

Le and Brown are named new sergeants for CMPD

The Costa Mesa Police Department has two new sergeants today as veteran officers Bang Le and Jimmy Brown were sworn in Thursday outside Chief Rob Sharpnack's office.

"We couldn't be prouder of these two individuals," Chief Sharpnack told the crowd, which included Mayor Steve Mensinger, several top ranking officers and police staff and family members who had gathered in support.



Le is a Garden Grove native who joined the department in 2000 and was the first in his family to pursue a career in law enforcement, Sharpnack said.

Brown was born and raised in Orange and also started his law enforcement career in the year 2000, first joining the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He became a Costa Mesa officer in 2005.

http://cityofcostamesanews.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/MVI_

5210.mp4

Le thanked the chief and his fellow officers for entrusting him and Brown with these leadership roles.

“It’s something we take seriously and we promise we won’t let you down,” Le said. “It’s a privilege and honor to carry on the great traditions of this department.”



Brown also welcomed the challenge.

“I look forward to leading the next generation and moving forward with the department,” he said.



During the badge pinning, both men had their children do the

honors, with Brown having his daughter pin his badge and Le had both his son and daughter take part in the ceremony.

Sharpnack pointed out how important the families are to these officers and others in the department and he thanked them for their support. And he reiterated that these promotions are symbolic of where the Costa Mesa Police Department is headed in the future.

“Our department is on the rise,” he said. “And we are going to seek excellence in all we do.”

Former CMPD Chief Neth receives Mayor's Award

Mayor Steve Mensinger presented former Costa Mesa Police Chief Roger Neth with the Mayor's Award at the Tuesday Feb. 2, 2016 City Council meeting.

Mensinger noted that Neth was an instrumental figure in the formative years of the Police Department, bringing innovative technology and other best practices to the Costa Mesa Police Department.

Not only was he one of the first three officers hired by the City, but he is credited as being the very first officer on patrol.

And with 22 years at the helm of the Department, Neth is Costa Mesa's longest tenured Police Chief.

Below is a video clip highlighting Neth's career.

"I'd like to thank Mayor Mensinger for this honor tonight," Neth said. "I'm very proud to receive it."

Neth said the city's first Police Chief Arthur McKenzie, who urged the officers to follow three principles: be innovative, be progressive and above all be professional.

"We were a new police department so we didn't have to change old methods," he said Tuesday night. "We built on those three principles."

Plastic Eggs, Candy and Small Toys Needed for Easter Egg Hunt for Marine families

The city of Costa Mesa and the Costa Mesa Military Affairs Team are currently seeking donations of medium and large size plastic eggs, individually wrapped pieces of candy and small toys for the children of the City's adopted 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment.

The collected candy and small toys will be used to stuff the plastic eggs for the children at the Marine unit's annual Easter Egg Hunt held at Camp Pendleton.

Since the 1/5 Marines are deployed and will not be able to celebrate Easter with their families, the Easter Egg Hunt will

help provide a festive event for the children.

Donations of age-appropriate small toys will be greatly appreciated. Suggestions for toy donations include yoyos, toy soldiers, ball and jacks, stickers, erasers and bling rings which will fit inside of plastic eggs.

The age groups this year are:

2 years and under

3 to 5 years

6 years and over

Donations can be dropped off at City Hall in the foot locker located in the lobby until Friday, March 18, 2016.



For further information, please contact Dan Baker in the CEO's Office at (714) 754-5156.

George Cortez presented with

the CEO Leadership Award for January

George Cortez, a nine-year city employee and maintenance supervisor, is this month's honoree for the CEO's Leadership Award, presented at the monthly Meet and Greet.

Along with his able staff, Cortez is responsible for sports field preparation, maintenance and renovation; irrigation management; special event support; including the Fish Fry, Snoopy Holiday Display, sports tournaments, and Concerts in the Park; maintenance and repair of all park buildings; planting, fixing or renovating all the landscape and site furnishings in the city's 29 parks.

He also is charged with keeping up with the high use of specialized facilities such as the skate park and Bark Park. He interacts very effectively with the Parks and Community Services staff on a nearly daily basis.

Cortez, who began his career with the city in 2007, balances the constant requests for service from the public, the daily maintenance challenges and administering contractors working in his parks with all the other components of a busy park maintenance operation.

He always has time for his staff and tries to meet their individual needs, while responding to high priority requests from the Council, CEO's Office and management. He has shown a dedication and commitment to providing the highest quality service possible to the residents and visitors to the City of Costa Mesa.

In addition to Cortez, 10 new employees were recognized at the Meet and Greet as well as three employees who were promoted.

Bark Park closed because of windy conditions

Due to unsafe wind conditions and falling trees, the Bark Park is closed until further notice.

City staff is working as quickly as possible to clean up the fallen trees and branches.

Please call (714) 754-5300 for additional information.

Costa Mesa TV staff produce video on El Nino prep

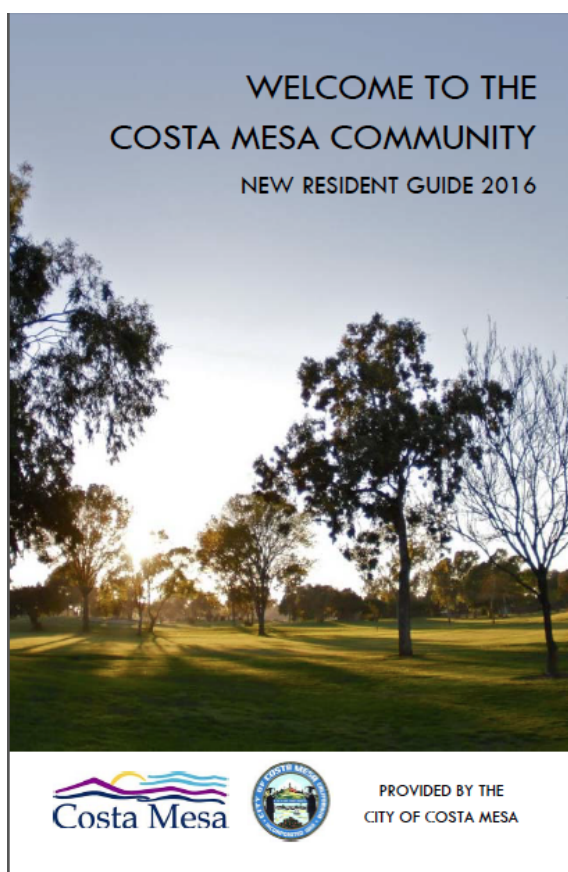
The CMTV staff have created this new video to let members of the public know how the City of Costa Mesa is preparing for El Nino 2016.

From the City's Public Services and Fire Departments to the Costa Mesa Sanitary District and Mesa Water District, residents and businesses in Costa Mesa can be assured that their local public services are as prepared as possible for El Nino 2016.

New guide highlights city services and resources for new Costa Mesa residents

For those residents who may be new to the City of Costa Mesa, the City staff has recently completed a new publication that will give them a crash course on city services and resources.

The annual New Resident Guide for 2016 is available in printed form at each floor of City Hall and other key locations throughout Costa Mesa. To see an electronic version of the guide, [click here](#).



The guide provides basic facts about the City of Costa Mesa along with contact information for elected officials as well as city government services.

In addition, the guide provides lists and dates of community

events, maps and locations of local parks and athletic fields and other local resources such as the Chamber of Commerce and Conference and Visitor's Bureau.

For additional copies, questions or comments about the New Resident Guide please call 714-754-5098.

Assistant CEO details challenges city faces on homeless issues

Costa Mesa Assistant CEO Rick Francis told attendees of the monthly Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Boost that the city is working hard through community outreach and with the help of clergy and others to address the problems of homelessness here.

"We are willing to do our fair share and we will never back down from that," Francis told the group gathered at the Costa Mesa Country Club on Thursday morning. "But if every city took care of their own, this problem would be a lot easier to manage."

Francis noted that recent counts of homeless in Costa Mesa show a 45 percent increase in that population, but his presentation highlighted the success of the city's outreach efforts and the work of the Network for Homeless Solutions, a city-sponsored group that includes, clergy, code enforcement, police and city outreach staff.

For example since 2013, the city was able to house 122 homeless people and reconnect 31 people with family members.

From June of 2015 through December, volunteers clocked upward of 880 hours helping the homeless.

He pointed out to the audience several of the factors that lead to homelessness, including the price of housing, underemployment, a dramatic increase in drug use and abuse, especially heroin, and sober living home operators who have clients that drop out and go back onto the streets.

Changes in legislation to address prison overcrowding have also led to problems as criminal offenders spend less time incarcerated and are free to commit crimes more quickly.

Joining Francis at the breakfast were members of the city's Network for Homeless Solutions, including Bill Nelson of Fresh Beginnings Ministry, Ian Stevenson of Trellis and Muriel Ullman, the city's homeless liaison. City CEO Tom Hatch and Fire Chief Dan Stefano also attended the breakfast.

OCC soccer players get Mayor's Award honor

Five players from the OCC Men's Soccer Team who earned a spot on the 2015 All-Orange Empire Conference Team were honored at City Council meeting on Tuesday Jan. 19.

Ryan Brown, Ty O'Connor and Costa Mesa High School graduate Peter Marquez were named to the first team, while Estancia High School grad Marco Pineda and Taylor Kane earned second-team honors.

This is not only a great individual accomplishment for each of

these student athletes, but also a great honor for Orange Coast Athletics.

CMPD adds another officer this week

Costa Mesa Police Department brass and ranking city leaders welcomed new Police Officer Nick Wilson in a swearing-in ceremony early Tuesday morning.

Police Chief Rob Sharpnack officiated the ceremony with some welcoming words for the new lateral hire officer, who formerly worked as a Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy. Sharpnack noted Wilson's already impressive career achievements.

"He really embodies what we embody as a city and a police department," Sharpnack said. "I'm excited to welcome Nick. We are fortunate to have him."

Wilson is one of three boys raised by John and Antonia Wilson in the small town of San Marino, nearby Pasadena. He is a graduate of San Marino High School, where he played high school baseball. He served as a cadet for San Marino Police Department from 2008-2011.

Wilson's father is a retired 31-year veteran of the California Highway Patrol and one of his brothers is an officer for the San Marino Police Department. Wilson graduated from Rio Hondo with an Associates of Science degree in Administration of Justice in 2011.

Wilson was hired by the Los Angeles Sheriff Department in 2012. Since then he served in the custodial environment and is

currently assigned to the courthouse in Compton.

Several family members attended the ceremony, including his father and brother. Also attending was his wife, who placed his badge on him after he was sworn in by City Clerk Brenda Green.



Mayor Steve Mensinger and Councilmember Katrina Foley, City CEO Tom Hatch and Assistant CEO Rick Francis, and several members of the police command staff were also in attendance.



The department's three new academy graduates, Brandon Kim,

Tyrus Ranck and Matthew Richie, also made an appearance to support their fellow officer.

Chief Sharpnack noted that the department continues to move in the right direction with these new hires, which puts the staffing levels now at 112 sworn officers.

Three new officers graduate academy and join Costa Mesa Police Department

The Costa Mesa Police Department continues its practice of hiring the best and the brightest new officers, three of whom graduated from the Orange County Sheriff's Academy on Thursday night.

The new Officers, Brandon Kim, Tyrus Ranck, and Matthew Richie all finished in the top 10 of their class, with Kim receiving the Top Recruit ranking (No. 1 in the class).

In addition, Officer Ranck earned the Top Shot award with the best shooting score in the class.

"We are very proud of these new officers and we look forward to their contributions to our community and our department," Chief Rob Sharpnack said. "We are happy to see that our new recruits have continued the tradition of being the top recruits in what is a very competitive sheriff's academy class."

In addition, three more recruits will begin their academy classes next week.

First wave of El Nino storms caused minimal damage; sandbag locations increased

The thunderstorm cells that passed through the City last week brought periods of heavy rain and strong gusting winds but no significant damage to report.

While there was some localized street flooding and large amounts of debris on streets and sidewalks, the largest casualty was an Aleppo Pine tree in Wilson Park that was damaged.

The pine tree, in excess of 50 feet in height with multiple large trunks, split in half, damaging another tree as it fell and narrowly missing the park restroom. Fortunately there were no patrons in the park at the time and no structural damage to any park facilities resulted.

Public Services staff determined the tree to be unsafe and was subsequently removed. The remaining damaged tree will be further evaluated and removed if determined to be a potential risk in the future. There were also a number of private trees which fell at various parts of the City, all of which have been removed by the respective property owners.

In addition, Public Services added two new locations for residents along with Fire Station No. 4 to get sandbags, one at City Hall and another at Lions Park.



These locations will be available 24/7 to the public. These two additional locations have the advantage of being lighted for safe 24 hour access; allow for pull through traffic circulation to ease congestion and easy access for dump truck supplying sand; are adjacent to city facilities to support potential volunteers providing assistance to citizens; and are non-flood prone or high traffic areas to reduce likelihood of not being able to access the sites easily.

For more information on sandbags, [click here](#).