

Residents can obtain up to 15 sandbags as winter weather hits

With the impending and recurring storms, the city of Costa Mesa is providing up to 15 sandbags for residents who reside in the city.

Residents can obtain sandbags through a self serve process at the Southeast corner of the parking lot at City Hall located at 77 Fair Drive.

There are signs that will direct you to the location.

Please visit City Hall as our primary location for sandbags, or if we are out of sand, you can obtain sandbags at Fire Station No. 4 located at 2300 Placentia Ave.

[Click here](#) for information on how to prepare sand bags.

The agency "211 OC" is also poised to help coordinate assistance. 211 OC has an around the clock phone line to help with all types of emergencies and provides regional connection to resources for disasters victims, the homeless, and others needing health and human services.

Information about 211 OC can be found at www.2110C.org or by simply calling 2-1-1.

Statement from Mayor Katrina Foley on potential move of Chargers football team to Costa Mesa

“On behalf of the Costa Mesa City Council and our entire community, we are elated that the Chargers organization has selected Costa Mesa, the City of the Arts, as their new home if the LA stadium option is exercised. Costa Mesa is uniquely eclectic with wonderful neighborhoods, world-class shopping, exceptional performing arts venues and fairgrounds, the best restaurants in Southern California, and a thriving tourism industry. Costa Mesa is also known for an edgy, trend-setting apparel industry, quality educational institutions, beautiful open spaces and recreational options, and it is full of friendly and creative people. The City understands that this is a difficult and significant decision for Mr. Dean Spanos but Costa Mesa is prepared to graciously welcome his organization and his family of employees as they make us their home for their new headquarters, practice and training facility. Welcome to Costa Mesa.”

Mayor Foley and Council Member Stephens deliver new coats to Boys and Girls Club

Mayor Katrina Foley, Council Member John Stephens and members of the police and fire departments paid a visit to the Westside Boys and Girls Club on Wednesday to deliver 100 donated new coats to the children there.

This is Mayor Foley's eighth year of holding a coat drive for the city's low-income community. In addition to the new coats, about about 50 gently used coats and sweatshirts were donated as well as \$1,884 raised for the Fire Association charity drive and approximately 40 toys for the OCBA Spark of Love Toy Drive.

Foley and Stephens took questions from the kids in the after school program as did members of police and fire. Emergency coordinator Brenda Emrick urged the children to take a safety pledge and take proper precautions during the holiday season.

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.

Red Hill bridge closure extended until mid January of 2017

Caltrans has announced it is extending the full closure of the 405 Freeway/Red Hill Avenue Overcrossing from Main Street to Pullman Avenue until mid-January of 2017 because of rain saturation to the hillside. This closure is part of a \$9

million Embankment Stabilization project in the cities of Irvine and Costa Mesa.

Changeable Message Signs will be used to alert motorists to the closure extension. Motorist may experience delays and are advised to avoid the area, use alternate routes, and check traffic conditions before traveling.

The project benefits are to reinforce the underlying soil embankment as well as construct new retaining walls along the local arterial surface street system. Completion of the project is expected in mid 2018. For more information Caltrans Red Hill project [click here](#).

City and county prepping for coming rain storm

With a strong winter storm expected to hit the city of Costa Mesa Thursday night and Friday, city crews have been preparing for any inclement weather this week.

Storm drains and flood areas are being checked. Sand and sandbags are available at fire station No. 4 in case of flooding.

The City will have additional staff on standby with a truck prepped for rain response and possible flooding issues.

[Click here](#) for information on how to prepare sand bags.

Below is a warning from the Orange County Public Works Information Office:

With rain forecasted within the next 24 hours, the County is

advising everyone, including the homeless community, to stay out of the flood channels, including the Santa Ana River.

Flood channels can be lifethreatening during storm events and public safety is our No. 1 priority.

The County's storm preparations –and efforts to notify and assist the homeless community involve a coordinated effort across multiple agencies including Orange County Public Works, Health Care Agency, Sheriff's Department, local cities, and non-profit organizations.

The County is assisted by "211 OC," to help coordinate assistance. 211 OC has an around the clock phone line to help with all types of emergencies and provides regional connection to resources for disasters victims, the homeless, and others needing health and human services.

Information about 211 OC can be found at www.2110C.org or by simply calling 2-1-1.

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.

New City Council is seated, Katrina Foley is appointed new mayor of Costa Mesa

Three new members of the City Council were sworn in Tuesday night Dec. 13 and the council chose Katrina Foley as the new mayor and Sandra Genis as the new mayor pro-tem.

Joining the council for four-year terms is returning Council Member Genis, former Councilman and Assemblyman Allan Mansoor and longtime community leader and attorney John Stephens.

The trio of new council members join Mayor Foley and Council Member Jim Righeimer on the five-member body.

“I am so honored and blessed to be serving as mayor in a city that I love so dearly,” Mayor Foley said. “I look forward to working with my colleagues on the council to create an inclusive environment at City Hall for residents and businesses alike. I look forward to partnering with the business, tourism and arts community to enhance and further define our community as the City of the Arts.”

Foley, who was elected to the council in 2014, has a long history of community involvement and was first elected to City Council in 2004 and re-elected in 2008 before running successfully for the Newport-Mesa school board in 2010.

Foley is president of The Foley Group, a Professional Law Corporation in Newport Beach. The Foley Group, PLC provides services in artist and athlete management, employment litigation, family law, education advocacy and non-profit compliance matters.

Genis, who was raised in Costa Mesa and attended Estancia High School, was first elected to the City Council in 1988 and served as mayor from 1989 to 1990. She was re-elected in 1992 and ran again in 2012 and re-elected in 2016 and both times was the top vote getter.

She is a retired city planner and has worked on a number of community causes, such as the preservation of Fairview Park and keeping the OC Fairgrounds in public ownership.

Mansoor was first elected to the City Council in 2002 and was appointed mayor in 2005 and again in 2007 and 2009. Also an Estancia graduate, Mansoor served as an Orange County Sheriff's Deputy. He was elected to the 74th District of the State Assembly in 2010 and served until 2014.

This is Stephens' first stint on the City Council after a narrow loss in 2012. As a resident of Costa Mesa since 1989, he has deep community ties and has served on the city's Pension Oversight Committee, the Costa Mesa High School Foundation, Costa Mesans for Responsible Government and is a founding member of the St. John the Baptist Finance Council and Pastoral Council.

He was a leader of the "No" on the Charter campaigns in 2012 and 2014, including intervening in a lawsuit between the City of Costa Mesa and the Orange County Registrar of Voters in 2012 and is a member of the Orange County Bar Association's Judiciary Committee, which evaluates judicial candidates for the governor.

A longtime attorney, his firm Stephens Friedland LLP employees

four full-time lawyers and a staff of 10 employees.

Both Stephen Mensinger and Gary Monahan officially ended their council terms on Tuesday. Mensinger was most recently mayor beginning in 2014, and Monahan was appointed mayor three times in 1998, 2003 and 2011.

Marian Stueve goes from Yard Mom to CEO Leadership Awardee

Costa Mesa City CEO Tom Hatch presented Administrative Secretary Marian Stueve with the December CEO Leadership Award for her continued support of the Maintenance Services Division by working through budgeting and personnel issues.

“She is a team member with a very strong work ethic and dedication to assist,” Hatch said. “To the Corporate Yard employees, she is known as the Yard Mom, always willing to share her knowledge with fellow employees.”

Stueve began her tenure with the Costa Mesa City Clerk’s Office in August of 2004, She was an integral part of the City’s early voting process, in which Costa Mesa was one of the few cities participating in the use of a new technology for voting, the e-slate (electronic voting).

She assisted residents in providing instruction to all who came to our City Hall to participate in early voting, processing over 1,000 electronic ballots. Only four months after she started her job, she was recognized for this work by the Mayor at a City Council meeting in December 2004.

In June 2005, Stueve was promoted to Administrative Secretary

in the Public Services Department. Within a few months of being promoted she quickly streamlined processes that provided increased customer service for maintenance related concerns. She collaborated with the IT Department and was instrumental in the development of Costa Maintenance, a system which greatly improved the customer service and efficiency in responding to and tracking maintenance related concerns, both internal and external. It's also a system the city still heavily relies upon to this day.

Stueve came to the City of Costa Mesa from the private sector. Her educational background is in nursing and still maintains her licensure with the State of California as a Vocational Nurse.

In addition to Stueve, Hatch welcomed several new full-time employees, including Arzo Azad, who went from a part time webmaster to Website Coordinator in the CEO's Office, Frances Thorpe a new office specialist working with the City Clerk's office.

From Parks and Community Services he also welcomed Shawna Salgado – Recreation Leader II and Maria Urquiza Sanchez to Recreation Leader III. From the Police Department Hatch welcomed Roxi Fyad as the new Public Affairs Manager and four new police officers, lateral hires from Fullerton PD Frank Nguyen and Bunnath Phot and Sheriff Academy grads Mark Garcia and Eric Molina.

Hatch also congratulated several employees for their recent promotions, including Janet Hauser, Administrative Secretary with Parks & Community Services, Rene Macias, Senior Code Enforcement Officer and Elena Martinez Recreation Leader III.

Costa Mesa Home Tour rings up another successful year of fundraising

The Costa Mesa High School and Middle School Foundation reported another successful Home Tour this year.

More than 160 visitors walked through the homes and the ticket purchasers came from as far away as Pasadena and San Clemente.

Many were returning guests from the last two years.

Many visitors commented on how they loved the home decor, variety in the housing styles and neighborhoods, and they really enjoyed the friendly and informative docents.



Visitors also raved about the food from Greenleaf Gourmet Chop Shop and they enjoyed browsing the store at Room & Board. In addition to those businesses, the event was sponsored the City

of Costa Mesa, The Triangle, Gatehouse, SOCO, Pottery Barn and Darlene Stinson from TNG Real Estate and Star Real Estate.

According to ticket sales, the Home Tour likely took in about \$23,000 gross, which is more than double what was raised last year on the tour.

The date for next year's event is already set for Dec. 7, 2017 from 3-8 p.m.

See slideshow from this year's event below:

**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.

FBI says 'Tis the Season for Holiday Scams

The FBI issued this warning to the general public to be wary of scams during the holiday season.

How to Protect Yourself

With the holidays ramping up and seasonal shopping in full swing, criminals are also gearing up for a busy season. Cyber

criminals don't take the holidays off. In fact, they're especially busy trying to steal your money and personal information. Shoppers should be more vigilant than ever for scams designed to steal their money and personal information. Though criminals are often aggressive and creative in their efforts to obtain such money and personal information, there are certain red flags and common schemes holiday shoppers can guard against this holiday season.

Online Shopping Scams

If a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is. Scammers often scheme to defraud consumers by offering too-good-to-be-true deals via phishing e-mails or advertisements. Such schemes may offer brand name merchandise at extremely low discounts or promise gift cards as an incentive to purchase a product. Other sites may offer products at a great price, but the products being sold are not the same as the products advertised.

Steer clear of un-trusted sites or ads offering items at unrealistic discounts or with special coupons. You may end up paying for an item, giving away personal information and credit card details, and then receive nothing in return except a compromised identity. In addition, do not open any unsolicited e-mails and do not click on any links provided.

In addition to securing your banking and credit accounts with strong and different passwords, secure all your other accounts that contain anything of value, such as: rewards accounts, online accounts that save your payment information, or accounts containing your private, personal information.

The emergence and prevalence of secondary markets for airline miles, gift cards, rewards credits, and the like have inadvertently increased the demand for, and resale value of, your stolen information.

Be vigilant when receiving items purchased from online

auctions and third-party marketplaces. If an item arrives from some other online merchant, it may have been purchased using a stolen credit card number or stolen rewards points, etc. and then shipped directly to you. Report such cases to both the marketplace where you bought and the merchant who sent it.

Social Media Scams

Beware of posts on social media sites that appear to offer vouchers or gift cards, especially deals that are too good to be true, such as a free \$500 gift card. Some may pose as holiday promotions or contests. It may even appear one of your friends shared the link with you. Often, these scams lead you to participate in an online survey that is actually designed to steal personal information.

In addition, if you purchase or receive theater, concerts, or sporting event tickets as a holiday gift, do not post pictures of the tickets on social media sites. Fraudsters can create a ticket using the barcode obtained from the photo and resell the ticket. Protect ticket barcodes as you would your credit card number, and never display them on social media.

Smartphone App Scams

Be careful when downloading mobile applications. Some apps, often disguised as games and offered for free, may be designed to steal personal information. Before downloading an app from an unknown source, research the company selling it or giving it away, and look online for third-party reviews of the product. Also, be mindful that alternative app marketplaces available to “jailbroken” or “rooted” devices can potentially include copyright-infringing, stolen content and compromised versions of otherwise trustworthy applications.

Work-From-Home Scams

If you are in need of extra cash this time of year, beware of sites and postings offering work you can do from the comfort

of your own home. These opportunities rely on convenience as a selling point for applicants, but often have unscrupulous motivations behind them. You should carefully research the job posting and individuals or company offering you employment.

Protect Yourself

Here are some additional steps you can take to avoid becoming a victim of cyber fraud this holiday season:

- Check your credit card statement routinely. If possible, set up credit card transaction auto alerts, or check your balance after every online purchase to ensure the proper amount was charged to your account. It is important to keep checking your card after the holiday season, as many fraudulent charges can show up even several weeks later.
- If purchasing merchandise, ensure it is from a reputable source.
- Ensure a site is secure and reputable before providing your credit card number online. Don't trust a site just because it claims to be secure.
- Do your research to ensure legitimacy of the individual or company you are purchasing from.
- Beware of providing credit card information when requested through unsolicited e-mails.
- Do not respond to unsolicited (spam) e-mails.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mail.
- Avoid filling out forms contained in e-mail messages that ask for personal information.
- Be cautious of e-mails claiming to contain pictures in attached files, as the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders. Scan the attachments for viruses if possible.
- Verify any requests for personal information from any business or financial institution by contacting them using the main contact information on their official

website.

- Secure your credit card accounts, even rewards account, with strong passwords, change passwords and check your account routinely.
- Be wary when replying to unsolicited e-mails for work-at-home employment.
- Be cautious of exaggerated claims of possible earnings or profits.
- Beware when money is required up front for instructions or products for employment.
- Do not give out your personal information when first interacting with a prospective employer.
- Be leery when a job posting claims “no experience necessary.”
- Be cautious when dealing with individuals outside of your own country.

Who To Contact If You Suspect You've Been Victimized:

- Contact your financial institution immediately upon suspecting or discovering a fraudulent transfer.
- Contact law enforcement.
- Request that your bank reach out to the financial institution where the fraudulent transfer was sent.
- File a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at IC3.gov , regardless of dollar loss. Provide all relevant information in your complaint.