
Parks and Community Services Department Monthly Director Report

Brian Gruner
February 13, 2025



Department Highlights

City of Costa Mesa Names Poet Laureate

- Inaugural poet Danielle Hanson
- Danielle Hanson has a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing with an emphasis in Poetry from Arizona State University, a Master's in Mathematics from ASU and a Bachelor's in Humanities and Mathematics from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- Danielle Hanson to serve as the new Poet Laureate for a two (2) year period from 2025-27.
- She is the author of the following:
 - The Night Is What It Eats (Elixir Press Prize),
 - Fraying Edge of Sky (Codhill Press Poetry Prize),
 - Ambushing Water (Finalist, Georgia Author of the Year)
- She teaches poetry at the University of California, Irvine.
- Scheduled to be introduced at a future council meeting



Department Highlights

- Snoopy House
 - Over 20,000 attended
 - Interactive activities and themed decorations
 - Snow sledding, live entertainment and school performances



- Free Swim Lessons
 - April 14 to May 23
 - Downtown Aquatics Center
 - 45 students
 - 2nd to 6th graders
 - Collaboration w/ NMUSD

FREE AFTER SCHOOL SWIMMING LESSONS
APRIL 14 - MAY 21

FOR 6 WEEKS, YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN SWIMMING FUNDAMENTALS AND WATER SAFETY SKILLS THROUGH 25 MINUTES OF IN-WATER PRACTICE AND 20 MINUTES OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON LAND.

PARENT INFORMATION MEETING
FEBRUARY 28TH 8:30 A.M.
COLLEGE PARK ELEMENTARY
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

LESSON TIMES
MONDAYS 3:30-4:30 PM
WEDNESDAYS 2:30-3:30 PM

RED CROSS LEARN-TO-SWIM
OUR PROGRAM ADHERES TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS LEARN-TO-SWIM CURRICULUM, WHICH FOCUSES ON BUILDING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE IN THE WATER.

FOR STUDENTS 2ND-6TH GRADE

DROWNING IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR CHILDREN AGES 1-4

Department Highlights

- All Department Staff Training
 - February 1
 - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - Customer Service and City Protocols and Procedures main topics
- Recreation Supervisor - Tiana Asmine
 - Received the City Manager Leadership Award
 - Re-branded the “Spotlight”



Department Highlights

- Camp Costa Mesa | Winter

- K - 6th grade camp held at Balearic Community Center during Newport-Mesa Unified School District recess
- Excursions: Triangle Cinema, Seascope Kids Fun, Skating Rink and John's Incredible Pizza



- Teen Camp | Winter

- 7th - 10th grade held at the Downtown Recreation Center during Newport-Mesa Unified School District recess
- Excursions: Fun Zone Boat Company, Boomers, John's Incredible Pizza, and Laserland



Department Highlights

- Costa Mesa Tennis Center
 - Implementation of court management software



- Golf
 - Safety netting at Joann Street
 - Course condition(s)



Fairview Park Update

- Fairview Park Master Plan
 - 1st Study Session held January 28
 - Presented by MIG and Qlogic
 - Provided a broad overview of Fairview Park
 - Received over 50 public comments
 - 2nd Study Session tentatively in March
 - Mesa Restoration Project
 - Awaiting California Fish and Wildlife Take Permit
 - Nesting Season
 - Late February to September



Community Outreach

- Skatepark
 - Davis Magnet School
 - Wednesday, March 12
 - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Pickleball
 - Balearic Community Center
 - Tuesday, March 25
 - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Bike Safety Days
 - Inglesia Harbor Church
 - Saturday, March 8
 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 - Harbor Trinity Church
 - Saturday, April 5
 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 - Tewinkle Parking Lot (Adjacent to Playground)
 - Saturday, May 10
 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Costa Mesa Senior Center

- Senior Social Services
 - Year round no cost mental health service to seniors (ages 50 and older)
 - For more information, visit the Senior Center or call (714) 327-7550



Upcoming Programs and Events

- Spring Fest
 - Saturday, April 19 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 - Lions Park Event Lawn
- Color Rush | Teen Event
 - Saturday, March 15 | 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
 - Downtown Recreation Center
- Safe Splash Bash
 - Saturday, May 17 | 2:00 PM
 - Downtown Aquatic Center
 - May = Water Safety Month
 - Water Safety Workshop
 - CPR and First Aid Basics
 - Safety Demos
 - Lifesaving Water Skills

Parks
Make
Life
Better!®