

City earns 'Mega' water saver title from Mesa Water District

At the Mesa Water District's Board of Directors regular meeting on Thursday April 14, the City of Costa Mesa was recognized for its water conservation efforts and presented with the "Mega" Mesa Water Saver award.

Through the city's efforts, along with other local agencies, businesses, schools and residents, the water district has reached and exceeded the state's 20 percent conservation mandate with over 21 percent reduction in water use from June 2015 through February 2016.

"The 10 Mesa Water customers we're recognizing today include property owners and managers with varying responsibilities, who are clearly dedicated to doing the right thing and engaging in activities that achieve higher-than-average water savings during this extended drought," said Mesa Water Board President Shawn Dewane. "We're proud to be part of a community so dedicated to water efficiency."

The water district focused on outdoor watering, reducing water waste at residential, multi-family, business and government properties.

Customers who increased water efficiency beyond expectations were responsible for higher-than-average water savings ranging from 31 percent to 56 percent.

Businesses and Homeowners' Associations amended their outdoor watering for larger landscapes to comply with Mesa Water's watering schedules that changed with seasonal temperatures and weather.

Single-family homeowners and local government agencies implemented additional water-saving techniques, including installing a pool cover, replacing thirsty turf with water-wise landscaping, updating old irrigation with drip irrigation, reducing sprinkler times, installing smart-timers, and decreasing off-peak utility use.

The following were recognized at Thursday's event by Mesa Water's Board of Directors as "Mega" Mesa Water Savers:

- Janice and Steven Frates
- Susan and Geoff West
- Brookview Homeowners' Association
- Harbor Village Apartments
- C.J. Segerstrom & Sons
- Mariners Christian School
- Vanguard University
- City of Costa Mesa
- John Wayne Airport
- Newport Mesa Unified School District

Students get Immersed in Signature Academies

College Park Elementary School's Mandarin Immersion Program is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year. The program is available to kindergarten and first grade students who reside within the N-MUSD attendance boundaries. Enrollment is open district-wide and is not restricted to the

College Park attendance zone.

Mandarin Chinese is the native language of more than 870 million people, making it the most widely spoken first language in the world. Kindergarten students currently in the program will transition to a Mandarin program in first grade, with the goal of continuing through middle and high school.

N-MUSD also offers two additional specialty elementary school programs – a Modern Scholars program at Adams Elementary and a Spanish bi-literacy program at Whittier Elementary. These programs are available for kindergarten students and first grade students (limited spaces available for first grade).

The District also offers Signature Academies at each high school, offering students a global competitiveness to better prepare them for college and career success. Students enrolled in Signature Academies receive unique curriculum options and supplemental activities that complement the core academic programs at N-MUSD high schools.

Signature academies include specialty programs centered on key, industry leading careers and areas of study such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Arts and Math (STEAM). Each of the four N-MUSD High Schools offer unique programs, which are open to all ninth grade students within the N-MUSD, regardless of their zone of residence. [Click here for more information about the N-MUSD Signature Academies.](#)

The application deadline for elementary school specialty programs and the high school signature academies is Friday, April 15, 2016.

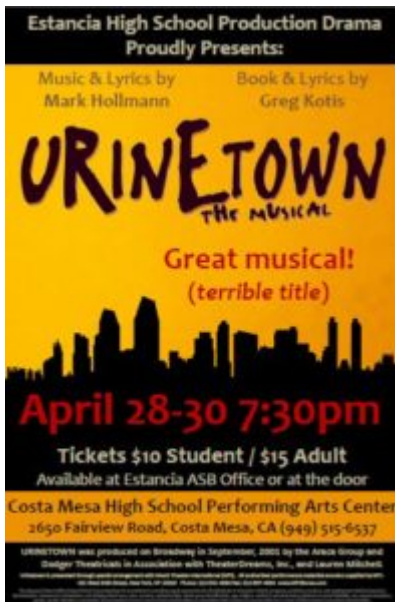
Estancia Drama presents **Urinetown**

Estancia High School's award winning drama department ends the 2015-2016 season with the presentation of *Urinetown*, a hilarious tale of greed, corruption, love and revolution in which water is worth its weight in gold. The Tony award winning musical sheds a satirical light on the drought, extreme political agendas, and musical theatre itself.

Urinetown premiered on Broadway in 2001 with Estancia alumna Spencer Kayden as Little Sally, the loveable pig-tailed girl who helps explain the plot. Kayden is also known for her membership in the recurring cast of comedians on the sketch comedy series *MADtv* and also played the role of Mrs. Pepper in the popular *Nickelodeon* kids series *Blue's Clues*.

Performances will be held April 28 – 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Costa Mesa High Performing Arts Center, 2650 Fairview Road. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for general admission and are currently available for presale. Tickets will also be made available at the door.

For ticket information call Pauline Maranian at (949) 515-6537 or the ASB office at (949) 515-6506.



City to test drive new hydrogen-powered Toyota

Toyota Motor Sales USA will be lending the City a 2016 Toyota Mirai for a couple of weeks to test drive.

The car has an electric motor powered by hydrogen fuel cells, resulting in a 100-percent-pollution-free vehicle.

The fuel cells produce electricity from the high pressure hydrogen with only water as a byproduct. The 300 horsepower motor moves the car exceptionally quick, without any motor noise or exhaust.

Hydrogen is available locally at the Valero gas station on Harbor Boulevard to retail customers.

Several City departments will be given an opportunity to drive the vehicle for routine City business over the two weeks of the test.

The car will travel over 300 miles per fueling and may be leased by the public in the \$400-500 a month range or purchased with State incentives for the mid \$40,000's.

Tesla Motors presented with Mayor's Award

Costa Mesa Mayor Steve Mensinger announced that Tesla Motors, an innovative automotive and energy storage company known for its high-end luxury electric cars, is the winner of the Mayor's Award presented at the Tuesday April 5 City Council meeting.

Accepting the award on behalf of the company was Tesla Store Manager Peter Najera and Service Manager Joe Estrada.

"We are deeply honored and this is a wonderful and amazing thing that you have done for us," Najera said. "We are thrilled to be here in Costa Mesa. It's a perfect location."

Costa Mesa is not only one of five Tesla sales locations in the county, but is also home to one of only two Tesla service centers in the county.

Tesla forgoes the typical dealership model that dominates the business, and instead sells cars directly to their customers through company owned stores or galleries, which are usually located in shopping malls.

For years, Tesla operated locally out of a 10,000-square-foot facility on Pullman Street in Costa Mesa, adjacent to the 55 freeway. Nearly a year and a half ago they expanded their operation to also include a 27,000 square foot facility just

down the street.

The new facility serves as a state of the art service center, complete with 26 service bays, two alignment bays, a detail center and car wash area in two buildings.

A typical day finds six service advisors and 20 service technicians servicing 30-35 vehicles per day, making the Costa Mesa location the number one Tesla Service center in terms of volume in the entire nation.

City reaches landmark agreement with Solid Landings to cease sober living home operations

The City of Costa Mesa reached a landmark settlement agreement with Solid Landings Inc. that will result in the immediate closure of 15 of the company's residential sober living homes and the closure of 18 more over the next two to three years at the latest.

"This is a major victory both for the residents of Costa Mesa and city officials who worked diligently on this issue for several years," said Mayor Steve Mensinger. "We have invested considerable resources in legal, law enforcement and code enforcement efforts to ensure a balance between our residents who deserve neighborhood peace and tranquility and those who seek facilities to battle their addiction problems."

The agreement with Solid Landings, the largest group home

operator in the city of Costa Mesa, will effectively end years of both federal and state litigation between the company and the city and will keep intact the city's two groundbreaking ordinances that place appropriate restrictions on group homes, limiting the number of occupants and the proximity between similar homes.

By entering into the agreement, Solid Landings will ultimately close 33 residential facilities and no legal fees will be paid by the city. Further, Solid Landings will relocate its counseling facilities to two locations in the city, one in a commercial area and the other in an industrial location.

The settlement discussions began approximately a month ago when the City Council directed Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Righeimer to negotiate on behalf of the city.

The negotiations between Righeimer and Solid Landings resulted in an agreement reached Tuesday April 5 when the council voted 3-0 to accept the terms of the settlement.

Easter Egg hunt a big hit for Marine families

On Thursday March 24, staff and members of the City of Costa Mesa's Military Affairs team hosted an Easter egg event for the children of the City's Adopted Marine battalion, the 1/5 Marines at Camp Pendelton.

Members of the team stuffed over 2,000 Easter eggs for the event over a three-day period at City Hall.

The Costa Mesa Community came out in full support of the

Marines with over 3,000 items being donated in the steam trailer located in the City Hall lobby. Congrats to all.

CMHS students travel to New Orleans for history and musical tour

Costa Mesa High School is opening the doors of real world music, history, and arts education in a once-in-a-lifetime trip for a select number of students. To kick off their spring break, fourteen members of the school band will be traveling to New Orleans and immersing themselves in the local history and jazz culture for five days.

They'll be joined by fourteen members of the Huntington Beach High School Band and several parents from both schools under the leadership of Mrs. Sandy Gilboe and Mr. Gregg Gilboe, directors of the bands at CMHS and HBHS, respectively.

New Orleans is widely renowned as the birthplace of Jazz music. The students will have the opportunity to experience several live performances, including a visit to Snug Harbor Bistro to hear Ellis Marsalis (patriarch of the famous Marsalis jazz family), a private concert by the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and Cajun music and culture at Mulates Restaurant.

Scheduled tours of the French Quarter, Oak Valley Plantation, Cajun Pride Swamp, and the Natchez Steamboat will provide the students a first-hand history lesson unlike any they have ever experienced.

Segerstrom Center for the Arts Presents Disney Musicals in Schools Student Share Celebration

On Tuesday, March 22 a total of 284 students from four various neighboring schools graced the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall with a common love of musical theater bringing them all to one stage.

The Segerstrom Center for the Arts presented Disney Musicals in Schools “Student Share Celebration” that featured students grades 3-6 all whom performed from selected musical numbers before a crowd of enthusiastic friends, family and teachers.

For 17 weeks’ students, teachers and professional teaching artists worked collaboratively during after school sessions, learning, rehearsing and performing scenes, songs and dance numbers from some of Disney’s beloved musicals.

The objective being to create a continual theater program in the participating schools.



The culmination of all their efforts resulted in presenting and performing a live 30-minute Disney KIDS Musical performance on each individual campus. Following their respective performances, the student's grand finale was a performance at Segerstrom Center for the Arts as part of the Disney Musicals in "Schools Student Share Celebration."

This provided an extraordinary opportunity for them to showcase all their great efforts and perform a signature song from their musical in front of students, family members, faculty and associates from Disney.

Disney Musicals in Schools is designed to create sustainable musical theater programs in public elementary schools. School teams are provided with the training and tools necessary to support student productions and empower them to continue this theater tradition in their school for years to come.

CMHS Foundation Annual Meeting

The Costa Mesa High School Foundation will hold its annual meeting on Friday, March 25 from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Fireside Lounge.

The annual meeting, which is open to the public, will include an introduction of the new Foundation Board of Directors, a CMHS Arts Academy update, artist showcase and special performances by the CMHS Madrigals and Music Department.

The Foundation was formed in 2003 to manage an endowment donated by CJ Segerstrom & Sons that funds enhanced educational opportunities at Costa Mesa Middle & High School. The Foundation has contributed more than \$500,000 in teacher grants directly from the interest earned on the endowment. In 2013, the Foundation began to fundraise for additional discretionary funding with the annual Gala and Home Tour.

The CMHS Board of Directors includes parents, alumni and teachers, as well as business and community leaders. [Click here](#) for more information about the Costa Mesa High School Foundation, and [click here](#) to RSVP to the annual meeting.

City to address School Zone Traffic Calming soon

The Costa Mesa Public Services Department will soon be initiating the construction phase of a much-needed school zone traffic calming project.

This project will target multiple locations throughout the City. The project will include replacement of all school zone warning flashers with solar powered devices and improved intelligent technology, which enables them to be activated when children are in school.

The project also includes installation of 20 radar speed feedback signs that will have built-in technology to collect speed and volume data that will allow city staff to implement future safety upgrades and enable better planning of focused enforcement in and around Costa Mesa schools.

Other improvements include installation of 220 pedestrian

count down heads at various signalized intersections in the vicinity of Costa Mesa schools.

Award of a contract for this project by City Council is anticipated in April 2016. Installations would follow in Summer of 2016.

Veterans of all stripes attend Heroes Hall groundbreaking

On Wednesday morning March 16, several hundred civic, business and elected leaders, dignitaries and war veterans celebrated the groundbreaking of the new Heroes Hall veteran exhibit that have a permanent home at the OC Fair & Event Center.

“This is dedicated to the honor and sacrifices to those who served our country,” said Michele Richards, the vice president of business development for the fair and event center.



Richards was one of a number of speakers who included board members Doug La Belle and Nick Beradino and Bolton Colburn, who runs the Exhibits and Education Department at the fair and event center.

The groundbreaking duties for what will be the county's first museum dedicated to veterans fell to those who served in wars from Afghanistan to World War II.

Those veterans included one of the last remaining Tuskegee Airmen, Robert Friend, Korean War vet Robert Dugan, Vietnam vet Frank Orzio, Desert Storm vet Douglas Wooley and Claudia Acosta of the U.S. Army.

The OC Fair & Event Center was once part of the Santa Ana Army Air base, a 1,300-plus acre training facility that was active during World War II. That base is now home to the fairgrounds, Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa High School, Davis Elementary

and TeWinkle Park.

“As the former home of the Santa Ana Army Air Base, the OC Fair & Event Center is a natural fit for the Heroes Hall Exhibit. We are honored to host this historic exhibit and look forward to seeing it become a reality in the coming months,” the fair’s CEO Kathy Kramer said in a statement.

The exhibit is expected to encompass more than 12,000 square feet with indoor/outdoor exhibit space. The former “Memorial Gardens” building will be relocated and reconstructed as part of the overall exhibit, which will also include memorabilia and tributes to California veterans.

Crews are expected to break ground in March with an expected completion date of Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11, 2016. The exhibit is expected to attract more than 1.5 million visitors each year.

In 2015, the OC Fair & Event Center Board voted in favor of a \$2 million contribution to start the funding efforts for Heroes Hall.

The Board also approved the creation of the Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation to lead in fundraising for the ongoing maintenance and operation of Heroes Hall.

The city of Costa Mesa donated \$25,000 toward the project, one of many local entities who have showed their support.

To learn more about how to donate and for periodic updates on the Heroes Hall exhibit [click here](#).