

I-405 expansion work to take place this week

As part of the I-405 Improvement Project, OCTA announced that beginning Monday Oct. 9, construction work will take place from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. at the following locations:

- NB I-405 HOV inside lane from MacArthur Boulevard to SR-73
- NB I-405 merge lane from Bristol Street to South Coast Drive
- SB I-405 / SR-73 connector to Bear Street
- SB I-405 near Harbor Boulevard to Fairview Road
- Fairview Road bridge
- Harbor Boulevard bridge

OCTA in cooperation with The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is widening the San Diego Freeway (I-405) between State Route 73 (SR-73) and Interstate 605 (I-605). The project will improve 16 miles of I-405 between the SR-73 freeway in Costa Mesa and I-605 near the L.A. County line.

Residents encouraged to take part in the OC Fair & Event Center's Strategic 5-Year

Business Plan

In conjunction with the 10-year Master Site Plan, OC Fair & Event Center will be launching a Strategic 5-Year Business Plan to develop our organizational goals.

Fair & Event Center officials will be seeking input at two open community discussions on how the OC Fair & Event Center can further support its mission of developing programs focused on community, education and agriculture.

If you're an interested neighbor, educator, member of the agricultural community, non-profit leader or business associate, your input is appreciated.

Join OC Fair & Event Center officials on the following dates:

- Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. or Thursday, Oct. 19 from 7-9:30 p.m.

RSVPs are not required. If you're unable to attend but would like to provide input, please email your thoughts and ideas to CommDept@ocfair.com.

Mobile Recreation Program officially launches

The Parks and Community Services Department recently launched the return of the Mobile Recreation program at Shalimar Park.

More than 75 kids from the surrounding neighborhoods had the opportunity to engage with staff and recreate in an area that isn't typically conducive for outdoor recreation.

The program will take place at Shalimar Park on Mondays and Fridays, Lions Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at Ketchum-Libolt Park on Wednesdays during the month of October.

The Daily Pilot featured a story on the program here: <http://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/tn-dpt-me-cm-mobile-rec-program-20170926-story.html>.

Median Landscape Improvements completed on California Street in Mesa Verde North

Public Services recently completed landscape improvements to the Mesa Verde North median located on California Street.

The City's contractor, Empire Landscape, replaced over 3,000 square feet of sod with drought tolerant plants. This project conserves water and beautifies the Mesa Verde North neighborhood.

Walk to School day returns to three local schools on Wednesday Oct. 4

After a four-year hiatus, Walk to School Day will return in Costa Mesa on Oct. 4 at three elementary schools in the

Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

The schools talking part in this year's event are the following:

- College Park – Click here for route details and times for this school.
- Kaiser – Click here for route details and times for this school.
- Victoria – Click here for route details and times for this school.

City elected leaders, staffers from the Fire and Police Departments, Public Services and the City Manager's Office will be out that day to assist families as they walk their children to school.

The first Walk to School Day – called Walk Our Children to School Day – was held in 1997. Since then, it's come a long way. In May 2012, the first-ever National Bike to School Day was celebrated across the USA. Event organizers have reported that this one-day event has led to great changes such as long-term walking and bicycling programs, new sidewalks and pathways, enforcement of unsafe driving behaviors and needed policy changes at schools and in communities.

Finance

Department's

Christine Tsao latest to receive City Manager Leadership Award

City Manager Tom Hatch presented accounting supervisor Christine Tsao with the September City Manager Leadership Award at this month's Meet and Greet on Thursday Sept. 28.

"Christine is a part of our top-notch Finance team that continues to earn awards for excellence in budgeting and just recently helped us bring our Standard & Poor's ratings to Triple A status," City Manager Hatch said. "I truly appreciate the leadership and dedication that Christine brings to her job each and every day."

As Accounting Supervisor, Tsao is in charge of year-end closing and assists in the annual financial audit and CAFR preparation. She also oversees accounts payable and payroll and serves as the backup payroll coordinator when necessary.

She is universally described by her co-workers as always positive, gracious, responsive and willing to help. She has been especially helpful in assisting the interim assistant finance director. She works very hard and is efficient, prompt and accurate.

In her service to the City, Tsao has been responsible for various accounting assignments, including reconciling the City's monthly bank accounts, accounting for the City's capital assets, filing the quarterly federal grant claim report, and preparing journal entries for accounting transactions into the general ledger. She was also very involved in the Successor Agency dissolution accounting process in 2012.

Tsao joined the City of Costa Mesa in 2001 and worked as an

accountant for six years and was promoted to Accounting Supervisor in 2007.

Prior to joining the City, Tsao worked for two years at Arthur Andersen, one of the world's largest accounting firms at the time, as an accounting information system auditor. Then she joined another regional CPA firm, specializing in Governmental Accounting services.

As a lead auditor, Tsao conducted financial audits in many different cities and special districts in southern California before she took her first government job as an accountant in the city of San Clemente.

Tsao received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration, majoring in accounting, from Eastern Michigan University in 1992. She continued studying and earned her master's degree in Management Science Information Systems from Cal State Fullerton in 1995. She also has been a Certificated Public Accountant in the State of California since 2000.

In addition to Tsao, City Manager Hatch welcomed several new employees and congratulated others on promotions and one on her retirement.

Robert Matsuura joined the city as a Human Resources Technician, Jeffrey Tol is the new Building Technician II in Development Services, Lily Lorenzana is the new Management Analyst for IT and Ashley Avalos has been hired as a Recreation Leader II.

Hatch recognized Kelly Dalton, Irina Gurovich and Christina Oquendo, who were all promoted to Assistant Engineer and Cherie Pittington, who recently retired as Senior Communications Supervisor after 31 years with the city.

Standard & Poor's raises Costa Mesa's credit rating to its highest level of AA+

The City of Costa Mesa received excellent financial news this week as its credit ratings with Standard & Poor's jumped from AA to AA+, the highest possible rating issued by the financial services company for this type of financing.

The new improved ratings were issued in a report that came out today. This upgraded rating is the direct result of significant research by Standard & Poor's during many meetings and discussions with Costa Mesa administrative and finance staff to analyze the city's financial procedures and practices.

The high rating will allow the city to get the best rate possible for the sale of bonds that will be used to complete the Lions Park Projects.

"This is great news for the city and this AA+ rating assures the taxpayers of Costa Mesa that we will be able to complete the Lions Park projects with lower financing costs," Mayor Katrina Foley said. "Congratulations to the current and former city councils, city staff and the Finance and Pension Advisory Committee for the prudent fiscal policies and management that helped us achieve this accomplishment."

The Standard & Poor's report also credited the effort to responsibly manage city reserves and debt. Indeed, Standard & Poor's report cited several reasons for this top rating.

[Click here to see the full report.](#)

According to Standard & Poor's, the following findings played into the rating being raised to the top level.

- Very strong economy, with access to a broad and diverse metropolitan statistical area (MSA);
- Very strong management, with strong financial policies and practices under our Financial Management Assessment (FMA) methodology;
- Strong budgetary performance, with operating surpluses in the general fund and at the total governmental fund level in fiscal 2016;
- Very strong budgetary flexibility, with an available fund balance in fiscal 2016 of 54% of operating expenditures;
- Very strong liquidity, with total government available cash at 81.8% of total governmental fund expenditures and 26.4x governmental debt service, and access to external liquidity we consider strong;
- Strong debt and contingent liability position, with debt service carrying charges at 3.1% of expenditures and net direct debt that is 21.9% of total governmental fund revenue, as well as low overall net debt at less than 3% of market value, but a large pension and other postemployment benefit (OPEB) obligation; and
- Strong institutional framework score.

New Ganahl Lumber facility is taking shape

The new Ganahl Lumber in Costa Mesa is currently under construction.

The new facility, being built just north of the existing

facility on Bristol Street, will include a 59,340-square-foot, two-story retail building with roof and surface level parking.

Additionally, a 29,560-square-foot, one-story metal storage building; a 3,750-square-foot mill building; and a 6,792-square-foot, three-sided storage shed for lumber is proposed.

Estimated competition is spring of 2018.

Mesa Water to host community festival to celebrate health, happiness and community

Mesa Water District, which supplies water to 110,000 residents throughout Costa Mesa and parts of Newport Beach, invites the community to a free family-friendly festival at its headquarters in Costa Mesa. The “I ♥ Mesa Water” festival, to be held on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., will celebrate health, happiness, and community.

The festival will kick off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially launch Mesa Water’s new water vending machine. After the ceremony, festival attendees will receive a reusable water bottle (while supplies last) for a free fill-up of fresh drinking water from Mesa Water’s new water vending machine.

“With Mesa Water’s mission of satisfying our community’s water needs, we are dedicated to engaging with and serving all customers, while also contributing to our community members’ health and happiness,” said Mesa Water Board President Jim Atkinson. “Our new water vending machine is a convenient

source of affordable, quality drinking water for our public to enjoy and stay hydrated.”

Alongside Mesa Water, eleven local nonprofits and community organizations will host a booth at the festival to provide activities and giveaways for attendees, while also sharing information about their resources that support health and happiness in the community. To date, participating partners include the following:

- City of Costa Mesa Parks and Community Services
- Melinda Hoag Smith Center for Healthy Living
- Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce
- MIKA Community Development Corporation
- Costa Mesa Family Resource Center
- Save Our Youth
- Share Our Selves
- Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries
- Youth Employment Service
- Vanguard University Jesse Miranda Center for Hispanic Leadership
- Los Angeles Chargers

Taking place in the parking lot of Mesa Water’s headquarters in Costa Mesa, at 1965 Placentia Avenue, the festival will include live music by VOX DJs, healthy food, a “Chargers Quarterback Toss” for attendees to test their skills, a “Swift Kick Soccer Challenge” game, prizes, face painting, a bubble artist, caricature artist, and more!

Fire and police staff to gather at fire stations Monday to mark the 16th anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks

This Monday will mark the 16th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of approximately 3,000 people, many of them first responders.

As in years past, the Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue and the Police Departments will join together in remembrance with other fire/rescue and law enforcement agencies throughout the region (and the country) in memory of those lives who were lost on that day in history.

“Sept. 11 is an important time for all of us to come together to reflect, honor, and pay a special tribute to our brothers and sisters in the uniformed services (343 – fallen members of FDNY, 23 fallen members of NYPD, and 37 fallen members of the Port Authority Police) and all of the innocent victims (2,574) who lost their lives on 9/11,” Fire Chief Dan Stefano said. “We will always remember.”

The Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue Department and the Costa Mesa Police Department will have personnel gathering at all of the city’s six fire stations and are extending an open invitation to city residents, community members, and visitors to join us from 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. for some shared time of reflection.

The gathering areas will be in front of each fire station and

similar remembrance ceremonies will be conducted concurrently with all of the Orange County Fire Service Agencies participating.

City's new Transportation Manager takes the helm

Public Services recently announced the arrival of Jennifer Rosales as the city's new Transportation Manager.

Rosales has over 20 years of experience in transportation engineering, transportation planning, project management, and transportation management. She most recently worked in the City of San Clemente where she managed the City's traffic signal system, traffic calming program, transportation programs including seasonal trolley, and complex multi-modal transportation/civil engineering design and construction projects.

Rosales is recognized internationally as an industry leader in innovative street design and contextually complete streets. She is active speaking and publishing internationally with over 25 publications.

Rosales developed an award-winning, comprehensive practitioner's guidebook called "Road Diet Handbook: Setting Trends for Livable Streets." For her work on the Road Diet Handbook, she was named to the "2007 Trendsetters List" of Public Works magazine. Rosales received the Past Presidents' Award for Merit in Transportation Engineering from the Institute of Transportation Engineers in 2007.

Rosales is a registered professional engineer, certified

professional traffic operations engineer, and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Oregon State University.

She is a leader in the transportation industry including Past International Director on the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Board of Direction from 2014-16, Past President of the ITE Western District, and Past Chair of ITE's Standing Committee on Ethics Issues. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Transportation Professional Certification Board. Rosales enjoys spending time on the golf course, tennis court, the beach, bike trails and adventures with her dogs, Brooke and Velvet.

Street sweeping postponed for one week due to Labor Day holiday

Due to the observation of the Labor Day holiday on Monday Sept. 4, there will be no residential street sweeping the entire week from Sept. 5 through Sept. 8.

The reason for this is that the Costa Mesa Sanitary District 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.

No citations will be written all week. Street sweeping will resume back to normal schedule starting the week of Sept.

11, 2017.

The following are a list of tasks that CleanStreet operators will be conducting next week:

- City wide alley street sweeping
- Sweeping of Park parking lots and other City owned facilities
- Accident callouts and special request
- Night route sweeping on all arterial streets.

The City's street sweeping hotline has been updated with all the information above alerting residents about next week's sweeping schedule. Click [here](#) for more information on the city's website.