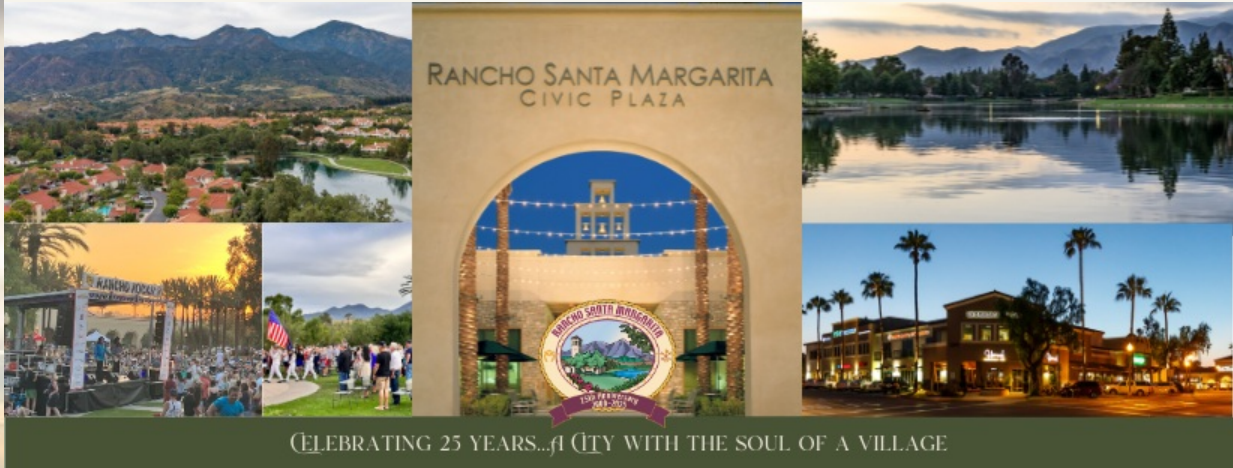


February 2025



City Manager's Message

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita is proud to contract with the City of Mission Viejo for animal care and control services. Their no-kill shelter, stellar customer service, and excellent response times ensure the best care for the City's four-legged residents. This month's newsletter includes the 2025 vaccination clinic schedule hosted by Mission Viejo Animal Services and available to residents of Rancho Santa Margarita. In addition, low-cost pet care clinics are held monthly at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center in partnership with the Healthcare & Emergency Animal Rescue Team (HEART), a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Cervantez



Orange County Sheriff's Department Crime Prevention

Stay informed and connected by following RSM Police Services on your favorite social media platform!

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Emma Peters at (949) 635-1830 or email RSMCrimePrevention@ocsheriff.gov.

Emergency 9-1-1
Non-Emergency (949) 770-6011

For more information, visit Police Services on the City of RSM website at www.cityofrsm.org or visit ocsheriff.gov/StaySafeOC.

Follow us on our socials!

Following Rancho Santa Margarita Police Services on social media is an excellent way for residents to stay informed and connected with their community. By following our accounts, you'll receive timely updates on local safety tips, crime prevention strategies, community events, and emergency alerts. Our goal is to keep you informed, engaged, and empowered to play an active role in maintaining a secure and thriving community. Stay connected, stay safe, and stay involved—**follow us today!**

Directions: Open your phone's camera app, point it at the QR code, and tap the link that appears on the screen.

Instagram



Facebook



SCAN ME!



Twitter

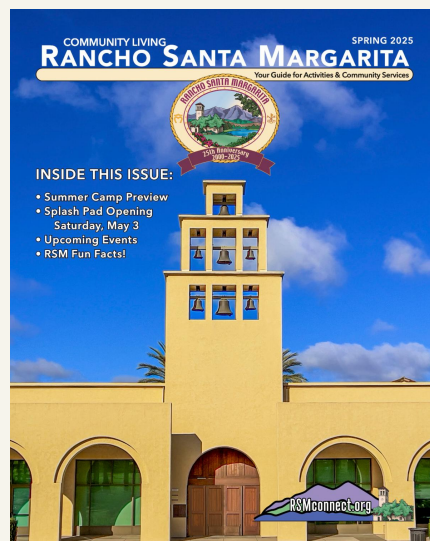


Community Services

Classes, Camps, and more at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita offers a variety of recreational programs and classes at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center. Prior registration is required.

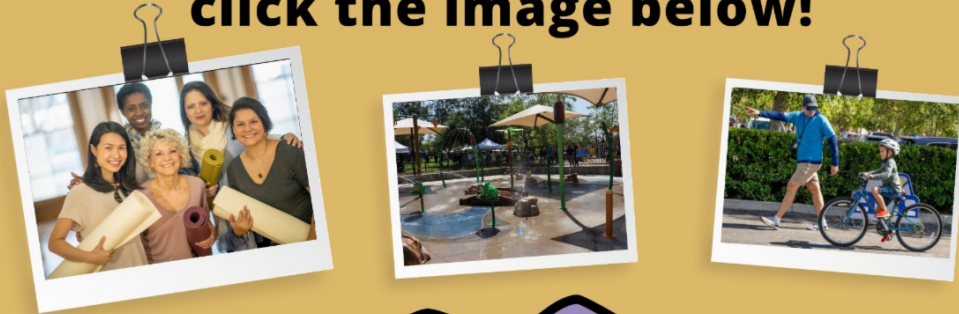
Our Community Living Magazine features upcoming events, family activities, community resources, classes, art programs, workshops,



and more!

Visit [RSMConnect](https://RSMConnect.org) to browse all offerings and access our online registration module.

**To view our full listing of Programs,
Activities, and Events,
click the image below!**





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CAPISTRANO VALLEY



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

WHEN SCHOOL'S OUT, CLUBS ARE IN

OUR PROGRAMS

- ✓ STEM
- ✓ EDUCATION
- ✓ FINE ARTS
- ✓ MIDDLE SCHOOL & TEEN PROGRAMS
- ✓ ATHLETICS
- ✓ SOCIAL RECREATION
- ✓ INDIVIDUAL TUTORING
- ✓ TEEN WORKFORCE READINESS

The Club and all Day Camp days are **FREE** for ELOP families.

ENROLL NOW



SCAN HERE

INFORMATION & ENROLLMENT: [BGCCAPO.COM](https://www.bgccapo.com)

CONTACT US:

949 - 709 - 7595 | jwhite@bgccapo.com



Facility Rentals

Start your rental process today!
To submit a Facility Use Inquiry,
click the image below.

Note: Community Services staff will contact you shortly after reviewing your Facility Use Inquiry.
For more information, email FacilityRentals@cityofrsm.org.



Community Services **Age Well Senior Services**

Meals on Wheels (Ages 60+)

Meals on Wheels provides nutritious daily meals for seniors ages 60+ who cannot shop or prepare meals for themselves. Deliveries run Monday through Friday and include one breakfast, one hot lunch, and one frozen dinner.

Congregate Lunch at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center (Ages 60+)

Age Well Senior Services is proud to host their Congregate Lunch program on weekdays at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center. Meals are catered by Zest in a Bowl and feature Italian, Mediterranean, Western, and Asian cuisines, including meats or fish, healthy vegetables, salads, delicious soups, and dessert or fruit.

All [congregate lunch menu](#) meals are low sodium and supportive of a diabetic diet. There is a suggested contribution of \$5.50, although no one eligible for the program will be turned away for inability to pay. The program offers participants an opportunity to enjoy a hot or cold meal while socializing with friends Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Senior Pet Pantry (Ages 60+)

Pets are family, too! Meals on Wheels and Congregate Lunch participants can request cat or dog food for their furry friends. For details or to sign up, please contact Age Well Senior Services at (949) 709-7592 or visit myagewell.org.

Age Well®
Orange County's partner in aging

Provides services that promote health and well-being for seniors.

Opportunities Include:

- ✓ Senior Recreation Activities
- ✓ Special Events
- ✓ Meals on Wheels Program
- ✓ Informative Guest Speakers
- ✓ Congregate Lunches (60+)*

For activity flyers and more information about senior programs, contact Age Well Senior Services, or visit rsmconnect.org or the Bell Tower Regional Community Center at 22232 El Paseo, RSM

CONTACT US ↓

Phone: (949) 709-7592
Email: rsmc1@myagewell.com

*Monthly Lunch Menu can also be found at cityofrsm.org and in the City's monthly newsletter.

Age Well Senior Services

Bell Tower Regional Community Center

22232 El Paseo, RSM 92688

(949) 709-7592

Congregate Lunch Menu

South Orange County		February 2025 Menu		Age Well	
MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
BEEF CHILI Roasted Potatoes Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk		CHICKEN WALDORF CROSSANT Garden of Broccoli Soup Garden of Broccoli Soup Milk		ITALIAN BEEF MEATBALL SUB SANDWICH Tuscan Bean Soup Orange Apple Sauce Milk	
CHICKEN FAJITAS w/ LIME SALSA Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk		BEEF BOURGUIGNON Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk		CHICKEN CACCIAOTORE Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk	
CLOSED		SESAME CHICKEN Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk		LEMON HERB CHICKEN Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk	
CHICKEN KEBAB Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk		CHICKEN BANH MI SANDWICH Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk		TUSCAN SALMON Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk	
SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION: 60 YRS OR OLDER \$5.50 COST: 59 YEARS OR YOUNGER \$7.50 These amounts are suggested & may be paid by cash or by check. You can RSVP expression of interest at 949-709-7592 or by calling 949-709-7592. For special requests or more information, please contact the program manager at 949-709-7592. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to provide a safe, secure, and healthy environment for all.		CHICKEN TARRAGON Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk		CHICKEN TARRAGON Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk	

Meals on Wheels Menu

Age Well		Home Delivered Menu	
MONDAY		TUESDAY	
WHITE BEAN CHICKEN CHILI Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk		BEEF STEAK AND GRAVY Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk	
CHICKEN FAJITAS w/ LIME SALSA Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk		CHICKEN CACCIAOTORE Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk	
CLOSED		CHICKEN TARRAGON Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk	
CHICKEN KEBAB Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk		CHICKEN BANH MI SANDWICH Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk	
SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION: 60 YRS OR OLDER \$5.50 COST: 59 YEARS OR YOUNGER \$7.50 These amounts are suggested & may be paid by cash or by check. You can RSVP expression of interest at 949-709-7592 or by calling 949-709-7592. For special requests or more information, please contact the program manager at 949-709-7592. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to provide a safe, secure, and healthy environment for all.		CHICKEN TARRAGON Garden of Broccoli Soup Rainbow Salad Whole Roll Cantaloupe Milk	

February Activity Calendar

February 2025		Activities for Seniors 60+		Age Well	
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday	
10:00 Total Body Fitness Video 12:00 Bell Tower Lunch 60+ 12:45 BINGO		9:30 Bocce Ball 10:00 Tai Chi with Video 12:00 Bell Tower Lunch 60+ 12:45 Coffee & Conversation 1:00 Blood Pressure Clinic 12:00 Mahjong (Drop-In)		12:00 Bell Tower Lunch 60+ Lunch with the Law 1:00 Chess Club	
10:00 Total Body Fitness Video 10:00 Valentine Card Making with Stamps 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 12:00 Bell Tower Lunch 60+ 12:45 BINGO		9:30 Bocce Ball 10:00 Tai Chi Video 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 12:00 Bell Tower Lunch 60+ 12:45 Mahjong (Drop-In)		10:00 Medicare Donuts DoNot Stress about Medicare Michael Lemus M.D. Medicare Plan 12:00 Bell Tower Lunch 60+ 1:00 Chess Club	
10:00 Total Body Fitness Video 12:00 Bell Tower Lunch 60+ 12:45 BINGO		9:30 Bocce Ball 10:00 Tai Chi Video 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 12:00 Bell Tower Lunch 60+ 12:45 Mahjong (Drop-In)		10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 11:00 Hula Dancing w/ Laura 12:00 Coffee & Conversation 12:00 Bell Tower Lunch 60+ 12:45 Mahjong 12:45 Gentle Yoga with Jeanette	
10:00 Total Body Fitness Video 12:00 Bell Tower Lunch 60+ 12:45 BINGO		9:30 Bocce Ball 10:00 Tai Chi Video 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 12:00 Bell Tower Lunch 60+ 12:45 Mahjong (Drop-In)		10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 11:00 Hula Dancing w/ Laura 12:00 Coffee & Conversation 12:00 Bell Tower Lunch 60+ 12:45 Mahjong 12:45 Gentle Yoga with Jeanette	
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Age Well
Orange County's partner in aging

PETS ARE FAMILY, TOO

Meals on Wheels Clients Qualify for pet food assistance.



Learn more at myagewell.org

SAVE THE DATE!

E-Waste Disposal & Document Shredding



WHEN:

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025
8:00 A.M. - NOON

WHERE:

Applied Medical's R100
parking lot - enter from Comercio
29977 Avenida de Las Banderas
RSM 92688



Electronic Waste

- Monitors
- Televisions
- Mouse/Keyboards
- LCD Monitors
- Cables & Cords
- Computers
- Printers/Hard Drives
- Shredders
- Cell Phones
- Power Supplies
- Telephones
- Laptops
- Servers
- DVDs/VCRs
- Copiers/Fax Machines
- Computer peripherals

**No sharps, appliances,
batteries, smoke detectors, or
fluorescent tubes accepted.**



For more information:

email: ahowhannesian@cityofrsm.org

call: (949) 635-1800 x6503

cityofrsm.org

Document Shredding

**Help the environment and protect
yourself from identity theft!**

Please bring your paper records or documents
in a standard-size file box (no larger than 10" x
12" x 15") or paper grocery bag; shredding
trucks will be on-site to shred documents at no
cost while you watch. (No 3-ring
binders/binder clips). **Limit ten (10) boxes per
household/business.**



Public Works

Recycle From Home!

Recycle From Home™ picks up and pays residents for their recyclable cans and bottles! Inspired by 13-year-old recycling superstar Ryan Hickman, this program makes it incredibly easy for Rancho Santa Margarita residents to recycle right from their driveway or doorstep! No more loading up the car with boxes or bags of cans and bottles in search of a redemption center. Collection bags and QR code tracking labels are provided to sort your CA CRV aluminum cans, plastic, and glass bottles.

Recycle From Home schedules drivers to collect your recyclables at your chosen time, ensuring that your items are recycled within 24 hours of your pick-up time. Your recycled items are weighed, and redemption is calculated based on current CA CRV rates. Your payment is then sent to you through Paypal, Venmo, or as a mailed check.

Schedule a pick-up online, put your items out for collection, and Recycle From Home™ will handle the rest.

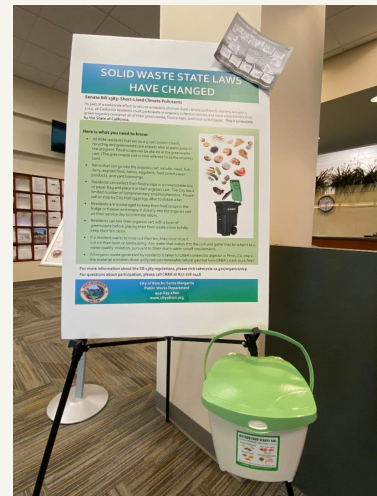
For more information or to register, visit www.RecycleFromHome.com or download the Recycle From Home mobile app.



Public Works - Waste Management Organic Waste Bins available for RSM Residents

The City has a limited number of complimentary small kitchen bins available for pickup at City Hall during regular business hours. The pails, purchased with CalRecycle grant funds, are designed to assist residents in minimizing waste that goes into landfills.

Residents can stop by City Hall and pick up a free countertop organic waste pail to separate organic waste (such as food waste) from other trash and non-organic recyclables under the Organics Collection Program mandated by the State of California's SB 1383.



SB 1383 was signed into law in September 2016 by Governor Brown. It established methane emissions reduction targets statewide to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants in various sectors of California's economy. SB 1383 also establishes targets to achieve a 75% reduction in statewide disposal of organic waste by 2025.

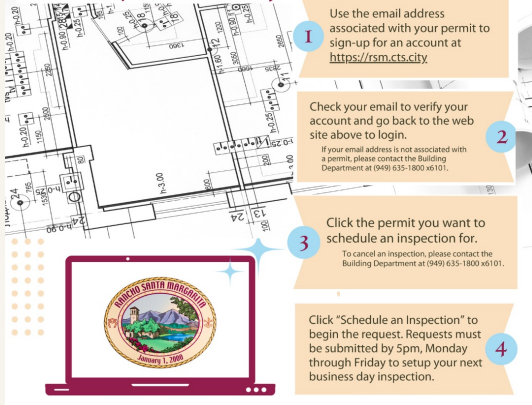
Please call Public Works for more information at (949) 635-1800.

Development Services Online Inspection Requests

Recent upgrades to the City's permit processing system now include an online customer portal for plan submittals and inspection requests.

REQUEST BUILDING INSPECTIONS ONLINE

<https://rsm.cts.city>



We are currently accepting solar project applications online and will soon expand the program to accept all types of building permit applications.

Online inspection requests are currently available for all project types [here](#).

Animal Services News and Events

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita is proud to contract with the City of Mission Viejo for animal care and control services. Their pro-humane shelter, coupled with stellar customer service and exemplary response times, ensures the best possible care for our City's furry residents.

All dogs over the age of four (4) months in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita are required to have and wear a current license tag. Cat licenses are recommended but not required by law. If your pet is lost, its license and proof of rabies vaccination could be vital in ensuring a safe return home.



Mission Viejo Animal Services Drive-Through Pet Vaccine Clinics

Low-cost Vaccination/Microchip Clinics are available for residents of Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo, Laguna Hills, and Rancho Santa Margarita.

2025 Dates

Saturday, March 15th
Saturday, May 10th
Saturday, August 2nd
Saturday, October 25th

Clinics are held from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., weather permitting, at Mission Viejo Animal Services Center, 28095 Hillcrest, Mission Viejo, CA 92692



Visit cmvas.org or call (949) 470-3045 for information about convenient online pet licensing, volunteer opportunities, clinics and pricing, and pet adoptions.

Low-Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Healthcare & Emergency Animal Rescue Team (HEART) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to saving lives and improving pet and wild animal health, safety, and welfare.

Pet care clinics are held on the first Wednesday of each month on an appointment-only basis. Clinics are hosted by the City of Rancho Santa Margarita in the Bell Tower Regional Community Center. View the clinic flyer [here](#).

To schedule an appointment, please visit their website by clicking this link: Heart4Pets.org.



LOW-COST MOBILE PET VACCINE CLINICS

BELL TOWER REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER
22232 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita

HEART, in partnership with the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, brings these services to your community!

First WEDNESDAY of every month
(2024) (Some dates may vary)

APPOINTMENTS ONLY

Appointments are limited. Scheduling as far in advance as possible is strongly recommended. Please be courteous and notify us in advance if you are not able to keep your appointment.

To schedule an appointment: HEART4PETS.ORG

See Reverse Side or Next Page for our CLINIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS.

- ♦ Pets must be healthy in order to be vaccinated.
- ♦ If your pet has ever received any vaccines, please bring prior vaccine records with you.
- ♦ If proof is not provided that your pet is current on its Rabies vaccine, a Rabies vaccine will be administered at the clinic and pet owner is responsible to pay the vaccination fee.
- ♦ All dogs must be on appropriate collars & leashes; all cats must be in secured pet carriers (no cardboard).
- ♦ Please do not attend our clinic if you or your pet are experiencing any signs of illness. You will not receive services.

DOG VACCINES

RABIES (Thimerosal-free 1 or 3 yr)	\$10	•	DHPP	\$28	•	ORAL BORDETELLA	\$25
H3N2 w/H3N8 Bivalent Influenza	\$38	•	LYME	\$25	•	LEPTOSPIROSIS	\$27

CAT VACCINES

RABIES (Purevax 1-yr)	\$27	•	RABIES (Purevax 3-yr)	\$70	•	FVRCP	\$26	•	FeLV	\$35
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OTHER SERVICES

MICROCHIP (w / lifetime enrollment)	\$35	•	NAIL TRIM	\$20	•	ANAL GLAND EXPRESSION	\$20	•	FECAL TEST	\$38
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INTERNAL & EXTERNAL PARASITE PREVENTATIVE & TREATMENT (Ask Cashier for current pricing)

\$20 Military Discount per pet per visit. All active U.S. Military & Veterans are eligible. ID required.
(This special discount is offered while funding allows - may close without prior notice).

- ♦ \$22 exam & haz mat fee is charged for each pet, however, a \$10 discount will be applied at each consecutive month's visit for pets receiving a 2 or 3-part vaccine series. Owner must present HEART's yellow vaccine certificate from the prior month at the time of the follow-up appointment to receive the discount. This offer cannot be combined with the Military Discount.
- ♦ Products are subject to availability of stock on hand. Product & service prices may change; however, they will remain locked-in at the time your appointment is made.



www.Heart4Pets.org heart4petsappointments@gmail.com 714-993-9193



Low-Cost Dog & Cat Vaccination Clinic Monthly, First Wednesday



Bell Tower Regional Community Center Parking Lot

Reservations Required

heart4pets.org

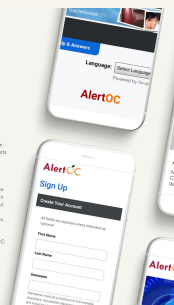




**SIGN UP
TODAY!**

AlertOC

AlertOC is a free mass notification system designed to keep Orange County residents and businesses informed during emergencies by providing real-time information to affected communities. By registering with AlertOC, time-sensitive voice messages from the County or City in which you live or work may be sent to your home, cell, or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones. AlertOC can send text messages to email accounts and TTY devices as well. AlertOC is operated by the County of Orange in collaboration with local cities.



Emergency Management

Alert OC Emergency Notification System

AlertOC is a mass notification system that keeps Orange County residents and businesses informed of emergencies that may require immediate life-saving actions.

By registering with AlertOC, time-sensitive voice messages from the county or city you live or work in may be sent to your home, cell, or business phone. You can also register to enable text messages on cell phones. AlertOC is also equipped to send alerts to email accounts and TTY devices.

If you have already registered for AlertOC, please log in periodically to see a summary of your information and ensure it's up-to-date. The system uses your selections and information to reach you in the event of an emergency, including evacuation orders.

www.AlertOC.org

CITY of RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

AlertOC

STAY INFORMED

1

Sign up to receive:

Evacuation Notices

Public Safety Emergencies

Disaster Notifications

Text ALERTOC to 888777

Learn more at www.alertoc.org

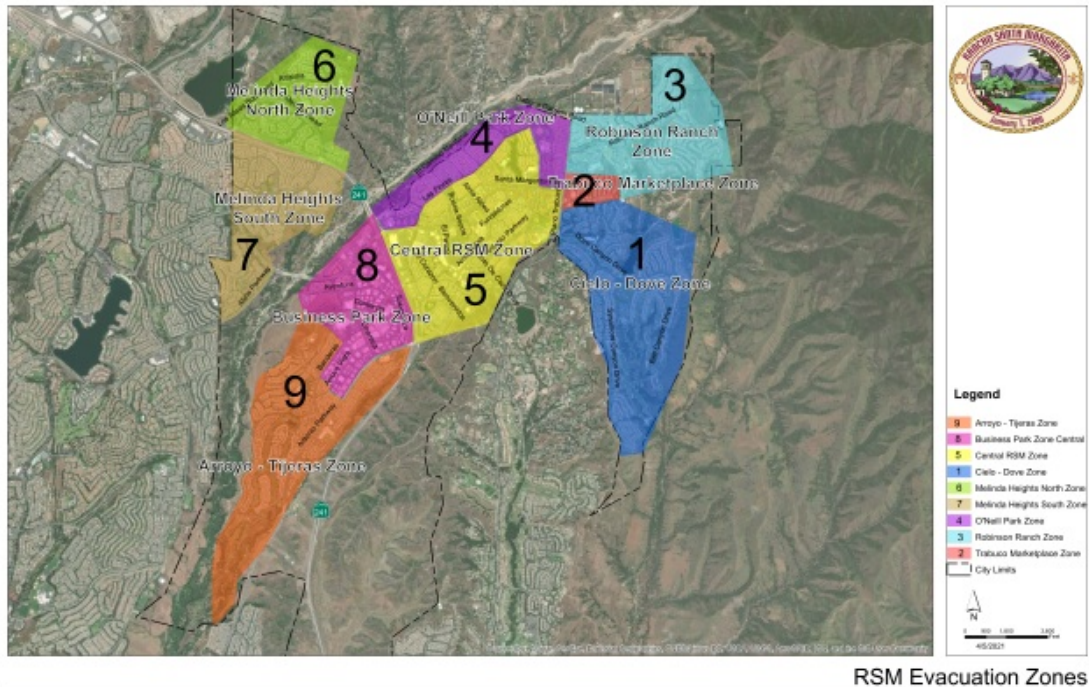
Emergency Management

Know your Evacuation Zone

Wildfires are unpredictable. Strong winds can change a fire's direction and strength instantly, making it impossible for law enforcement to carry out evacuation orders or make door-to-door announcements.

Public safety and City officials will send official evacuation notifications and information during an emergency through **AlertOC**. Please ensure you and your loved ones are registered to receive critical information via text, email, or telephone.

Residents in neighborhoods near high-risk fire areas are encouraged to be ready for wildfires by practicing fire safety. Ready, Set, Go! gives you the tools to protect yourself, your family, and your property from wildfires. Firefighters train hard to prepare for wildfires—residents must do the same!



For more information on preparing for wildfires, visit the Orange County Fire Authority's Ready, Set, Go! Safety program at ocfa.org.

ZeroTrash RSM First Saturday, Monthly

ZeroTrash is an all-volunteer community organization dedicated to ridding city streets and wilderness areas of trash, reducing waste, supporting local businesses, and taking personal responsibility for the community and the environment! It is also a great opportunity for high school students to earn the community service hours they need for graduation.

ZeroTrash meets on the first Saturday of every month in the courtyard across from City Hall and beautifies our community from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. All are welcome to join in and help Pick It Up.

For more information, visit [ZeroTrash RSM on Facebook](#) or email Brad McGirr at bmcgirr@cityofrsm.org, or check out this [short video](#) to learn more about the program.



Orange County Fire Authority

OCFA's online [Home Assessment tool](#) covers the basics of both Home Hardening and Defensible Space principles. You will be guided through a series of questions about your home and its surroundings. At the end, you will be given the opportunity to receive an emailed report that will provide recommendations for fire hazard mitigation strategies.



Reducing home ignitions and wildfire losses requires a proactive team of residents, fire agencies, and other community members. Thank you for taking the first steps to make your home, your family, and your community safer and better prepared for the next wildland fire event!

For more information or help with the Home Assessment tool, please call (714) 573-6774 or email RSGOC@ocfa.org.

Learn more at ocfa.org.



Passport Acceptance Facility

Non-renewal Applications By Appointment Only

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Thursdays - 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.
Rancho Santa Margarita City Hall



To Schedule an Appointment:
<https://cityofrsmpassport.youcanbook.me/>

The City's Passport Acceptance Office accepts your passport application and forwards all forms and documents to the United States Department of State for processing. ***With families preparing for the 2025 travel season, please note that our appointment calendar is regularly booked three to four weeks in advance.***

To help increase the efficiency and convenience of booking passport appointments, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita now offers an online scheduling program connected to the Passport Acceptance Facility's calendar for scheduling future appointments.

With online scheduling, applicants can utilize the booking link on the City website's passport page and make an appointment at their convenience. Reminder and confirmation emails/SMS messages will also be sent before the selected appointment date and time.

Visit travel.state.gov to learn the requirements and procedures for obtaining a passport. Additional information is available on our [website](#).

Renewals are not processed at this facility and are accepted by the State Department via mail or using their online passport renewal system. Please visit travel.state.gov to determine if you qualify.

Current Processing Times
Routine Service - 3 to 4 weeks
Expedited Service - 2 to 3 weeks

For more information, please visit cityofrsm.org.

City of Rancho Santa Margarita
Authorized U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility

Monday - Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Thursday Noon – 5:00 p.m.

By Appointment Only - Please Book Here:

<https://cityofrsmpassport.youcanbook.me>

Renewals Are NOT Processed At This Facility

If you are renewing a passport that was issued less than 15 years ago and you were at least 16 years of age when the passport was issued, you **MUST** renew by mail. Use Form DS-82 and follow the instructions. If you do not meet these qualifications, you must complete a first-time passport application, Form DS-11, apply in person, and present the required documentation. To book a passport appointment, please use the link above or the Passport Services button on the home page at cityofrsm.org. For additional information, call (949) 635-1819. Voicemails regarding any remaining questions will be returned within 2 business days.



travel.state.gov
cityofrsm.org



RSM Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the RSM Chamber of Commerce is to promote and enhance the business community of Rancho Santa Margarita by assisting our members through Joining, Connecting, and Growing a vibrant local economy.

From monthly mixers, advertising, event sponsorship, and exhibition opportunities, the benefits of joining the Chamber include advocacy for local, regional, and state business interests and referrals from Chamber staff and volunteers.

Learn more at www.rsmchamber.org.

MIX | MINGLE | MOTIVATE



2025 FEBRUARY 6
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Kick off the year at
MIX | MINGLE | MOTIVATE!

Connect with local professionals, share ideas, and uncover opportunities to grow your business. Let's set the tone for a successful year—see you there!

\$20

CELINDA'S
MEXICAN RESTAURANT
29870 SANTA MARGARITA PKWY



Business Connection First and Third Tuesdays, Monthly

Join RSM Chamber Business Connection Meetings for invaluable networking opportunities. Build relationships, share insights, and drive your business forward with the support of fellow chamber members.

RSM Chamber meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the large conference room at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center.

This is a free event for chamber members; non-members are welcome for one guest visit.

Register at rsmchamber.org.

NOTE: WE ARE BACK AT RSM BELL TOWER!

RSM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS CONNECTION *Meeting*

JOIN US FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT
& NETWORK WITH FELLOW CHAMBER MEMBERS



FIRST & THIRD TUESDAYS
8:30am to 9:30am



BELL TOWER REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER
22232 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
(LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM)



FREE EVENT FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS • NON-MEMBERS ALLOWED ONE GUEST VISIT
MEETING QUESTIONS: SAMIRA HURD (949)468-7929

RSM CARES
Bell Tower Foundation



Food Pantry Monthly, First and Third Wednesday

The RSM Cares Food Pantry is open on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. All are welcome; no prequalification is required. Drive through to obtain a box of groceries for yourself, your family, or a neighbor in need!

Located in the parking lot of Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 30605 Avenida de Las Flores, the pantry is supported solely by donations from generous private donors, local churches, and businesses. RSM Cares serves more than 500 families at their pantry distribution site twice each month. Anyone who stands in line receives food with no questions asked. Everyone is welcome. Individuals will receive fresh fruits and vegetables, non-perishable canned goods, and more.

Email rsmdcares@belltowerfoundation.org for more information or to volunteer.



RSM Cares Food Pantry

2:00 - 4:30 PM

30605 Avenida de las Flores
Rancho Santa Margarita, 92688

Visit rsmcares.org
to donate! ❤️



RSM Arts Program Monthly Exhibits at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center

The RSM Arts Program is an initiative of RSM Cares that inspires creativity through visual arts, dance, and music. Talented local artists and students exhibit their work monthly in the Bell Tower Regional Community Center lobby on weekdays, excluding holidays.

Follow [@rsm_cares_art_gallery](https://www.instagram.com/rsm_cares_art_gallery) on Instagram!

More information at rsmcares.org.

Art Exhibition

RSM CARES
Bell Tower Foundation



Jungyan Yu
Class of '23

Featured Artists:



SANTA MARGARITA
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Exhibit Dates

February - March

Open Mon-Fri from 8am - 5pm

Location

RSM Bell Tower

22232 El Paseo, RSM, CA 92688

@rsm_cares_art_gallery
@rsmcares

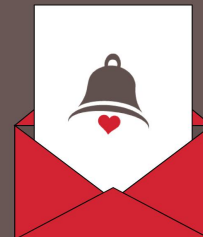
RSMCares@belltowerfoundation.org

(949) 933-6001

RSM Cares

RSM Cares seeks to enrich the quality of life for residents of Rancho Santa Margarita by inspiring local philanthropy, engaging stakeholders in community service, and embracing the local nonprofit network through collaborative partnerships.

SUBSCRIBE to our
newsletter



MONTHLY UPDATES
RSM Cares

Rancho Santa Margarita Branch

An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. In the foreground, there are large, mature trees and a white car parked on a street. The middle ground shows several houses with brown roofs and green lawns, interspersed with more trees. In the background, a large, dark hill or mountain rises against a sky filled with soft, grey clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and typical of a quiet residential area.

- Mosquitoes
- Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA)
- Rats

- Mosquito Fish Drop-off
Submit a service request [here](#) to OCMVCD.

Check your yard periodically for standing water to ensure you stop mosquitoes in their tracks!

Visit ocvector.org for more vector safety and prevention tips.



Rats

Vehicle Damage?
During the colder months, rats often shelter in vehicle engine bays causing havoc. To protect your vehicle, avoid parking near dense vegetation or trashcans. Keep your property clutter-free, maintain your yard, harvest all fruit, and park in the garage if possible.

OCVECTOR.ORG

The image shows a close-up of a vehicle's engine bay. A red circle highlights a dark, irregular hole in the metal, likely a rat's entry point. A grey rat is shown in the upper right corner of the image. The background is a brown gradient with the word "Rats" in large white letters. Below this is a text box with the heading "Vehicle Damage?" and a paragraph of advice. At the bottom, the website "OCVECTOR.ORG" is displayed next to the OC Vector logo.

Free Income Tax Assistance

Those with a household income less than \$67,000 in 2024 may be eligible to file tax returns for free. Assistance is available by appointment in Rancho Santa Margarita.



The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to taxpayers who make \$67,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance preparing their tax returns.

IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic

filing to qualified individuals.

San Francisco Solano Church, 22082 Antonio Parkway, Rancho Santa Margarita, has provided a VITA chapter since 2013.

To schedule an appointment or for additional information, please call (949) 546-8127

GET YOUR TAXES DONE FOR FREE

OC FREE TAX PREP
LET'S TALK TAXES

Did you make less than \$67,000 in 2024?

- File your taxes for FREE
- Claim cash-back credits



Get Started Today at OCFreeTaxPrep.com or call 211

What Do I Bring With Me?

- Photo identification
- Social Security Card or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) Letter for all individuals listed on the return
- W-2s, 1099s and all other income-related documents for 2024
- Form 1095-A, B or C health insurance coverage statement for state return
- All 1998-7 and if forms for education expenses
- Childcare provider name, address, phone number and Tax ID Number
- For joint returns, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms
- Account and routing number if you want your refund direct deposited (Recommended)
- Copy of your last year's tax return (Recommended)

Maximize Your Refund With Expert Help!

Our tax professionals are here to ensure you get every dollar you deserve. Combine these tax credits and more for hundreds—or even thousands—of extra dollars in your pocket!

- California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC):** Up to \$3,644
- Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):** Up to \$7,830
- Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC):** Up to \$1,154
- Foster Youth Tax Credit (FYTC):** Up to \$1,154 (for \$2,308 if both taxpayers qualify)
- And More!**

NEED ITIN APPLICATION ASSISTANCE? WE CAN HELP.

Visit OCFreeTaxPrep.com/ITIN



Tax Prep Information

2025 FREE TAX PREP LOCATIONS

OC FREE TAX PREP
LET'S TALK TAXES

Before you call or visit a site, please check the most current list online at OCFreeTaxPrep.com/Locations.

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church 22022 El Toro Rd, Lake Forest, CA 92650 408.688.8888	Forster Greatness 8222 Arroyo Rd, San Jose, CA 95128 408.688.8888	San Francisco Solano Catholic Church 22082 Antonio Pkwy, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 949.546.8127
Alvarez, Inc. 2207 Westwood Dr, Westwood, CA 92090 714.275.4079	Good Hands Foundation - Garden Grove 1875 Garden Grove Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92646 714.483.3889	San Juan Capistrano Community Center 23015 Camino del Arroyo, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 Phone: 211
Arroyo California Services 300 W. Capistrano Way, Anaheim, CA 92801 714.977.2490	Good Hands Foundation - Irvine 23 Tenthon St, Irvine, CA 92610 714.483.3889	Santiago de Compostela Church 17101 Lake Forest Dr, Lake Forest, CA 92650 949.951.8899
Anahim Independence Family Resource Center 6801 Santa Ana, Anaheim, CA 92804 714.826.9875	Goodwill of Orange County 1231 Newport Ave, Tustin, CA 92680 714.847.4400 ext. 3012	South Orange County Family Resource Center 22881 Arroyo St, Dr. B, Lake Forest, CA 92650 Phone: 211
Asian American Senior Citizens Service Center 880 N. Birch St, Santa Ana, CA 92701 Phone: 211	Harvard Community Place 14701 Harvard Ave, Irvine, CA 92618 Phone: 211	Southwest Community Center 10710 Good St, Santa Ana, CA 92705 714.933.5346
Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana 880 N. Birch St, Santa Ana, CA 92701 714.943.5505 ext. 301	Irvine Valley College 5651 Irvine Center St, Irvine, CA 92618 949.253.1211	SSA Santa Ana Regional Center 1328 E. Seward Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92703 Phone: 211
California International Bank, NA 10000 Broadway St, Suite C-2, Westminster, CA 92683 Phone: 211	Melinda Hoag Smith Center for Healthy Living 2275 Placentia Ave, Newport Beach, CA 92663 Phone: 211	St. Kilian Church 38877 Edgewood Dr, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 949.381.3483
California State University, Fullerton 800 N. State College Blvd, Fullerton, CA 92831	Mission Park & Family Resource Center 2001 E. Edgewood Way, Anaheim, CA 92806 714.763.6600	Tustin Family & Youth Center 14727 Newport Ave, Tustin, CA 92780 Phone: 211
Coastline College 10001 La Habra Ave, La Habra, CA 91704	Norman P. Maury Community & Senior Center 24002 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92692 Phone: 211	University of California, Irvine 4021 University Ave, Ste. 111, Irvine, CA 92697 Phone: 211
Downtown Anaheim Community Center 231 E. Center St, Anaheim, CA 92801 714.763.6600	Ponderosa Park Family Resource Center 320 E. Orangewood Ave, Anaheim, CA 92802 714.763.6600	West Anaheim Youth Center 3311 Beach Blvd, Anaheim, CA 92804 714.763.6600
El Modena Family Resource Center 5802 E. Center Ave, Orange, CA 92667 714.822.3395		





Appointment required for on-site assistance. Free tax sites cannot prepare returns with all types of income or expenses. Please verify with the appointment representative or site greater than your return can be prepared.

An appointment is not a guarantee of service.

Tax Prep Locations

The Lifeline & 988 Crisis Support

Callers to 988 are connected to trained counselors who provide free and confidential emotional support and crisis counseling and connect them to the appropriate resources. These services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, across the United States. Special support services are available to veterans, and Tele-Interpreters support more than 240 languages.

For more information, visit <https://988lifeline.org/talk-to-someone-now/>.

What is 988?

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress.

People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

OC Health Care Agency OC Navigator

OC Navigator is part of the Orange County Behavioral Health System Transformation Innovation Project. The project seeks to help people find and connect with the supportive resources they need in different areas of their lives, including health and well-being, as well as other services.



Find help in Orange County by connecting with resources for health, wellness, and more.



Some services are available 24/7, such as suicide prevention and domestic violence assistance. Users can also suggest resources they would like to see featured on OC Navigator.

Learn more at ocnavigator.org. Resources are available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Arabic, Farsi, Mandarin, Khmer, or Tagalog.

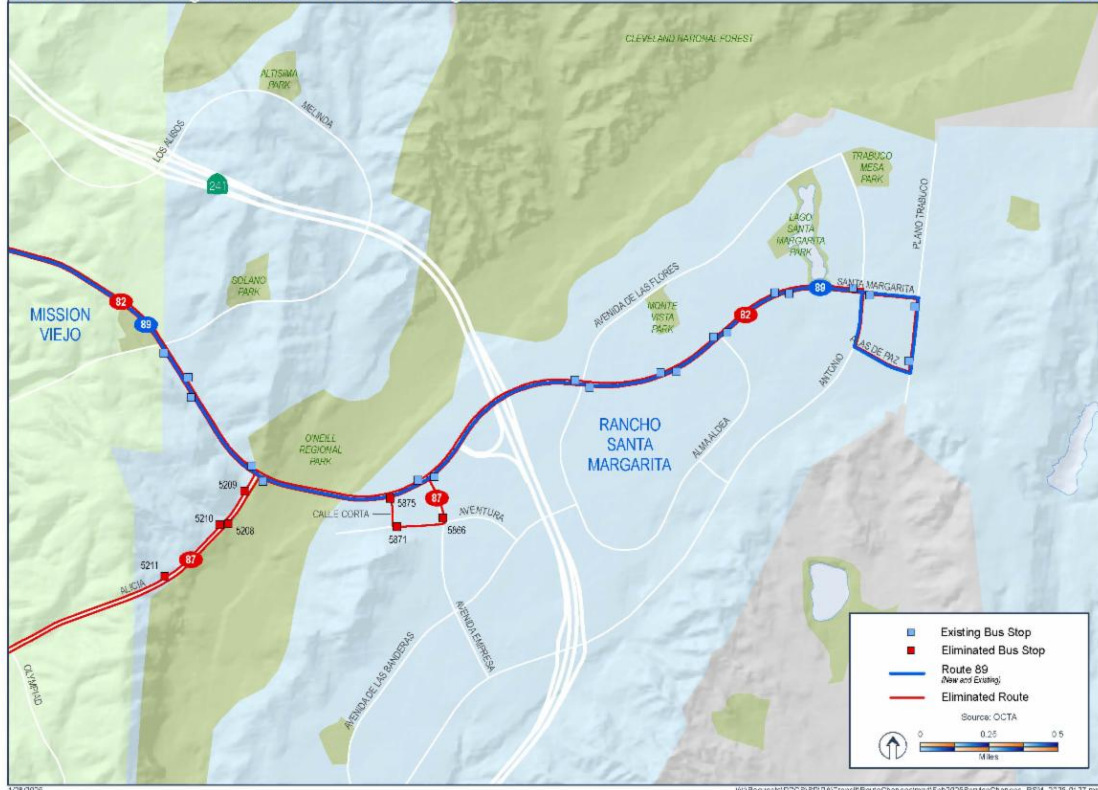


Orange County Transportation Authority Bus Service Changes Effective February 9, 2025

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has informed us of upcoming changes to bus services in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. Revisions to the route are due to OCTA's bus restructuring plan, which includes discontinuing certain stops that will no longer be serviced. This bus restructuring plan more closely aligns with the OC Bus transit system, considering post-pandemic travel patterns. With this, it was determined by OCTA that Routes 82 and 87 will be removed from service, with Route 89 servicing affected areas. This change resulted in the removal of seven bus stops within the City, with 19 remaining, as shown on the [map](#) below. These changes will be implemented effective February 9, 2025.

For more information and details about upcoming changes, visit OCTA.net.

February 2025 Service Change:
Bus Route Changes in Rancho Santa Margarita



City of Rancho Santa Margarita | (949) 635 -1800 | 22112 El Paseo | cityofrsm.org



CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA | 22112 El Paseo | RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CA
92688 US

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