 - SB 405 Harbor Boulevard. On-Ramp and Off-Ramp
 - NB 405 Fairview Road. On-Ramp
 - SB 405 Fairview Road. Off-Ramp
-

Signal pre-emption devices installed on 19 traffic signals

Public Services recently installed GPS Emergency Vehicle Pre-Emption (EVP) devices on 19 traffic signals in the west and south sides of the city.

The devices provide signal pre-emption to emergency vehicles traveling through signalized intersections, so that these vehicles can reach incident locations faster when seconds count.

The GPS devices use global positioning technology and radio communications. Traffic signals on 17th Street, 19th Street, Newport Boulevard, Victoria Street, and Harbor Boulevard were included in the installation of GPS devices.

As part of this project, six additional GPS devices will be installed at locations on Newport Boulevard on Caltrans maintained and operated traffic signals in the next few weeks.

Costa Mesa hires high-powered trial lawyer Jennifer Keller to defend sober living ordinances

The City of Costa Mesa has hired Jennifer Keller, one of the nation's premier trial attorneys, to defend itself against lawsuits and challenges to the city's sober living ordinances, which are designed to protect residential neighborhoods from overconcentration of rehab homes.

"I look forward to representing the City of Costa Mesa against untrue accusations that it has treated certain sober living homes unfairly," Keller said. "The opposite is true, and the City looks forward to being vindicated by a jury."

Keller's resume includes several victories in multiple high-profile cases, including the famous Barbie vs. Bratz trial, Auerbach vs. Daily and the United States vs. The McGraw-Hill Companies.

"By hiring Jennifer Keller, we hope that sends a message that we will vigorously defend our sober living ordinances and our neighborhoods from nuisance issues related to rehab homes," Mayor Sandy Genis said. "Our ordinance is fair and strikes a balance between the rights of residents and those who are recovering from addiction to enjoy our residential neighborhoods."

Keller will first go to work defending the city in a lawsuit filed by Yellowstone Recovery that challenges the city's sober living ordinances and will continue to defend the city in other related legal actions.

Keller's impressive resume notes she has tried over 150 cases

to jury verdict across a broad range of complex civil and criminal subject matter, including business, intellectual property, insurance and white-collar crime.

One of her most recent victories was the Chavez et al vs. MassMutual Life Insurance Co, a bellwether class action jury trial in which she secured a complete defense verdict as well as the People vs. Biane et al, a nine-month white collar jury trial that took the jurors a little over two hours to decide in favor of her developer client.

In the Barbie vs. Bratz trial, Keller represented MGA Entertainment and prevailed against Mattel, and the toy company was ordered to pay \$85 million in theft damages and \$85 million in punitive damages to MGA.

Just two years earlier, Keller won California's largest business jury verdict in 2009 with \$350 million awarded to her venture capitalist client in Auerbach vs. Daily. More recently, she represented Standard & Poors in the United States vs. The McGraw-Hill Companies in a case that eventually settled for over \$1 billion.

Described as a "gifted litigator," Keller is a past president of the Orange County Bar Association and is currently a member of the Chapman University Board of Trustees. Her clients include judges, public officials, law enforcement officers, CEOs, CFOs, lawyers, physicians, professional athletes, venture capitalists and entrepreneurs.

Nationally

Recognized

Designer Introduces New Handbags Inspired By Local Student's Designs

For the first time in her career, Newport Beach premier handbag designer Suzan Lee Paek of Suzan Lee Designs has partnered with Mariners Christian School in Costa Mesa to create a one-of-a-kind opportunity for two students to experience the thrill of designing an actual on-the-market designer handbag.

The exotic leather handbags, based on the students' designs, were auctioned off at a school fundraiser on Friday, March 23, 2018 at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach.

A limited number of the purses will also be offered on Suzan's website for the general public, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting MCS.

As Founder and Creative Director of Suzan Lee Designs, Suzan was inspired to become involved after learning about the school's growing Maker Education program and integration of design thinking throughout the curriculum. She is also known for her strong Christian faith.

"When I learned of Mariners' educational focus on creativity and the design thinking process within a Christian school setting, I felt compelled to create something special that would benefit both the children and the school," said Lee.

The winning students' designs were selected by Suzan from a school-wide contest of more than 100 entries from MCS students grades K-8th. The two winners are Mary Jane Pfaff, whose mother is MCS Maker Education Facilitator, and Kawaii Sanita, whose mother is MCS Fine Arts teacher.

“I was overwhelmed by the talent I saw in all the entries. It was difficult to pick! I’m pleased to see that our winners showcase artistic talent running in the family,” said Lee.



When asked how it felt to have her design chosen for production by Lee, 5th grader Mary Jane Pfaff said, “Now I really feel like a true designer. I always used to draw and create designs, but no one knew about them. Now I can say that I am a real designer and I have one of my purses in an actual store!”

“We are so honored that Suzan would lend her talent and experience to create such a unique learning opportunity for students. The fact that the funds raised through the sale of these handbags will help build our Maker Education program is a bonus,” commented MCS Head of School Troy Moore.

“This project warms my heart. I’m going to get my other designer, artist, and manufacturer friends to join me in encouraging our future generation,” said Lee.

Suzan Lee Designs is a worldwide fashion brand that specializes in exotic leather bags and accessories for both women and men. The student-inspired handbags will be available at suzanlee.com, and 20% of the proceeds will be donated back to Mariners Christian School. More about Suzan Lee designs can be found on her website.

City to live stream tonight's Special City Council meeting via Facebook Live

Beginning at 5 p.m., the City of Costa Mesa will be video streaming via Facebook Live the March 28 Special City Council meeting regarding homeless and the Fairview Developmental Center.

Click [here](#) to go the City of Costa Mesa Facebook page to watch the meeting.

Also, the agenda for tonight's meeting is available [here](#).

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue adds a new captain and engineer to

the mix

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue announced the promotion of Fire Engineer Kevin Reddy to Fire Captain and Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Ruhl to Fire Engineer.

This past week, family, friends and members of Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue team gathered in their valued tradition of celebrating the first day of promotion at their newly assigned fire station, respectively.

Those gathered at Fire Station No. 3 watched as Fire Chief Dan Stefano pinned the captain's badge on Kevin Reddy's chest and the entire Command Staff joined in with his collar brass pinning and the presentation of his captain's helmets.

"We expect Captain Reddy to have an immediate impact in his new role," Chief Stefano said. "He has consistently shown himself to be a strong, fair, and ethical leader who clearly understands the big picture and the value in serving others."

Two days later, at Fire Station No. 5, those gathered watched as Chief Stefano pinned the Engineer's badge on Mike Ruhl's chest.

"Engineer Ruhl's strong technical skill sets are matched with an extraordinarily positive approach in everything he does and an unwavering compassion for those around him," Chief Stefano said.

Capt. Reddy has been a member of the Costa Mesa team since 2008, preceded by service with the Riverside County Fire Department.



Reddy's contributions to the organization have been outstanding, ranging from his leadership with EMS Programs, Community Engagement, Strategic Planning, and Probationary Firefighter Training. In addition, Reddy has earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Studies from Brandman University.

Engineer Ruhl has been a member of the Costa Mesa team since 2008 and has contributed to the organization in many ways. His work includes being a paramedic preceptor and mentor to others, a leader and department coordinator for the Race for the Cure, as an Explorer Advisor and member of the Tools and Equipment Committee and his most recent involvement as the lead for our Firefighter Peer Support Program.



Ruhl earned an Associate of Science Degree from Santa Ana College and is currently attending Kaplan University, where he is very close to earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Emergency Management.

On May 3, 2018, Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue will have a formal promotional badge pinning and swearing in ceremony that will include the department's 16 newest firefighters.

The ceremony will begin at 9:00 am in the City Council Chambers and the entire community is invited to attend.

City calls for special

council meeting Wednesday to discuss homeless and Fairview Developmental Center

The Costa Mesa City Council will hold a special meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday March 28 to discuss homeless issues and the Fairview Developmental Center.

The meeting will be held in the Grand Hall of the Costa Mesa Senior Center, which is located at 695 W. 19th Street.

A formal agenda for the meeting will be available and distributed on Tuesday March 27.

Some Residents should Expect Power Outages throughout the Week

Southern California Edison has announced it will perform maintenance on electrical systems in areas throughout Costa Mesa. For this to be done safely, power will temporarily be shut off in some areas.

This needed maintenance will allow SCE to make necessary upgrades and repairs that will increase reliability.

Below is the anticipated power outage schedule:

Monday, March 26, 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., Outage Boundary: Londonderry across Fairview Road (eight residential customers

affected).

Wednesday, March 28, noon – 3 p.m., Outage Boundary: Santa Ana Ave – 18th St. (11 residential customers affected) .

Thursday, March 29, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Outage Boundary: Sunflower Ave South side – East of Smalley St. (446 residential customers affected).

Please be advised that power may be turned off for the whole period or may be turned off more than once.

For questions, please call 800-611-1911.

Costa Mesa seeks public input for Arts & Culture Master Plan

The Parks and Community Services Department and the Cultural Arts Committee are currently working with Arts Orange County to complete an Arts and Culture Master Plan.

The master plan will serve as a tool that will guide the development of arts and culture related projects, programs and initiatives in the City and will help to personify Costa Mesa as the “City of the Arts”.

An important part of the Master Plan process is to hear from the public regarding ideas, visions, hopes and wishes for the City’s arts and culture future!

The public is invited to participate via in-person forums and focus groups as well as through a short on-line survey, found here. Public outreach sessions are scheduled for:

Tuesday, March 27, 6 p.m. Costa Mesa Senior Center, 695 W. 19th St.

Wednesday, March 28, 7:30 a.m., Costa Mesa City Hall Conference Room 1A, 77 Fair Dr. (Coffee & light refreshments provided)

Thursday, March 29, 12 p.m., Balearic Community Center, 1975 Balearic Dr. (bring your own lunch)

Thursday, April 5, 6 p.m., Kaiser Elementary School MPR, 2130 Santa Ana Ave.

Friday, April 6, 1-5 p.m., Costa Mesa City Hall Conference Room 1A, 77 Fair Dr. (drop-in office hours)

Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m., Costa Mesa Senior Center, 695 W. 19th St.