

March 2019

Shelter success



Anaheim has opened its third homeless shelter in 70 days — an astonishing accomplishment that has allowed us to help those in need while restoring our parks and other public spaces.

We completed the buildout of La Mesa Emergency Shelter in late February with the first residents moving in this week.

The shelter, built in just 47 days in an industrial area of east Anaheim, offers beds and services to 102 people living in homelessness in Anaheim.

La Mesa, run by Orange-based Illumination Foundation, is the third shelter we've opened since December.

We first opened the Interim Emergency Shelter on State College Boulevard, followed by The Salvation Army's Anaheim Emergency Shelter in late January.

The 200-bed interim shelter, built to operate for a short time during rainy, cold winter weather, is now winding down.

Our shelters have proven to be good neighbors, thanks to strict security oversight by Anaheim Police and solid operation by Illumination Foundation and The Salvation Army.

They have allowed us to compassionately clear encampments across Anaheim, including at Maxwell, Schweitzer and La Palma parks.

The encampments had severe impacts on our parks, schools, libraries, neighborhoods and businesses.

We continue daily outreach to help those still living in homelessness in Anaheim.

You can learn more at Anaheim.net/ShelterPlan.

Angels update



There's been a lot of baseball to talk about, from Bryce Harper's record deal with the Philadelphia Phillies to a potential Mike Trout contract extension right here in Anaheim.

You might also have heard that the city of Long Beach has made an overture to the Angels about relocating the team there.

We're not surprised another city would try to lure the Angels — having a Major League Baseball franchise is a big benefit to any city, and that's the case here in Anaheim.

We are confident Anaheim is the best place for the Angels. The team has called the Big A home for 53 years.

In that time, we've seen a 2002 World Series win, epic Nolan Ryan no-hitters and the 2012 All-Star Game, among other highlights.

The Big A is also the only home field Trout — the greatest player in the game today — has ever known.

Here in Anaheim, the Angels are part of an exclusive club as one of only seven teams to draw 3 million or more fans to home games in 2018.

That puts the team in the same league as the Los Angeles Dodgers, New York Yankees and Chicago Cubs.

Earlier this year, we granted a one-year extension to our agreement with the team. That keeps them here through 2020 and gives us the time to work out the details and craft a long-term lease agreement that benefits our residents and the city.

We have some work ahead of us, but we have a path forward and are confident about the future of baseball here.

Others can aspire to luring a team, but Anaheim already is a proven sports city that works.

In the next few months, we'll be doing some homework and meeting with the Angels about the future.

Stay tuned. You can learn more at Anaheim.net/BigA.

Healthy living, comic fun



The best in natural, healthy eating and living is on display this week as Natural Products Expo West returns to the Anaheim Convention Center.

The show, which draws more than 80,000 attendees looking to see the latest in natural food and health products, is one of the largest shows our convention center hosts each year.

Natural Products Expo West runs from Wednesday through Saturday, March 6-10.

The show grows each year, and we've grown with it.

Like other shows, Natural Products Expo West is taking advantage of ACC North, a 200,000-square-foot addition that opened in late 2017.

Later this month, we welcome all things comics, science fiction and movies as WonderCon returns March 29-31.

The show, which draws about 60,000 attendees, is one of the most colorful hosted by Anaheim Convention Center, with movie-quality super hero and other character costumes.

Natural Products Expo West and WonderCon bring a lot of cool attention to our city. But that's only part of it.

The money Anaheim receives from convention attendees that stay in our hotels and shop and dine in our city goes straight to the things that touch our residents' daily lives.

Think community centers that support working families, libraries that support education for kids, parks for sports and family events and police and firefighters in our times of need.

So welcome and thanks to Natural Products Expo West and WonderCon!

Anacon comes to library



Comic book lovers rejoice!

AnaCon is back for its third year at Anaheim Central Library on March 16. It's the annual gathering of science fiction and comic book authors, creators and enthusiasts.

There will be panel discussions, workshops and speakers sharing insights on science fiction fandom, including droid builder Mike Senna and Game of Thrones Dothraki language creator David J. Peterson.

There will also be tons of activities for the kids, including a light saber demo, face painting, slime making and a postcard station to send mail to Harry Potter's Hogwarts.

And don't forget delicious offerings from Anaheim-based Chicana Vegana, serving Mexican-American vegan cuisine, and a beer garden by Unsung Brewing Company.

AnaCon is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 16 at Anaheim Central Library, 500 W. Broadway. Admission is free.

- What: AnaCon
- When: March 16, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Where: Central Library, 500 W. Broadway
- Info: Anaheim.net/anacon

Best read in town



The latest edition of Anaheim magazine, your very own city magazine, is out with another in-depth look at what's going on in our community.

The cover story highlights The Salvation Army's proposed Center of Hope, a comprehensive homeless care facility that is Anaheim's long-term answer to addressing homelessness.

Center of Hope would be built and run by The Salvation Army, which has a long history of helping those in need.

The 155,000-square-foot facility is planned to replace two homeless shelters we just opened in industrial parts of Anaheim.

The shelters and Center of Hope allow us to address the impacts of homelessness on our parks, neighborhoods and businesses.

The latest edition of the magazine also looks at Anaheim's ongoing coyote management plan, an issue we know is a top concern for pet owners across the city.

We also celebrate the first full year of ACC North, the 200,000-square-foot expansion of the Anaheim Convention Center that opened in late 2017.

ACC North has hosted some cool shows, but, more importantly, has brought in new revenue we use for public safety and community services.

Finally, the magazine includes a recap of our gains in addressing homelessness and a list of upcoming events in the community and at Honda Center, City National Grove of Anaheim and the Anaheim Convention Center.

So look for your copy of Anaheim magazine in the mail. You can also find the magazine on line at Anaheim.net/magazine.

Compost giveaway



Are you eager to get outside and get your hands dirty in the garden, just in time for spring?

We're right there with you, and we have something to help you get started.

This Saturday, we're hosting a free compost giveaway.

It's our annual event where we show you what a difference it makes when you recycle your yard waste.

The compost we're giving away was made using the yard waste we collect from Anaheim homes. It's our way of showing you how we are doing our part to recycle.

So join us this Saturday, March 9, from 7 to 10 a.m. at Honda Center. We'll be set up in the parking lot between Douglass Road and the Orange (57) Freeway.

Just bring proof of Anaheim residency, such as your driver's license or Anaheim Public Utilities bill.

Anaheim residents can get up to 60 gallons of compost per household, while supplies last. Don't forget to bring containers or buckets to haul away your plant-loving compost.

And if you're interested in starting your own composting project, we'll also have bins and kitchen collector buckets available for purchase onsite.

Questions? Call (714) 238-2444 or visit Anaheim.net/recycle.

See your art on Anaheim water



Hey, Anaheim students! Want to see your art featured on Anaheim water bottles?

Anaheim Public Utilities is calling on students in first through 12th grade to submit their designs for the 29th annual Student Poster Contest.

Art should be around the theme of Water Awareness Month, promoting water conservation in our community. This year's theme is "Water is Life."

Two overall winners get to see their design featured on Anaheim water bottles at City Hall and other city facilities and events. Plus, winners from each grade level will receive a trophy at the May 2 Angels Baseball pregame ceremony.

Mail or hand deliver your poster design to Anaheim Public Utilities at 201 S. Anaheim Blvd. by Friday, April 5.

More information and contest rules at Anaheim.net/utilities.

See the latest version of Andy's Updates at Anaheim.net/newsletter.