

# Mariners Christian School hosts 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony

On Thursday, June 15 Mariners Christian School held it's graduation ceremony for the Eighth Grade Graduating Class of 2017. 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 to present diplomas, listen to music and keynote speakers, view a slideshow of middle school memories, and acknowledge key student accomplishments and leadership awards.



The program included:

- Student Welcome by John Herold, Student Council President
- Invocation by Graham Nelson, Student Council Vice President
- Special Message from Heather Harrison, Middle School

## Principal

- Worship music by MCS Student Worship Band
- Alumni Heritage College Scholarship presented by Chris Spurgin, Middle School Teacher
- Eighth Grade Speech by student Mia Collier
- Salutatorian Awards presented by Tami Thurston, Middle School Teacher
- Valedictorian Speech by student Grace Jones
- Bill Jones Leadership & Integrity Awards by John Hellriegel, Middle School Teacher
- Special Gift to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class, Troy Moore, Head of School
- Commencement Address by Brian Darrow, Pastor of The W Church and MCS Dad
- Benediction by Carrie Olson, MCS Board Member and MCS Mom



Eighty-three eighth grade students received their diplomas while wearing formal white graduation gowns in the lovely setting of St. Andrews Church.

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# City to work with federal government to get accurate information for the 2020 Census

Every 10 years, the City has the opportunity to provide updated address and map data to the U.S. Census Bureau in preparation for the decennial U.S. Census.

The draft data for the 2020 Census will be distributed to planning staff for review.

The Local Update of Census Addresses, or LUCA, is the only opportunity offered to review and comment for our jurisdiction prior to the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau relies on a complete and accurate address list to reach every living quarters and associated population for inclusion in the census.

Since accurate address count is essential to ensure an accurate census count for Costa Mesa; city staff will be diligent to provide updated data. The data will be provided in form of Customized Geographic Information System (GIS) software, which will be easy to update and minimize inaccuracies.

Actively participating in the Census and providing accurate information is important since the Census count is the base for all population estimates for the next 10 years. The count determines the apportionment of political representation, and determines the distribution of federal and state dollars.

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# **City strikes Silver in award for energy efficiency**

At a recent Energy Partnership meeting, the City of Costa Mesa received its award for reaching Silver Status within the partnership.

The Partnership, formed in 2010, currently consists of the cities of Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Newport Beach, Westminster, Santa Ana, Huntington Beach, and Irvine.

Staff representatives meet monthly to discuss long-range energy efficiency goals and projects that are relevant to each city. Costa Mesa recently completed the direct install program sponsored by Southern California Edison.

The program allowed for all City facilities, with the exception of the City Hall campus, to receive lighting upgrades at no cost, thus saving Costa Mesa approximately \$60,000 in onetime general fund expenditures.

Assistant to the City Manager Dan Baker is the liaison to this committee and is always interested in projects that seek energy efficiency.

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## **Assistant City Manager Rick Francis departs city for new role at John Wayne Airport**

Assistant City Manager Rick Francis has accepted a new role with John Wayne Airport as the Assistant Airport Director.

Francis joined the City of Costa Mesa in 2012, as part of the City's executive management team. While much of his responsibilities include working closely with City Council and Department Directors, Francis has most notably led the city's efforts in finding solutions for homeless issue, working closely with the residential and business communities and the city's Network for Homeless Solutions.

Prior to joining the City of Costa Mesa, Francis worked for the County of Orange in a number of capacities. As Chief of Staff to Second District Supervisor John Moorlach, Francis was responsible for working with the Board of Supervisors, the County Executive Office and various County departments.

Importantly, he advised Supervisor Moorlach on JWA-related matters including the Settlement Agreement, budget and infrastructure development – including the construction of Terminal C. Before joining Supervisor Moorlach's office, Francis spent 13 years at the Probation Department where he was responsible for oversight of the Program Support and Research Division.

Francis holds a Bachelor's degree in religion from Vanguard University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from American Public University. He is also a graduate of the County's Leadership Academy and Enlightened Leadership programs. He has broad ties to the community including membership in the Association of California Cities-Orange County Homelessness Task Force and the Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee.

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# **Jack Hammett Sports Complex construction enters Phase II**

The fields that the Los Angeles Chargers football team will use for Summer 2017 Training Camp are undergoing final preparation before lush sod can be laid at the site.

Phase I construction included extensive grounds preparation as a means to support the highest quality sports turf available. The Chargers will be releasing an official Summer Training Camp schedule soon.

The camp, which will be free and open to the public for viewing is scheduled to begin in late July.

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# **Costa Mesa names new Director of Economic and Development Services**

Veteran city planner Barry C. Curtis will become the new Economic and Development Services Director for the City of Costa Mesa beginning in July.

“We are extremely happy to welcome Barry Curtis to our Costa Mesa team,” City Manager Tom Hatch said. “His broad-ranging experience in planning and development services will be a great asset to our City Council, city staff and the business and residential community. We look forward to working with him in the months and years to come.”

Curtis has been a professional planner for 29 years and most

recently served as the Manager of Planning Services for the City of Irvine's Community Development Department. During his tenure with Irvine he has managed and completed many of that city's large projects and was the Redevelopment/Community Development Project Leader for the Great Park and he also held the titles of Principal and Senior Planner.

"As a lifelong resident of Orange County, I'm excited by the challenge and opportunity to bring nearly 30 years of local planning experience to my new role with the City of Costa Mesa," Curtis said. "I look forward to working with the City's highly-regarded, professional staff, decision-makers and residents to implement the goals of a vibrant, world-class city."

Prior to working in Irvine, Curtis served as an Associate Planner for the City of Seal Beach where he provided support to boards and commissions, performed daily oversight of the city's plan review process, assisted building officials and administered the city's CDBG and Code Enforcement programs.

Curtis is well-acquainted with the regional and local issues facing Costa Mesa and has extensive experience in local governance, staff management and development, public participation, conflict management and redevelopment.

Curtis will officially begin his tenure with the City of Costa Mesa on July 5, 2017. He will report to City Manager Hatch.

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# Community Gardens get some Spring Cleaning

Recently more than 20 active gardeners from the Del Mar and Hamilton Community Gardens volunteered their time to clean-up the community garden common areas.

These regularly scheduled opportunities allow the gardeners to share tips and form relationships while sharing their passion for gardening

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# Chargers present Mayor with \$50,000 check for Mobile Recreation Program

Mayor Katrina Foley officially accepted a \$50,000 check last week from the Los Angeles Chargers that will go toward reviving the city's Mobile Recreation Program and help pay for a new vehicle.

"We're thrilled to receive this generous donation to the city," Mayor Foley said. "The Chargers investment in this program is further proof of owner Dean Spanos' vow to be partners with us and have his organization immerse itself in the Costa Mesa community. We look forward to many more great things to come."

The Chargers announced in January that the team would be moving to Los Angeles and then subsequently announced that the team would move its headquarters to the Hive office complex in



Costa Mesa.

In March, the team agreed to enter into a 10-year use agreement with the city to practice at the Jack Hammett Sports Complex during the NFL team's Summer Training Camp. As part of this training camp agreement, the team will provide Costa Mesa with \$150,000 a year to use the site for a potential \$1.5 million over 10 years and also offered to give the \$50,000 to be used for the Mobile Recreation Program.

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## **Man Arrested For Robbery After Pepper Spraying Victim Before Fleeing With Stolen Goods**

Costa Mesa Police Department officers arrested Matthew Chima Udechukwu Tuesday after he met a stranger under the guise of purchasing goods but instead pepper sprayed the victim in the face before fleeing with stolen property.

At about 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, officers responded to a report of a robbery that had just taken place. The 18-year-old male victim was selling a pair of designer shoes that he had advertised on a resale app, and Udechukwu had met with the victim to purchase the shoes. After inspecting the shoes, it is suspected that Udechukwu pepper sprayed the victim in the face, incapacitating him, and fled on foot with the stolen shoes.

Costa Mesa officers quickly connected the suspect to a similar, previous incident that occurred on May 12, 2017. At about 12:48 p.m., officers had responded to the parking lot on the 1700 block of Adams Avenue, to take a report from a 24-year-old male victim, who was selling a backpack.

The suspect in that incident had pepper sprayed the victim in the face before fleeing the scene with the victim's backpack. During the investigation into that first incident, officers identified Udechukwu and obtained a search warrant for the suspect's home, which officers served after the second incident.

At approximately 1 p.m. on Tuesday, officers went to Udechukwu's residence at the 2700 block of Mesa Verde Drive East and established a perimeter and observation of his apartment. Detectives subsequently arrived with the search warrant and after knocking on the door with no response and knowing the suspect was home, entry was forced into the apartment and Udechukwu was taken into custody for two counts of robbery.

All stolen property was recovered during the search.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with additional information or who believes they have been a victim is encouraged to contact Detective Chamness at (714) 754-5197.

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## **Pavement work completed on Bear Street**

The Public Services Department recently finished grinding of old deteriorated pavement and installation of new pavement on

Bear Street between I-405 and the City limits north of Sunflower Avenue.

Prior to the paving operations, various concrete improvements including sidewalk, curb/gutter and wheel chair ramps were reconstructed. Traffic signal loops, final striping and adjustment of utilities will be completed over the next few days. The Bear Street project was approved by the City Council on Jan. 17, 2017, as part of a larger project that includes Bristol Street rehabilitation and median improvement project.

This project is funded by federal grant and Measure M2 revenues.

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## **Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Pierce's hard work and dedication earns him Leadership Award**

City Manager Tom Hatch named Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Pierce the winner of the May City Manager Leadership Award at the monthly Meet and Greet this Thursday May 25.

"Under Jeff's supervision, service levels increased in every area of Public Services," City Manager Hatch said. "That equates to more potholes filled, more catch basins cleaned, more sidewalks ground, more signs installed and more debris removed from the public right of way, making Costa Mesa a safer and more aesthetically pleasing environment for residents and businesses. I want to thank Jeff for his dedication to our residents and the community."

Pierce joined the City of Costa Mesa as a part time general aide in 2006 and became a full-time maintenance worker in January 2007. His hard work and dedication resulted in a promotion to Senior Maintenance Worker in May 2009. As a Senior Maintenance Worker Jeff proved to be a team leader and was an integral part of many projects including the creation and installation of the blue and white street names signs and the downtown area custom signs. His affinity for sign design, attention to detail and creativity made him a perfect fit to be promoted to the position of Sign Technician in July 2010. His work as the City Sign Technician can literally be seen on every street corner.

He was promoted to Maintenance Supervisor in May of 2015.

In addition to honoring Pierce, City Manager Hatch welcomed several new employees to the city, including Anthony Nocerino as a new Video Production Aide for the City Manager's Office, Brontee Stevens, permit processing specialist for Development Services and Christian Valle, recreation leader II in Parks & Community Services.

Also honored were Jenette Martinez, a communications officer with the Police Department and Luis Martinez Mendez, an intern with Public Services.

Five of the 12 new Fire Department recruits were also honored. The recruits are Lucas Anderson, Shant Bartemian, Craig Bates, Kyle Brosamer, Matthew Chavez, Jordan Kiesz, Thomas Foskarino, Maurilio Torres, Angel Ordaz, Kyle Myszka, Bryan McMahon and Nicholas Nihiser.

Hatch also recognized two recent promotions in the Parks & Community Services Department. Laura Gomez has been promoted to Office Specialist and Edgar Rosales to Recreation Specialist.

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# Police cite Bicycle Safety Month as a reason to urge caution for bicycle riders and motorist alike

The Costa Mesa Police Department and the California Office of Traffic Safety request bicycle riders and motorists alike to be cautious during May's National Bicycle Safety Month, and every other month during the year.

For riders and drivers, "Roll Model" means actively decreasing the risks of traffic crashes, preventable injuries and deaths. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that 818 bicyclists died and over 45,000 were injured in crashes in 2015, with deaths rising over 12% from 2014's numbers.

Over the 10-year period from 2006 to 2015, the average age of cyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes increased from 41 to 45. Alcohol involvement – either for the motor vehicle operator or for the cyclist – was reported in 37% of all fatal cyclist crashes in 2015.

Costa Mesa police officers conducted a specialized Bicycle Safety Enforcement Operation on Tuesday May 23, 2017, in an effort to lower deaths and injuries. Extra officers patrolled areas frequented by bicyclists and where bicycle crashes occur.

California has the Move Over Law to share the road requiring motorist to pass bike riders with at least a 3-foot cushion. Support community efforts in your community, be involved in

bicycle safety, whether while riding a bike, or driving a vehicle. Officers will focus on violations observed by both motorist and cyclist.

CMPD reminds everyone – Be A Roll Model:

- Ride and Drive Focused – Never ride or drive distracted.
- Ride and Drive Prepared – Always expect the unexpected.
- Safety First – Always wear a bicycle helmet when on a bicycle and a seat belt when in a vehicle.
- Know the Rules of the Road – A bicyclist is considered a vehicle on the road with all the rights and responsibilities of motorized traffic.
- Share the Road – Both motorist and bicyclist should look out for each other and show mutual respect.

For more information on Bicycle Safety Month [click here](#).