

# **Elli waits for her forever home**

Meet 1-year-old American Staffordshire Terrier mix, Elli. She is a smart, energetic and playful girl who understands all of her basic commands. She is very loving and would do best with a family that would be patient with her while she transitions into her new home.

[Click here](#) for more information on how to bring Elli home today.

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## **Longtime Community Volunteer Rick Kapko Receives Mayor's Award**

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, longtime Costa Mesa resident and community volunteer Rick Kapko was presented the Mayor's Award during the City Council Meeting.

Kapko has volunteered in the Costa Mesa community for many years, dating back to his involvement with his three sons boy scouts and youth sports. Kapko has a long list of community involvement that includes, scout leader for over 12 years, little league manger and board president, AYSO coach, Costa Mesa United Board member and Newport Mesa Schools Oversight Committee just to name a few.

Kapko is well recognized for not only his volunteer work throughout the Costa Mesa community but his leadership and

integrity.

“Rick Kapko is a model Costa Mesan,” Mayor Steve Mensinger said. “For over a decade Rick has donated not only his time but himself, building and maintaining strong relationships throughout the community.” The mayor then mentioned his wife, Nancy, who also has been dedicated to the community.

“Both he and Nancy are proverbial volunteers,” Mensinger said. “They hate the limelight. They declined this award several times.”

Kapko expressed his gratitude for the honor.

“Thank you Mr. Mayor and council for this wonderful award,” he said. “It’s been a gift to be able to give back to this community.”

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## **The City of Costa Mesa issues Statement on Election impartiality**

City of Costa Mesa staff is diligently working to facilitate a fair and impartial election process.

Today, City staff became aware of a picture that was posted on a Facebook page that was photo-shopped or altered in some method.

The picture is of a candidate for City Council and the City's Police Chief and Fire Chief.

The altered picture now includes a campaign sign supporting certain candidates as well as a statement at the top of the picture that implies political endorsement.

To be clear, the Police Chief and Fire Chief did not approve this altered picture and they do not endorse any candidates.

The Executive Management Team of the City, including the Police Chief and Fire Chief, do not get involved in local elections or endorse candidates.

It would be inappropriate and a violation of our professional ethics to do so.

The City is asking that the individual responsible for falsely implying that the City's Police and Fire Chiefs have endorsed any candidates to cease and desist from any further action that wrongly implies this or any similar statement.

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## **Gordy Needs a Good Home**

Meet Gordy, a 2-year old Chihuahua mix who loves taking walks and exploring the world around him. He is the perfect size to be carried around and would love to relax in his new owners arms. Gordy is well-mannered, well-tempered and would make a great addition to your family, visit with him today.

Click [here](#) for more information on how to bring Gordy home today.

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# Fidel Gamboa receives CEO Leadership Award

Costa Mesa CEO Tom Hatch presented Chief of Code Enforcement Fidel Gamboa with the CEO Leadership Award at the monthly Meet and Greet event on Thursday Oct. 27 where new employees are welcomed and new promotions celebrated.

“Controversy often accompanies the cases Code Enforcement handles,” Hatch said. “And there can be many heart breaking reasons why a resident is not complying with Code. Fidel has honed the skill of balancing the direction of City officials and compliance with Code, while compassionately dealing with residents.”

Named Chief of Code Enforcement in February of 2015, Gamboa oversees 12 full-time and part-time Code Enforcement Officers as well as a management analyst and one support staff.

Code Enforcement is responsible for enforcing a variety of complaints including those involving dilapidated properties, group homes, and homeless matters. Since the beginning of the year, more than 1,700 cases have been opened to address complaints received from a variety of sources including the online Costa Mesa Connect and telephone hotline.

Gamboa was also instrumental in establishing the new Community Improvement Division of Development Services, providing assessments of current staffing and their deployment as well as comparing our Code and with those of other cities, formulating recommendations to improve the division where appropriate.

With the exception of a small stint at the City of Irvine,

Fidel has worked for the City of Costa Mesa since 1994 as a Crime Scene Specialist in the Police Department but, primarily, in Code Enforcement since 2000. He has a bachelor's degree in social sciences from UC Irvine.

In addition to honoring Gamboa, CEO Hatch welcomed several new employees including, Nadia Flores, Office Specialist, City Clerk Division; Johnwilly Aglupos and Roger Rath, Assistant Planners, Development Services; Danielle Garza, Permit Processing Specialist, Finance Department.

In the Parks and Community Services Department new employees include Geovanny Benitez and Jordan Brucelas, Recreation Leader III; Karen Caspa, Trenton Cooper, Silvia Hernandez, Matthew Nguyen, Tu Nguyen, Sunya Ungar-Rujijanyawat Janet Zuazo, Recreation Leader, Jason Ramos, Recreation Leader IV and Paul Lopez – Maintenance Worker; and from the Police Department, Michele Wilson, Police Records Technician.

Those celebrating promotions included Heather Hamilton promoted to Management Aide in the Information Technology department and Laura Gomez and Gabriela Ruiz who were both promoted to Recreation Leader IV in Parks and Community Services.

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# Code enforcement works to improve local housing

In effort to maintain higher-quality housing stock in the City, the code enforcement/community improvement division on a regular basis addresses simple property maintenance issues such as deteriorated paint. Small improvements make a big difference.



In this example, Code officer Uriel Sanchez worked with a property owner on the 600 block of Plumer street to address some paint issues on his building. The end result was a drastic transformation not only of the building but of the attitude of the tenants and property owner.

They all agreed that the transformation brought a new sense of pride to the neighborhood which motivated the property owner to paint another building he owns in the same neighborhood.

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## **Sloan is in need of a good home**

Sloan, a 5-year old Pit Bull mix is a big girl with an even bigger heart. This girl has lots of love to give but can be selective, so for that reason, Sloan would do best in a calm household with no other pets and minimum visitors. [Click here](#) to contact the Orange County Humane Society, and schedule your visit with Sloan today.

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## **Westside business owner John Hawley receives Mayor's Award at City Council Meeting**

On Monday Oct. 17, Costa Mesa Mayor Steve Mensinger presented longtime Westside business owner John Hawley with the Mayor's Award.

Hawley founded Railmakers in 1969, which specializes in the fabrication and polishing of round tube and flat-plate products.

Originally founded to serve the large ship building industry

on the Westside, Railmakers has evolved over the years to create multiple products, including industrial projects at South Coast Plaza.

Railmakers even created the iconic Bell that Costa Mesa and Estancia high school football teams battle for each year.

“Through the years John has been a leader for the Westside business community,” Mayor Mensinger said. “For nearly 20 years, John has been actively involved in fostering a cohesive relationship between the business and residential communities. He’s the quintessential Costa Mesan. He lives in our city and creates jobs in our city.”

Hawley thanked the mayor for the honor and is grateful to be in Costa Mesa like many Westside business owners.

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## **City Staff and Council Member Genis attend Housing Summit**

City Council Member Sandra Genis and City staff, along with more than 400 local leaders from throughout California, gathered in downtown Los Angeles on Oct. 11 for the Southern California Association of Governments’ California Housing Summit, “The Cost of Not Housing.”

The event brought government, business and community leaders together to address the state’s housing crisis and share strategies for addressing it. The summit opened with a panel of experts familiar with the housing crisis, who discussed why California is experiencing a housing deficit, and the extent of its economic, environmental and social costs.

Breakout sessions investigated different avenues for mitigating the housing shortage: funding strategies including incentive programs state-authorized systems, integrating housing into planning at all levels and public engagement to demonstrate community benefits of housing projects.

The summit concluded with a call to decision-makers across the state to build stakeholder partnerships and say “yes” to housing.

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## **Public Services looks for bidders for Bristol Street Improvement Project**

The Public Services Department advertised the “Bristol Street Improvement project” for construction with a scheduled bid date of Oct. 31, 2016. This much-needed improvement project will extend along Bristol Street from the I-405 Freeway to Newport Boulevard and includes roadway resurfacing, new storm drain catch basins, new landscaped medians, new traffic signal installation, and a storm water diversion project.

This project represents more than \$6.5 million in improvements with funding coming from various sources including Federal, State and County agencies, gas tax and local funds.

This project will provide a smoother ride along this stretch of Bristol Street, better operational conditions for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and improve the water quality of the Back Bay area by providing treatment for some of the storm water runoff.

Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2017.

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## **Liberty**

A beautiful 6-year old brindle Boxer/Lab mix. Liberty is sweet, friendly and loves people of all ages. She has previously lived with cats and various small pets, knows her basic commands and is house trained. She is a wonderful dog and will fit seamlessly with your family.

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## **Chinese city leaders visit Costa Mesa to learn more about CERT**

City and Fire Department leaders were pleased this week to host a contingent of Chinese government leaders from the city of Chengdu, who visited Costa Mesa as part of a multi-week, fact-finding mission on the best practices of Community Emergency Response Teams or CERT.

Brenda Emrick, the city's CERT manager who has visited Chengdu several times last year for training purposes, said the group was in the United States on a study tour sponsored by The Asia Foundation.

Welcoming the group to Costa Mesa along with Emrick was Mayor Steve Mensinger, CEO Tom Hatch, Police Chief Rob Sharpnack and CERT leaders from the State of California and the cities of

Huntington Beach, Long Beach, Downey and Irvine as well as members of The Asia Foundation.

Chen Liuting, who represented The Asia Foundation, said the visitors from Chengdu were all emergency managers who had prior training from the Federal Emergency Management Association. She said the city of Chengdu in the Sichuan Province of China has a population of 13 million people.

"It is a big city with lots of responsibilities," she said. "That's why there are here to learn more about CERT."

The past two weeks the group has been studying at the University of Maryland, before winding up in Costa Mesa on Tuesday and Wednesday. During their visit to Costa Mesa, the group got a tour of the city's Emergency Operations Center as well as a visit to Orange Coast College to learn about campus-based CERT.

The trip also included workplace seminar as well as a visit to South Coast Plaza for lunch at Lawry's and dinner at Maggiano's.