

Costa Mesa native America Arias takes home second Emmy Award as news producer

Costa Mesa native America Arias recently was the recipient of her second Emmy Award winning the Best Newscast-Evening Larger Markets at the 45th Annual Northern California Area Emmy Awards ceremony.

Arias, a news producer for KCRA 3 News in Sacramento, was honored along with anchors Gulstan Dart, Edie Lambert and Anchors reporters Melinda Meza, Kevin Oliver for their coverage of two major wildfires that triggered massive evacuations and left many Northern California communities in ruins.

The news crews covered three counties, looking into evacuations, the emergency response, and the fire's rapid growth.

This is Arias's second Emmy Award. She also won an Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Daytime Newscast while working for KFSN-TV ABC 30 in Fresno.

"I feel incredibly blessed and proud to work with a talented and passionate team at KCRA-TV," said Arias, who grew up on Costa Mesa's Westside and attended Newport Harbor High School. "Thanks to everyone in front of the camera and behind the scenes who made this possible. It's an honor to produce a show alongside so many talented people who worked tirelessly to create a smart, polished and award-winning newscast."

Click the links here to see the winning newscast and her acceptance speech.

Mariners Christian School celebrates graduation of eighth-Grade Class

Earlier this week, Mariners Christian School held its graduation ceremony for the eighth-grade Class of 2016.

On Wednesday June 15, eighth-grade students, families, friends, and the entire MCS faculty and staff gathered in the beautiful sanctuary at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach.

The graduation ceremony was comprised of the presentation of diplomas, listening of music and keynote speakers, a slideshow of middle school memories, and the acknowledgement of key student accomplishments and leadership awards. Some program highlights included:

- Welcome by Head of School, Troy Moore
- Invocation by Student Council Vice President, Alexandra Ianni
- Student Welcome by Student Council Co-President, Caroline Brewster
- Worship music by MCS Student Worship Band
- Special Gift to 8th Grade Class, Middle School Principal, Heather Harrison

Sixty eight eighth-grade students received their diplomas.

Justin Martin named as new Recreation Manager

Interim Recreation Manager Justin Martin has been named as the city's new Recreation Manager.

Assistant Chief Executive Officer Tamara Letourneau announced that the vacant Recreation Manager position would be filled by Martin. Serving as Interim Recreation Manager for the past several months and with extensive knowledge in youth programming, teen programming, camps, contract classes, recreation needs and parks, Martin is the perfect candidate.

Martin has been the city's Recreation Supervisor since December 2014 and filled the roll of Interim Recreation Manager over the last few months with a seamless transition.

"Justin brings many years of experience in recreation to this position," Letourneau said. "He has shown the ability to create a vision and lead a team to accomplish that vision with the utmost professionalism, integrity and creativity."

With his extensive knowledge of the community and programming, Martin will continue to shape the city and it's recreation needs through his new role.

James Ross tapped to fill in role of interim Public

Services Director

With the departure of Public Services Director Ernesto Munoz, CEO Tom Hatch has brought aboard public services veteran James G. Ross as the interim director.

Ross, who started working with the city on Monday June 13, has supported municipalities and public agencies at an executive management level for the past 34 years, specializing in public works and water departments.

He has managed staffs of more than 400 people and oversaw capital improvement program budgets of \$200 million. He has served on the board of directors and has been president of the Public Works Institute for the League of California Cities.

Ross has previously been the Executive Director of Public Works for the City of Santa Ana, the Principal Projects Manager of the city of Irvine, Associate Engineer for the City of Costa Mesa and engineer jobs for the Port and City of Los Angeles.

City asks legislature to halt proposal that cripples local government review

Mayor Steve Mensinger, on behalf of the City Council, has sent a sharply worded letter to two high ranking legislative leaders announcing the city's opposition to a proposal by Gov. Jerry Brown that would eliminate city regulations and review

of specific affordable housing developments.

The city is asking Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian, chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee and state Sen. Richard Roth, chair of the Senate Budget Subcommittee, to put the brakes on any legislative action that would pass the governor's proposal, saying it undermines local government and public engagement and will increase the public's distrust of government.

"The City of Costa Mesa is supportive of efforts to increase affordable housing opportunities for California's residents, especially in Orange County," Mayor Mensinger wrote. "However, your proposed language to streamline affordable housing weakens the ability for local governments to review or approve projects in their communities."

To see the full text of the letter [click here](#).

Bart Mejia named as new city engineer

The Public Services Engineering Division received news that longtime fellow employee, Bart Mejia, has been promoted to City Engineer.

Chief Executive Officer Tom Hatch, alongside Public Service Director Ernesto Munoz, announced earlier today that the vacant City Engineer position would be filled by Mejia. With more than 28 years of professional experience in engineering and project management, including the past 25 years of dedicated service to the City of Costa Mesa, Mejia will make a smooth transition into his new role.

“His soft but firm personality, professionalism and dedication make Bart an ideal choice to lead the Engineering Division of our Department,” Munoz said. “He has been intimately involved with the development of the Fairview Park Master Plan and managed the construction of many of the Plan’s elements.”

Mejia is a registered engineer in the State of California and a graduate from California State University Long Beach, where he earned a Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering. Mejia has also completed post baccalaureate courses from the Water Resources Specialization in the Master of Science in Civil Engineering Program.

With his already active role in many of the city’s public works projects, Mejia will continue to shape the city through his vision.

Newport Harbor student and Daughter of CMPD Lieutenant Honored for Perfect ACT Score

Newport Harbor High School student, Baylee Bakkila, daughter of longtime Costa Mesa Police Lt. Victor Bakkila, was recently honored at the Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) student award ceremony.

On June 7, more than 200 guests attended the awards ceremony at the Corona Del Mar High School Performing Arts Center where among the 1,669 seniors graduating later this month, a few

standout students were recognized. The areas of recognition included:

- Perfect ACT/SAT scores
- Simon Scholar designation
- Seals of Excellence

Bakkila was one of five students honored at the ceremony for a perfect ACT/SAT. Also recognized were:

- Shane Gooding of Corona Del Mar High School, Perfect score on ACT
- Matthew Paragas of Corona Del Mar High School, Perfect score on ACT
- Abigail Peterson of Corona Del Mar High School (class of 2017), Perfect score on ACT
- Hikaru Masuda of Corona Del Mar, Perfect score on SAT



In addition 17 students were recognized as part of the Simon Scholars Program and 12 students received the Seal of Excellence.

Simon Scholars allows students facing difficult life and economic circumstances to graduate from high school with enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence. Simon Scholars is a unique six-year program that begins during a student's junior year in high school and continues through four years of

college.

Seal of Excellence honors students who took the most rigorous academic path. Qualifying students are designated as “AP Scholars”, which is achieved when a student passes three or more Advanced Placement tests with a score of three or better.

These students will be honored with a special seal on their diploma, notation on their transcript and highlighted in the graduation program.



Next round of community meetings on voting districts

coming up

As part of the city's outreach to residents regarding the voting district measure on the November ballot, there will be two more Community Meetings on Wednesday June 15 and Saturday June 18 with Demographer David Ely.

Further, citizens who are interested in submitting their own district maps can do so online here at the city's Voting District Formation web page. Once you click on the link, scroll to the bottom of the page under Distributing Kit and click on the link that says Instruction on drawing your own map.

Below are the dates, times and locations where the meetings will take place:

June 15

St. Joachim Catholic Church

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

1964 Orange Ave.

Costa Mesa , California 92627

June 18

Balearic Community Center

10:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m.

1975 Balearic Dr.

Costa Mesa , California 92626

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue Unveils 90th Anniversary

Badge to honor History and the Community

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue members will wear a 90th Anniversary Badge on their uniforms for the remainder of the year to pay tribute to the valued history of over 90 years of service to the community, dating back to its origins as a volunteer fire department under the leadership the first Fire Chief Fred Brush.



CMFD Chemical Wagon, April 1929

“Like so many great ideas in the fire service, this one came from one of our talented firefighters, Engineer Scott Purcell,” said Fire Chief Dan Stefano. “He deserves the credit for taking his idea of a 90th anniversary badge from its conception to full implementation. We are extremely proud of our storied history serving such an incredible and vibrant community and of Scott’s passion and dedication to bring the badge to life.”

Engineer Purcell, who worked with others on the design, sought input from the entire organization, in addition to working

with our community partners.

“The badge encompasses multiple aspects from within our city, county and the fire service as a whole,” Engineer Purcell said.

The center of the badge pays tribute to the legendary Segerstrom Hall, with the lima beans and oranges on the sides representing the famed farming history of Costa Mesa and the County of Orange as a whole.

The bottom of the badge includes the individual identification number for each fire and rescue team member and the axes on either side of the badge are a signature tool of a firefighter.

The head of each axe highlights two significant numbers; the year the fire department was established and the number 343, which represents the number of firefighters that made the ultimate sacrifice on Sept. 11, 2001.

Pilot Cup Soccer Tournament founder Kirk McIntosh honored with Mayor's Award

On Tuesday June 7, Costa Mesa Mayor Steve Mensinger honored longtime resident Kirk McIntosh with the Mayor's Award for his years of involvement as the director of the annual Pilot Cup soccer tournament.

“You're one the people who make our city special,” Mensinger

said, noting that the event had 213 teams competing this year. "For Kirk and his legion of volunteers to pull off a tournament of this magnitude every year is extraordinary."

The Pilot Cup started 17 years ago and was the brainchild of McIntosh, a father of five soccer playing girls. He presented his idea to Daily Pilot editors and publisher Tom Johnson and the rest is history.

McIntosh, who attended the meeting with his wife Sue as well as some of his children and grandchildren, said the event wouldn't be possible without volunteers.

"As we all know it's nice to be recognized and I wish I could bring some others up here as this event requires a lot of volunteer participation.," he said. "But there is a lot of happy kids and happy families. I thank you for this award and I'll share it with the other folks who should also be up here."

The Pilot Cup originally started with only 500 players but has grown to 2,500 players from third to sixth grade and every school in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District competes as well as local private schools.

Two arrests made in Trump rally protests, suspect in police car vandalism sought

Costa Mesa detectives have made two arrests for the vandalism to the police vehicles that took place Thursday April 28 at the Donald Trump campaign rally at the Pacific Amphitheater at

the OC Fair and Event Center and have compiled an image of the suspect they believe damaged a police car that night.

Both of the arrestees were juveniles and Costa Mesa residents.

[Click here](#) to read a bulletin regarding the outstanding suspect.

The Trump event was under the jurisdiction of the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

The Costa Mesa Police Department assisted and was primarily tasked with handling traffic control on the outlying streets surrounding the fairgrounds. Based on news sources approximately 31,000 attended the rally.

After the event ended, event attendees and protesters flooded the intersections along Fair Drive from Fairview Road to Newport Boulevard.

The Costa Mesa Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff Department responded and requested mutual aid assistance from surrounding law enforcement agencies to manage the large crowds leaving the fairgrounds.

The crowd's participation elevated to the level of civil unrest with incidents of vandalism and assaults occurring.

The Costa Mesa Police Department has proactively investigated the criminal incidents to identify and hold the responsible parties accountable for their actions. The incidents investigated by the CMPD are:

- Vandalisms – Four vandalism incidents were taken and/or reported by the CMPD. One incident consisted of the vandalism to six CMPD marked patrol vehicles. The other three vandalisms were to motorists who reported damage to their vehicles. There were no investigative leads for those other three incidents.

- Assaults – Two assault incidents were reported to the CMPD. One incident involved a CMPD officer being hit in the helmet with a rock and the second was of a citizen being hit in the head with a fist. Both assault cases are still being investigated.

In addition to the above investigations, an additional assault incident and a reckless driving incident is being handled by the OCSD. These investigations are ongoing.

The Costa Mesa Police Department continues to vigorously pursue investigative leads to identify and hold the responsible parties accountable for their involvement in the activities which occurred after the Trump rally in Costa Mesa. We will pursue all means to ensure that we recover full restitution for the cost of the city's damaged property.

Individuals with information and/or who can assist with identifying the outstanding vandalism suspect are asked to contact Detective Peters at 714.754.5198.

Fairview northbound reopens after water main break

Less than 24 hours after yesterday's mainline break, the line is repaired and Fairview is open