

# **Caltrans closes right lane of NB Fairview Road 405 Freeway overpass**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has closed the right lane of NB Fairview Road overpass on the NB I405 due to water damage.

The partial closure will be in effect Monday, May 16, 2016 through Monday, May 23, 2016. Bicyclists are advised to use extra caution as the pavement may be uneven.

Caltrans appreciates the public's patience while we perform this work.

For more information, you may contact the District 12 Public information Office at (949) 724-2000 or log on to the Caltrans website at [www.dot.ca.gov/dist12](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist12).

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## **Newport-Mesa Recognizes Six High School Seniors for Character Traits**

Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) recognized and honored six high school seniors for their character and leadership traits.

"We have a wealth of incredible students and it is gratifying to annually recognize a few of them," said Superintendent Dr. Fred Navarro. "Getting to know students and their genuine good

natured approach to life is something I look forward to each year," he added.

The Character Trait Award Programs aims to highlight six seniors, one from each high school, who symbolize one of the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Staff members from the six NMUSD schools nominate a student for each category and the final award choices are decided on by a small committee steered by Superintendent Dr. Fred Navarro.

### **Kaitlynn Kistler, Early College High School – Trustworthiness**

Selected for the Character Trait Award of Trustworthiness, Kaitlynn is a dedicated, thoughtful, and hardworking student. She is a member of the National Honors Society and dedicates her time to assist struggling classmates and goes above and beyond to offer her support.

### **Ryan Kassel, Corona del Mar High School – Respect**

Selected for Character Trait Award for Respect, Ryan is unfailingly courteous, kind and respectful to his peers, teachers, and coaches. He is captain of the Varsity Cross Country team and participates as an intern in the Biorobotics Lab at UC Irvine.

### **Menzin Echols, Back Bay High School – Responsibility**

Selected for the Character Trait Award for responsibility, Menzin has maintained excellent attendance, stellar grades, and earned the respect and friendship of his peers as well as the Back Bay faculty and staff.

### **Clarissa Barragan, Estancia High School – Fairness**

Selected for the Character Trait Award for fairness, Clarissa is good-natured, open minded and patient. She is respectful toward peers and staff and carefully listens to others viewpoints to ensure fairness among peers.

**Peyton Espley-Jones, Newport Harbor High School – Caring**

Selected for the Character Trait Award for Caring, Peyton regularly displays a caring, positive, optimistic approach to things. She is personable, compassionate, and driven to succeed. She is president of a student body of more than 2,500 students and consistently spends time and energy to improve the lives of others through her genuine caring nature.

**Nora Vartanian, Costa Mesa High School – Citizenship**

Selected for the Character Trait Award of Citizenship, Nora maintains a 4.3 GPA, while balancing her academic activities and activities outside of school. She is a member of the Madrigal Choir and the varsity cheer team. She advocates for the needs of herself and others and is active in her church and numerous community service activities.

The winning high school seniors reflect strong leadership traits and exuberate kindness.

Winners are applauded with a six foot banner showcasing their photo, winning character trait and school they represent displayed in the district lobby for one year. Students will also be recognized at a special ceremony June 7, 2016 at 6 p.m. in the Corona del Mar High School Performing Arts Theater.

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# **Moorlach slated to speak as part of discussion on sober**

# Living homes in Orange County

Costa Mesa's State Sen. John Moorlach will be part of a Town Hall discussion on Sober Living Homes tonight from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Laguna Hills Community Center.

Moorlach will be joined by state Sen. Pat Bates and Assembly Members William Brough and Matthew Harper as they discuss the laws governing residential recovery facilities as well as what cities like Costa Mesa have done to address the issue.

Also presenting tonight will be Costa Mesa's Assistant City Attorney Tarquin Preziosi, who has played a key role in the enactment and enforcement of the city's single family and multi-family ordinances.

The Association of California Cities Orange County chapter as well as the Orange County Association of Realtors are partner sponsors of the event.

[Click here](#) to see the entire agenda.

The Community Center is located at 25555 Alicia Parkway in Laguna Hills.

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## Arts fuses with action sports at new event this Saturday May 14 at TeWinkle Park

The City of Costa Mesa plans to roll out a brand new alliance between action sports enthusiasts and artists at the upcoming Action Arts in the Park event at TeWinkle Park on Saturday May

14.

The City's Cultural Arts Committee came up with the idea of fusing the city's thriving arts community with the equally thriving action sports industry.

"We are excited to transform the traditional Arts in the Park event into something newer and fresher," said Tracy Taber, a Cultural Arts Committee member. "We want it to be exciting, interactive and full of energy. That's why we chose TeWinkle Park and the Costa Mesa Skate Park as the backdrop of the event. We hope that families enjoy a day in the park while appreciating plenty of arts, culture, entertainment and skating."

Element Skate Brand has signed on as the title sponsor of this unique event and other supporters include the Segerstrom Center for the Arts and Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers.

The free event that runs from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. will include live music from local bands and a DJ.

There will be skateboarding demonstrations, artist exhibits, a rock wall and a mechanical surfboard and interactive art stations.

Families can also visit a kids zone and there will be food trucks offering up a wide variety of cuisines.



The event will also include demonstrations by Costa Mesa-based Operation Clean Slate, which discourages youth from graffiti vandalism and instead involves young people with hands-on activities to channel their talents and improve their community through aerosol art inspired murals.

“Costa Mesa really is a melting pot for all types of art and culture,” said Justin Martin, the city’s Recreation Manager. “There is something for everyone here and that is what makes the scene here so unique. The goal of the Action Arts in the Park is to build on the uniqueness that is Costa Mesa art and really highlight why we are the City of the Arts in a whole new way.”

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## City looking for residents to

# **take part in voter district Meet the Expert meetings**

As part of an agreement the city has reached with a voting rights advocate law firm, City Hall will be hosting three Meet the Expert meetings as it prepares for a voter district formation initiative headed for the November ballot.

The meetings to be held in Conference Room 1A are the first of many that will take place before the measure goes to vote.

The Meet the Expert meetings are designed to be small, face-to-face events with no more than two or three people at a time. Members of the public will meet with a technical consultant, David Ely of Compass Demographics, who will give community members the opportunity to use geographic information system tools to better understand how boundaries are developed.

In order to participate in the Meet the Expert sessions please call the City Clerk office at 714-754-5225 to schedule an appointment. The first meeting will be held this Friday, May 6, beginning at 10 a.m. The next two meetings are scheduled for Thursday May 12, beginning at 10 a.m. and Saturday May 14, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

There will also be two rounds of community meetings in the month of June and those dates will be forthcoming.

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## **Chick-Fil-A operator honored**

# with Mayor's Award

On Tuesday May 3, Mayor Steve Mensinger presented the Mayor's Award to Tammy Guadagno, the operator of the Chick-Fil-A restaurant on Harbor Boulevard, citing the organization's strong support for local schools and community groups.

"It's exciting to see Tammy's passion for our community and how she has ingrained that into her team of employees," Mayor Mensinger said. "We are grateful for Chick-Fil-A's investment in the Costa Mesa community and the positive impact they are having on the local economy."

Guadagno thanked Costa Mesa and said she gives back so much because the community takes care of her and her employees. In turn, she wants to return the favor and take care of Costa Mesa in any way she can.

"It is one of the best communities I've ever been involved in," she said. "I've lived in a lot of places and I'm not going anywhere. Costa Mesa is where I'm staying forever. It's an amazing city."

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## Donald Trump Rally Wrap-Up

Shortly after 7 p.m. on Thursday April 28, 2016, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump spoke to supporters and attendees at a rally held at the Pacific Amphitheatre, at the OC Fair and Event Center in Costa Mesa. The Amphitheatre filled to capacity, permitting 8,200 attendees into the venue. An additional 3,000 visitors wishing to attend the event were turned away from the Event Center. Numerous protestor groups



organized outside the OC Fair and Event Center property along Fairview Road and Fair Drive.

During the rally, protestor groups crowded the intersection at Fair Drive and Fairview Road and several motorists at the intersection deliberately spun their car tires in a reckless manner, posing a hazard to nearby pedestrians. Due to the swelling crowds and aggressive activity, mutual aid assistance was requested, activating officers from numerous surrounding agencies to provide emergency assistance.

Costa Mesa Police officers coordinated primarily with Orange County Sheriff's deputies and CHP officers to suppress potential violence outside the OC Fair and Event Center. Costa Mesa Police officers declared the crowd an unlawful assembly and gave several dispersal orders before giving the crowd ample time to disperse.

Costa Mesa Police officers in protective riot gear, alongside Orange County Sheriff's mounted deputies, and CHP officers worked collectively to clear Fair Dr. and surrounding streets of unruly crowds, and to keep access to the 55 freeway clear.

Donald Trump exited the area by 9:30 p.m., and mutual aid police agencies' officers successfully dispersed all crowds by 11 p.m.

A total of 17 adults were arrested by Costa Mesa Police officers for failing to disperse. Those individuals were booked at the Costa Mesa Police Department jail and later released on written promises to appear.

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# Kelly Shelton presented with CEO Leadership Award for April

Kelly Shelton, a longtime employee and assistant to CEO Tom Hatch was the winner of this month's CEO Leadership Award presented at the city's monthly Meet and Greet Ceremony on Thursday April 28.

"Since coming to Costa Mesa, Kelly has demonstrated her leadership, initiative, positive attitude, and willingness to take on additional responsibilities as needed without even being asked to do so," CEO Tom Hatch said as he presented her with the award. "She believes that she is a reflection of the City Council, City CEO and the organization as whole and may be the first and only time someone has contact with the City and wants the impression to be as pleasant and helpful as possible."

Shelton began her career in local government with the City of Rancho Cucamonga as an Office Assistant 28 years ago.

She worked for the Cities of Rialto and West Covina before joining

She joined the City of Costa Mesa in August of 2004.

Providing support to the CEO is a job in itself, but for the last six months, Shelton has also been tasked with providing support to the City Council.

She also provides support for most special events to make sure a member of the City Council attends to present proclamations and at times, presents on the City's behalf.

Shelton also serves as the City's Liaison to the OC Fair & Event Center where she has been asked to assist on rating

proposals and other events at the Fairgrounds while enhancing the communication and partnership between the City and Fairgrounds.

In addition to honoring Shelton, CEO Hatch welcomed nine new employees as well as two promoted employees at the City Hall event.

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## **City files public nuisance complaint and asks court to take action against New Harbor Inn**

The City of Costa Mesa filed a public nuisance complaint against the New Harbor Inn, a rare civil abatement move that, if successful, will bring the blighted and crime-infested motel on Harbor Boulevard under court control.

“As we saw with a recent stabbing at a local motel, these establishments continue to be a detriment to our community and are havens for prostitutes, drug users and other criminal elements,” said Costa Mesa Mayor Steve Mensinger. “By taking this action against this public nuisance, the City Council is trying to eliminate the unlawful use of the property.”

Since 2010, the New Harbor Inn generated nearly 1,800 calls for service and it is a known locale for drug storage and sales and multiple narcotics arrests. The motel is the source for a disproportionate amount of police calls.

[Click here to see a copy of the complaint.](#)

In addition to the criminal activity, inspections at the New Harbor Inn have turned up multiple code violations over the years including substandard property maintenance and health, life and safety violations.

In March of 2014, 79 violations were found in 33 rooms and in August of 2012, the property received fire code violations after it was discovered that 30 rooms had no smoke detectors, there were improper exits, non-operational fire extinguishers and fire hazards caused by extension cords.

According to the complaint filed in Orange County Superior Court Central Division, the city is asking for myriad remedies enforceable by the court including but not limited to:

- Shutting down the hotel temporarily or permanently.
- Appointing a receiver or court officer to take over operations and assume management and control of the property.
- Requiring the property owner to comply with existing law and completely revamp its business procedures, hire armed security guards and improve lighting and other areas of concern.

Recently, the city and Costa Mesa law enforcement have had to increase enforcement efforts on motel operators whose properties have multiple calls for service and are the venue for criminal activity such as drug use and sales and prostitution.

In a unanimous vote, the city council voted in closed session to take this legal action against the New Harbor Inn. If the court grants the city's request to shut down, or place a court-appointed receiver over the New Harbor Inn, that would be a major victory for residents and business owners who regularly have to deal with the criminal activity.

"Costa Mesa works hard to encourage and support our local businesses and residents," Mayor Mensinger said. "But this

drastic intervention is necessary given the pattern and practice of bad business operations.”

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## **Local students go behind the scenes at Youth in Government Day at Costa Mesa City Hall**

About 80 students from Costa Mesa, Estancia, Newport Harbor and Early College high schools took over City Hall on Wednesday morning April 20 to take part in the inaugural Youth in Government Day.

The students got a behind the scenes look into how city government works, spending time with public services, police, fire, city administration, parks and community services and finance teams to learn the intricacies of the job.

The students were welcomed to City Hall by Mayor Steve Mensinger, Councilwoman Katrina Foley and City CEO Tom Hatch.

Mayor Mensinger talked to them about the importance of being a leader and how the city needs more people to step up into leadership roles.

“You being here today makes you a part of that group,” he said. “We are looking forward to having you as future leaders.”

Councilwoman Foley told the group how important it is to vote and how much local government can change things.

“Costa Mesa City Hall is the place where you can effect the most change that you can see in your daily lives,” she said.

Next, CEO Hatch talked about the importance of local schools, which he called the “lifeblood of the community.” He also told the students how he was attracted to a career in government because it is a place where you can quickly solve problems.

After the morning welcome session, the students split up and spent time in their assigned groups where they learned about finance, policing, fire service, city administration and parks and recreation.

After an afternoon lunch, which included a presentation by County Registrar of Voters Neal Kelley, the students filed into the council chambers to hold a mock City Council meeting.

The council members included Mayor Maraide Green, of Estancia High School, Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Ghobrial, of Costa Mesa High School, Council Members Jennifer Contreras, of Costa Mesa High School and Council Members Roman Giglio and David Coreas from Early College High School.

Also on the dais were City CEO Catherine Pimentel from Costa Mesa High and City Attorney Julia Paluch from Estancia. Estancia’s Abby Dunham played the part of City Clerk and Tia Gordon of Costa Mesa was a staff presenter. Andrew Garcia of Costa Mesa and Ulises Rodriguez from Early College were public commenters.

The mock council heard a presentation by Architect Steve Johnson of the firm Johnson Favaro regarding the plans for a

new teen area in the city's soon to be re-built Donald Dungan library. After hearing the presentation and asking great questions, the council approved the plan 5-0.

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## **City looking for volunteer to fill vacancy on Parks and Recreation Commission**

The Costa Mesa City Council is accepting applications to fill one vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Applicants must live in Costa Mesa and be registered to vote.

This Parks and Recreation Commission assists the City Council and various City departments with issues related to parks and parkways.

There is one vacancy with a term expiration of February 2017. For further information, please contact Acting Parks and Community Services Manager Justin Martin at (714) 754-5065. Those interested must complete a Commission Application Form from the City Clerk's Office or from the City's website.

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; or hand-delivered to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa.

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m., Friday, May 13, 2016. Appointments are tentatively scheduled for the June 7, 2016

City Council meeting. For further information, please contact the City Clerk's office at (714) 754-5225 or [cityclerk@costamesaca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@costamesaca.gov).

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## **Mayor Mensinger and church leaders will again help local residents spruce up their homes**

On April 30, please join Costa Mesa Mayor Stephen Mensinger along with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Christ Lutheran and Palm Harvest Churches for the second annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors event to assist homes throughout the Costa Mesa community in need of some TLC.

"I'm looking forward to joining my fellow Costa Mesans as we help out our neighbors in times of need," Mayor Mensinger said. "It's always impressive how many volunteers answer the call when we ask for help. And this year is no different."

Once again, no City funds will be used, just good old fashioned community elbow grease and donations.

Last year, Neighbors Helping Neighbors successfully cleaned up two homes, much to the appreciation of the owners. This year, church organizers have identified a number of properties in the community that are in need of assistance and have begun the prep work for painting.

Funds and additional volunteers are still in need for the prepping, painting and clean-up and materials to ensure



success.

Those interested in donating and keeping COSTA MESA COOL can email or call [cm.cool@costamesaca.gov](mailto:cm.cool@costamesaca.gov) or 714-754-5156 to sign up.

Donors so far for this year's event include:

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Christ Lutheran Church
- Palm Harvest Church
- Mayor Pro Tem Jim Righeimer
- Council Member Gary Monahan
- Preface Group
- Estancia Sports Boosters
- Skosh Monahan's
- The Harbor Center
- Vista Paint
- CR&R

Larry's Building Supply