Workshops on housing and mixed use development to take place the week of March 2

The City of Costa Mesa invites residents, businesses, and community organizations to participate in community workshops that will consider new opportunities for housing and mixed-use development.

Through interactive exhibits, participants will explore how local regulations can shape the built environment.

These activities are part of the City's Neighborhoods Where We All Belong initiative to implement Housing Element programs, allow optional housing potential on "Measure K" properties, and increase new housing and mixed-use development opportunities in specific parts of the community.

Public input gathered at the following events will help the City refine draft strategies for regulating new residential and mixed-use buildings. All three workshops will present the same information and include Spanish interpretation.

Simply attend the event that is the most convenient for your schedule. The in-person workshops will include free snacks, refreshments, and children's activities. Please join this important conversation about the future of housing in Costa Mesa.

Monday, March 2
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Norma Hertzog Community Center
1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa

Thursday, March 5
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Virtual Workshop (Zoom)
Join virtually from: www.CostaMesaNeighborhoods.com

Saturday, March 7
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Costa Mesa Senior Center
695 W. 19th Street, Costa Mesa

For more information about the Neighborhoods Where We All Belong effort, visit www.CostaMesaNeighborhoods.com.

City launches new Active Development Map

The City has launched a new public, online GIS tool called the Active Development Map, designed to give the public real-time insight into what's happening across the community.

The map allows anyone to view active development projects throughout the City, from new businesses and tenant improvements to major development projects.

The map also provides building, planning, geological, and assessor information for every property within the City of Costa Mesa.

The tool can be found on the Economic and Development Services homepage here.

This is a powerful planning tool. Whether tracking nearby construction, identifying growth areas, or understanding how public investments may impact customers and operations, the

map helps residents and business owners stay informed and proactive.

By centralizing development activity in one easy-to-navigate map, the City is promoting transparency, coordination, and smarter decision-making for the local business community.

Meet the Fire Marshal at upcoming CERT Kickoff

On Feb. 24, from 6-8 p.m., Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue will host a special community meeting titled “Meet the Marshal.”

Everyone in the community is welcome—whether you’re a CERT member or simply curious—this is a great chance to connect, learn and strengthen our local preparedness.

The evening will include an opportunity to meet and chat with Costa Mesa’s new Fire Marshal Ryan Bohr and hear from guest speaker Interim Fire Chief Jason Pyle. We’ll also share what’s ahead for the revamped and revitalized 2026 Costa Mesa CERT program.

Discussion will focus on the refreshed training, stronger connections across the program and more opportunities to learn, reconnect, and serve.

We’ll wrap up with practical home-safety and preparedness tips you can use right away—like how to safely shut off utilities, building a simple home plan and practicing EDITH (Exit Drills In The Home) with your household.

We hope to see you there and hope you will be part of the conversation.



Public Works team installs traffic calming measures on Del Mar Avenue

The Public Works Department recently installed a new engineering treatment on Del Mar Avenue between Orange Avenue and Santa Ana Avenue to help mitigate concerns about motorist speeding activity.

The improvements included highly reflective plastic posts installed along edge between the vehicle travel lanes and

parking shoulder.

The new posts serve to visually narrow the roadway and encourage appropriate driving behavior.

Demonstrating cross-department coordination, Public Works staff collaborated closely with Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue staff to refine the engineering layout to serve overlapping goals of strengthening the public's safety and improving quality of life.

City staff will evaluate the outcomes of this solution to measure benefits and consider use elsewhere in the City. The Public Works Department remains committed to developing innovative and collaborative solutions that enhance mobility and safety for all road users.

City awarded Bicycle Friendly Community status by the League of American Bicyclists

The City of Costa Mesa was recently awarded a Bicycle Friendly Community Award from the national League of American Bicyclists, recognizing the many safety and mobility improvements made since adoption of the 2018 Active Transportation Plan.

The prestigious Bicycle Friendly America program sets the standard for how communities build and benchmark progress toward making bicycling better, helping raise standards for safety, equity, and accessibility.

Receipt of the Bronze level award is the long-term result of

resolve of local leaders, residents, advocates, planners, educators, and City staff to make Costa Mesa safer and more supportive for people who ride bicycles.

Key milestones since execution of the Active Transportation Plan include the implementation of a bicycle wayfinding project; the implementation of a bicycle safety education program; a citywide bike parking program; and major bicycle facility upgrades to Adams Avenue, Arlington Drive, Bristol Street, Merrimac Way, Placentia Avenue, and West 19th Street.

City temporarily transitions operations of Tennis Center to Agape Tennis Academy

The Parks & Community Services Department announced that as of this Sunday, Feb. 15, the operations of the Costa Mesa Tennis Center will temporarily transition to Agape Tennis Academy.

The city will solicit RFP’s to find a permanent operator of the Tennis Center in the coming months.

For more information please visit our website here

Work gets started on

rehabilitation of Ketchum-Libolt Park

City and state leaders took part in groundbreaking ceremony on Monday Feb. 10 as the revitalization of Ketchum-Libolt Park officially began.

In attendance were Mayor John Stephens, Mayor Pro Tem Manuel Chavez, City Manager Cecilia Gallardo-Daly, Public Works Director Raja Sethuraman, Parks & Community Services Director Brian Gruner and Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris, whose secured $1.2 million in state funding for this project.

Also in attendance was Assistant City Manager Alma Reyes, Deputy Police Chief Jason Chamness, Parks & Community Services Commissioners Kelly Brown and Jason Komala and several city staffers.

When completed, this park will serves a community on the Westside that is very much in need of parks and open space. This long-awaited project was shaped by community input and collaboration.

The park continues to honor the legacy of Officers James “Dave” Ketchum and John “Mike” Libolt, the only CMPD officers to lose their lives in the line of duty.

Detective Sergeant Jacobi is February’s City Manager

Leadership Award recipient

City Manager Cecilia Gallardo-Daly presented the City Manager's Leadership Award for February to Police Department Detective Sgt. Jake Jacobi.

"Sgt. Jacobi's integrity, work ethic, and quiet dedication make him not only an outstanding detective sergeant, but also a powerful example of leadership in action," Gallardo-Daly said. "As our Police Department continues to grow, we need strong leaders like him to take us into the future. I'm honored to present him with this award."

Sgt. Jacobi joined Costa Mesa as a police recruit in 2013, was hired as a police officer in 2014 and promoted to Sergeant in 2023.

Jacobi routinely takes the initiative to train, mentor, and educate others, ensuring officers are well prepared to deliver high-quality service to the community.

He has played a critical role in addressing a significant backlog of case assignments, greatly improving case progression, and ensuring the department continues to meet the high standards of service expected by our community.

His ability to effectively balance investigative responsibilities with administrative oversight has been exemplary. Beyond case management, Sergeant Jacobi has served as a key leader on both the Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) and the Arrest Control Team (ACT).

During critical incidents, his calm, strategic approach provides stability and clear direction to his team and the department as a whole. He consistently demonstrates professionalism under pressure and maintains a strong focus on safety, coordination, and successful resolution.

What truly distinguishes Sgt. Jacobi is his humility and team-first leadership style.

Despite his accomplishments and the respect, he has earned across the department, he never seeks personal recognition. He embodies the principles of servant leadership by prioritizing the mission and the success of those around him.

Sgt. Jacobi has a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Cal State Fullerton.

The time is now to apply for a Community Development Block Grant

The City of Costa Mesa released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 on January 26, 2026, for tax-exempt nonprofit organizations operating within its jurisdiction providing public services that benefit low- and moderate-income Costa Mesa residents.

This year will be the second year that CDBG Public Service Grant applications will be completed and submitted online.

The application and related instructions are available on the City website here: Public Service Grants Program | City of Costa Mesa.

The application deadline is 5 pm on February 25, 2026. If you have any questions regarding the application process, please send an email to amber.miranda@costamesaca.gov prior to the application deadline.

Public Works Installs New Crosswalk Serving Jordan Park

City Public Works staff recently installed a new crosswalk across Tustin Avenue between 21st Street and 22nd Street.

The new designated crossing provides an organized and convenient crossing for youth and adults traveling to Jordan Park, Kaiser Elementary School, and the Boys and Girls Club of Costa Mesa – Argyros Center for Opportunity.

New pedestrian curb ramps ensure that the crosswalk is accessible while the high visibility crosswalk striping, painted curb extension with flexible plastic posts, and signs serve to bring increased awareness to the crossing.

This improved crossing also includes Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, which use an amber light flashing pattern activated by the pedestrian push button.

The lights further increase driver awareness of the crosswalk and enhance pedestrian visibility during daytime and night conditions.

Research shows the beacons are highly effective and can increase driver yielding compliance.

Renovation Work Continues at TeWinkle Park Lakes

The renovation work at TeWinkle Park Lakes continues. The initial phase of this renovation project involved the transfer of aquatic wildlife from the upper lake to the lower lake and subsequently, the draining of the upper lake.

Fencing was placed around the upper lake and the demolition work started. Grading of the lakebed is proceeding with the lake liner to be installed to minimize leakage and water loss.

In the coming weeks, the following construction activities are planned: upgrading the shape of the lake in order to help promote more natural water movement; rebuilding the damaged and eroded shorelines with natural edges; repairing and replacing the existing circulation system to improve functionality; and adding landscaping along the shoreline to provide a more natural appearance.

The City appreciates the public’s cooperation in contributing to the renovation of TeWinkle Park lakes.

City Manager taps Jason Pyle to be Interim Fire Chief

City Manager Cecilia Gallardo-Daly has appointed veteran Fire & Rescue leader Jason Pyle to be the Interim Fire Chief to lead the 100-member-strong department that includes six active fire stations and a new Regional Training Center.

Pyle has been the Assistant Fire Chief since 2023 and will

succeed Chief Dan Stefano, who is leaving the City after a 30-year fire service career.

“Assistant Fire Chief Pyle is a long-time and dedicated City employee with extensive experience, institutional knowledge, and a deep understanding of the community of Costa Mesa and the Fire and Rescue Department operations,” Gallardo-Daly said. “Assistant Chief Pyle is well prepared to continue the department’s mission and uphold the high standards established under Chief Stefano’s leadership. We look forward to the continued strength and stability of the Fire Department under the Interim Fire Chief’s leadership.”

Pyle began his career in Costa Mesa in April of 2003 and quickly promoted to Engineer, Captain, Division Chief and then Assistant Fire Chief. Prior to Costa Mesa, he worked for the Fullerton Fire Department and the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and he was a reserve firefighter for both the Los Alamitos and Anaheim Fire Departments.

“While Chief Pyle has big shoes to fill, I’m confident he will do just that,” Mayor John Stephens said. “We take pride in our Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue team, and the work they do daily to save lives and property. As our Assistant Fire Chief for many years, Chief Pyle has developed expertise on every aspect of the department. With Chief Pyle at the helm, the CMFRD will continue its tradition as the model of fire and emergency medical service excellence.”

This role has a special meaning for Chief Pyle, as Costa Mesa is a deep part of his roots. He grew up in the Newport-Mesa community, attended Newport Elementary, Ensign Middle School and Newport Harbor High. As he started his fire service career, it was always his goal to return to Costa Mesa.

“I am honored to be named the Interim Fire Chief for my hometown of Costa Mesa,” Chief Pyle said. “My family and I have deep ties here and this is just a continuation of being a

part of the community I grew up in and has been a part of my entire life. Further, I look forward to meeting the high standards we have set for this department and leading this premiere team of professionals.”

Chief Pyle has served as the CMFR Training Officer and is certified as both the CMFR & California State Fire Marshal Company Officer and CMFR & California State Chief Officer.

He has been the past president of the Orange County Fire Chiefs Association Operations Sections, a Board Member for the Orange County City Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Authority, a deputy director for the SoCal Training Officers, a Fire Service Representative for the League of Cites Environmental Quality Policy Committee, a logistics specialist for the FEMA USAR Team – CA Task Force 3 and a Facilities Unit Leader for CA Team 2 for the US Forest Service National Incident Management Type 1 Team.

He’s a graduate of Leadership Tomorrow and both the CSUF Leadership and All American Leadership Programs.

Pyle has an associate of science degree in fire administration from Santa Ana College and a bachelor’s degree in political and social science from UCI.

He and his wife Jennifer have two sons, Jacob, who is also a UCI graduate and Jay, who is currently attending the US Air Force Academy.