

# September 2025



## City Manager's Message

As we observe National Preparedness Month this September, it is a reminder of the importance of readiness, resilience, and community strength in the face of unexpected emergencies. This month also brings us together in solemn remembrance of September 11th, a day that forever shaped our nation and underscored the courage of first responders and the resilience of our communities. As we honor the lives lost and the heroes who answered the call, let us also take steps to prepare ourselves, our families, and our neighborhoods for the future—because a prepared community is a stronger, safer community.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Cervantez

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## Community Services Patriot Day Ceremony

Join us on Thursday, September 11th, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Rancho Santa Margarita Civic Plaza as we come together to observe Patriot Day.

This solemn occasion is a time to remember the lives lost and pay tribute to the heroes of 9/11, while reflecting on the enduring spirit of unity, resilience, and hope that defines our nation.

**For more information, call Community Services at (949) 216-9700.**

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## **Emergency Management** **September is National Emergency Preparedness Month**

**Free Preparedness Workshop**  
**Presented by RSM CERT**  
**Wednesday, September 17th**  
**6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**RSM City Hall**

Prepare yourself and your family for various emergencies at this complimentary workshop presented by RSM Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in recognition of National Preparedness Month.

Learn essential emergency skills, including:

- First aid kit preparation
- Advanced bleeding control
- Utility shut-off
- Proper fire extinguisher use

For more information, call Emergency Management at (949) 635-1800 x6893

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita in recognition of National Emergency Preparedness Month invites you to a

# FREE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMUNITY WORKSHOP PRESENTED BY RSM CERT



**Wednesday, September 17th**  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
**RSM City Hall**  
**22112 El Paseo**



**SEPTEMBER**  
NATIONAL  
**PREPAREDNESS**  
MONTH

-  First Aid - Kits and Techniques
-  Advanced Bleeding Control
-  Utility Safety
-  Fire Extinguisher Practice
-  Preparedness Hacks

**FREE EVENT - NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



## Orange County Sheriff's Department Crime Prevention *Coffee With A Cop*

Good conversations are brewing! Skip the drive-through on Thursday, Sept 18th, and have a cup with your local deputies instead.

Target and Starbucks have partnered to host Rancho Santa Margarita Police Services' "Coffee With A Cop" event from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. No agenda, just coffee and conversation! We hope to see you there.

**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](http://www.cityofrsm.org) or visit [ocsheriff.gov/StaySafeOC](http://ocsheriff.gov/StaySafeOC).

# COFFEE WITH A COP



Join us for a morning of caffeinated conversation  
and get to know your RSM deputies!

**TARGET**  
**30602 Santa Margarita Pkwy**  
**Thursday, Sept 18th**  
**10:00am-12:00pm**

**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. Check out our newly redesigned Community Connect mailer that lists classes and events in a convenient format.

Visit [RSMConnect](#) to browse all offerings and access our online registration module.





## **RECREATION PROGRAMS**

***Fall in love  
with your  
community!***

**Registration for  
Fall/Winter now open!**

**Explore programs &  
sign up at  
RSMconnect.org.**



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



### **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](mailto:FacilityRentals@cityofrsm.org).



### **Splash Pad at Central Park**

As summer winds down, the Rancho Santa Margarita Splash Pad will close for the season beginning Monday, September 29th. We hope you and your family enjoyed a fun-filled season of splashes, laughter, and memories at Central Park. The Splash Pad will reopen next spring for another exciting season—stay tuned for updates.

The Splash Pad is currently open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., offering families the opportunity to enjoy water play before the season concludes. Please note that the Splash Pad may be closed at any time due to inclement weather or for maintenance purposes.

**For the most up-to-date operating status, please visit [RSMconnect.org](http://RSMconnect.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](http://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+)\*

\*Monthly Lunch Menu can also be found at [cityofrsm.org](http://cityofrsm.org) and in the City's monthly eNewsletter.

**CONTACT US**

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

**Age Well Senior Services**  
Bell Tower Regional Community Center  
22232 El Paseo, RSM 92688  
(949) 709-7592

[Congregate Lunch Menu](#)

[Meals on Wheels Menu](#)

## September Activity Calendar

Activities Calendar				
Bell Tower Regional Community Center 22232 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita				
General info and lunch reservation: 949-709-7592 *For special programs, priority is given to regular lunch participants.				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
<b>CLOSED</b> for Labor Day	9:30 Bocce Ball 10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:00 <b>Blood Pressure Clinic</b> 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:00 Mahjong (bring own tiles) 12:30 Stay Sharp Puzzle It Out	10:00 Line Dancing w/Helen 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ *Lunch with the Law 	10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:00 Hula Dancing w/ Laura 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:00 Mahjong (bring own tiles) 12:45 Gentle Yoga w/Jeanette	9:30 Chair Exercise w/Simone 10:30 Line Dancing w/Helen 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:45 Friday Flicks 1:00 AlzOC Caregiver Support
8	9	10	11	12
10:00 Total Body Fitness Video 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:45 BINGO	9:30 Bocce Ball 10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:00 Mahjong (bring own tiles) 12:30 Stay Sharp Puzzle It Out	10:00 Line Dancing w/Helen 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:30 Golden Gamers	10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:00 Hula Dancing w/ Laura 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:00 Mahjong (bring own tiles) 12:45 Gentle Yoga w/Jeanette	9:30 Chair Exercise to VIDEO 10:30 Line Dancing w/Helen 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:45 Friday Flicks
15	16	17	18	19
10:00 Total Body Fitness Video 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:45 BINGO	9:30 Bocce Ball 10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:00 <b>Blood Pressure Clinic</b> 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:00 Mahjong (bring own tiles) 12:30 Stay Sharp Puzzle It Out	10:00 Line Dancing w/Helen 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:30 Golden Gamers	10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 10:00 Art for All Ages RSVP Required Sponsor: M. Lumen MyMedicarePlan 11:00 Hula Dancing with Laura 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:00 Mahjong (bring own tiles) 12:45 Gentle Yoga w/Jeanette	9:30 Chair Exercise w/Simone 10:30 Line Dancing w/Helen 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:45 Friday Flicks
22	23	24	25	26
10:00 Total Body Fitness Video 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:45 BINGO	9:30 Bocce Ball 10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:00 Mahjong (bring own tiles) 12:30 Stay Sharp Puzzle It Out	10:00 Line Dancing w/Helen 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:30 Golden Gamers	10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:00 Hula Dancing with Laura 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:00 Mahjong (bring own tiles) 12:45 Gentle Yoga w/Jeanette	9:30 Chair Exercise w/Simone 10:30 Line Dancing w/Helen 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:20 Monthly Birthday Party Sponsored by RSM Cares
29	30	 *For special programs, priority is given to regular lunch participants.		
10:00 Total Body Fitness Video 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:45 BINGO	9:30 Bocce Ball 10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:00 Mahjong (bring own tiles) 12:30 Stay Sharp Puzzle It Out	<b>SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS</b> <b>RSVP Required 949-709-7592</b> <b>Thursday, September 18th: Art for All Ages</b> <b>Friday, September 26: Luau Luncheon</b>		



## Public Works Recycle From Home™ – Get Paid to Recycle!

Rancho Santa Margarita residents can now recycle cans and bottles without leaving home, thanks to Recycle From Home™—a program inspired by 13-year-old recycling advocate Ryan Hickman.

Here's how it works:

- Collection bags and QR code labels are provided to sort your CA CRV aluminum cans, plastic, and glass bottles.
- Schedule a pick-up at your convenience. A driver will collect your recyclables right from your driveway or doorstep.
- Items are weighed, and your redemption value is calculated based on current CA CRV rates.
- Payment is sent to you via PayPal, Venmo, or mailed check—typically within 24 hours of pickup.

No more trips to redemption centers—just schedule, set your items out, and let Recycle From Home™ do the rest!

For more information or to register, visit [www.RecycleFromHome.com](http://www.RecycleFromHome.com) or download the Recycle From Home mobile app.



## Public Works Public Education and Outreach

### Senior Rates Available

A 10% Senior Discount is available for single-family residential customers whose head of household is 65 years of age or older. Customers are not required to use smaller carts.

Please visit the links below for more information about CR&R's services available in Rancho Santa Margarita:

- [Rancho Santa Margarita Residential Service Guide](#)
- [Rancho Santa Margarita Commercial Service Guide](#)
- [Rancho Santa Margarita Family Recycling Guide](#)

**Please contact CR&R Customer Service at (877) 728-0446 to sign up for the senior discount.**

## Senior Rates Available For Residents 65-Years and Older

A 10% discount is available for single-family residential customers where the head of the household is sixty-five years of age and above. Discount valid with existing carts - no downsizing required. Call Customer Service to sign up for the senior discount at **(877) 728-0446**.

## Bulky Item Collection

Each single-family residential customer is entitled to four (4) bulky item pick-ups free-of-charge per calendar year. A bulky item service may include a combination of large items, appliances, or electronic waste.



## Residential Cart Exchange

Single-family residents may request a cart exchange once per calendar year at no charge.

Contact Customer Service at **(877) 728-0446**.



## Public Works Save the Date!

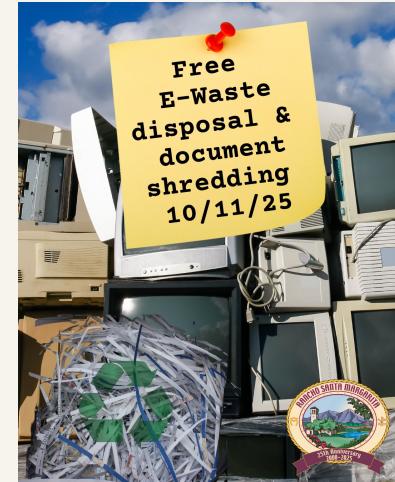
## Free E-Waste & Document Shredding Event

Clean out the clutter and protect your identity! Join us for the City of Rancho Santa Margarita's free E-Waste and Document Shredding event on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Applied Medical (R100 building), 29977 Avenida de Las Banderas.

Safely dispose of old electronics and shred sensitive documents onsite. Hosted in partnership with CR&R Environmental Services and Applied Medical, this is your chance to clear space and recycle responsibly.

- Location: Applied Medical – R100 lot
- Date: Saturday, October 11
- Time: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Questions? Call (949) 635-1800 x6503

For more information, view the event flyer [here](#).



# E-Waste Disposal & Document Shredding



## WHEN:

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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, large appliances, batteries, smoke detectors, or fluorescent tubes accepted.



For more information:  
email: [ahowhannesian@cityofrsm.org](mailto:ahowhannesian@cityofrsm.org)  
call: (949) 635-1800 x6503  
[cityofrsm.org](http://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 - 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.

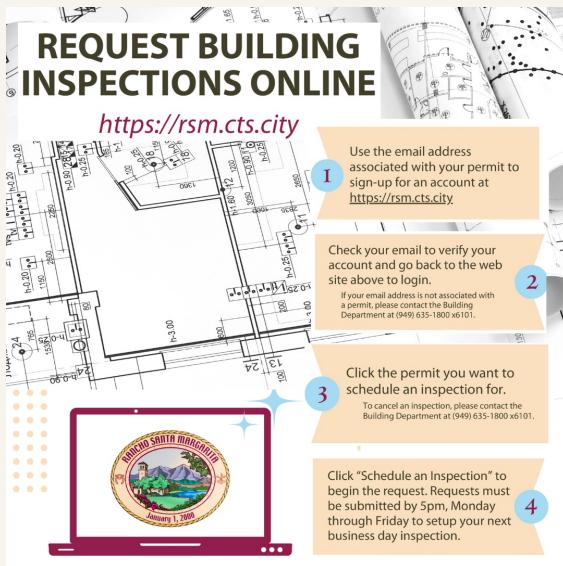
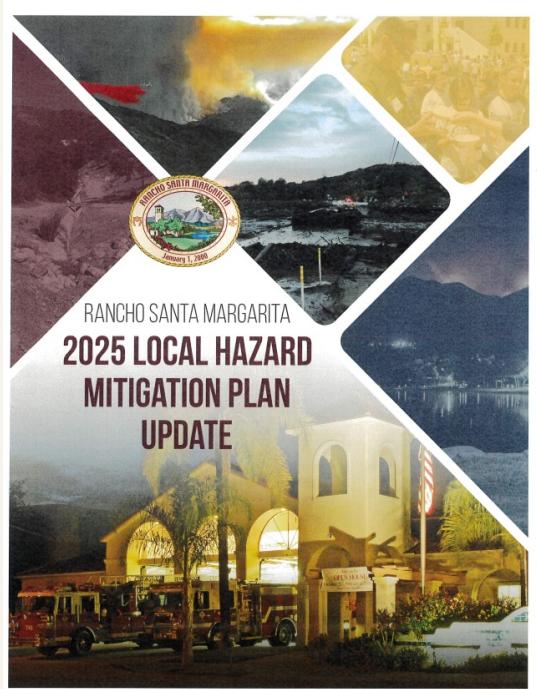
**Please call Public Works for more information at (949) 635-1800.**

## Development Services Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

A Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies community risks associated with natural hazards and outlines strategies to mitigate future damage. Updating the plan every five years ensures the City remains eligible for FEMA funding, which supports vital preparedness and protection efforts.

The City received final approval of the 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The City Council approved it on July 9, 2025, and FEMA certified it on August 15, 2025. The approval indicates that the Plan is approved for a period of five years, and an updated Plan must be submitted to FEMA by July 15, 2030.

**View the LHMP Update [here](#).**



## Development Services Online Inspection Requests and Plan Submittals

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

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 and 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](http://cmvas.org) or call (949) 470-3045 for information on convenient online pet licensing, volunteer opportunities, clinics, pricing, and pet adoptions.

### RSM Low-Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 2025

**Monthly Low-Cost Mobile  
Pet Vaccine Clinics**  
**Monthly, First Wednesday,  
Bell Tower Regional  
Community Center**

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 at [Heart4Pets.org](http://Heart4Pets.org).



## LOW-COST MOBILE PET VACCINE & WELLNESS CLINICS

♥ HEART, in partnership with many cities, brings these convenient & affordable services to your community ♥



SEVERAL LOCATIONS EVERY MONTH

Visit our **Calendar** to see which Clinics  
require Reservations or are on a Walk-Up basis



To view our Calendar, Pricing, Participation Requirements & Other Information about our Non-Profit Organization's Services or to Schedule a Reservation, go to our website:

**HEART4PETS.ORG**

SCAN CODE



- ♦ 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 for that vaccine.
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone.



### DOG VACCINES

RABIES (Thimerosal-free 1 or 3 yr) • DHLPP (DA2PP) • DHLPP (DA2PP with Lepto)  
LEPTOSPIROSIS • ORAL BORDETELLA • H3N2 INFLUENZA • LYME



### CAT VACCINES

RABIES (Purevax 1-yr) • RABIES (Purevax 3-yr) • FVRCP • FELV



### OTHER SERVICES, PRODUCTS & DISCOUNTS

MICROCHIP (w / lifetime enrollment) • FECAL TEST • NAIL TRIM (if time allows) • ANAL GLAND EXPRESSION  
INTERNAL & EXTERNAL PARASITE PREVENTATIVE & TREATMENT • DOUXO S3 CALM SHAMPOO & MOUSSE

Military Discounts Offered to All Veterans & Active U.S. Military. ID required.

A cursory exam fee of \$22 which also includes a haz mat disposal fee will be charged for each pet. • Discounts are provided at each following consecutive visit for pets in the process of completing their vaccine booster series and for those pets returning for an additional vaccine based on the recommendation of our staff to separate the administration of the vaccines. Owners must present their yellow copy of the vaccine certificate from the prior month to receive these discounts. • Products are subject to availability of stock on hand. Products, services, prices and discounts may change. Please note that our website always contains our most current prices. • In the event a veterinarian is not present at a clinic, a specially trained and highly qualified Registered Veterinary Technician shall lawfully act as agent for the veterinarian.

[www.Heart4Pets.org](http://www.Heart4Pets.org)

[contactheart4pets@gmail.com](mailto:contactheart4pets@gmail.com)

(714) 993-9193

## 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

**ALERT OC**

CITY OF YORBA LINDA

**Alert OC**  
STAY INFORMED

**ALERT OC MESSAGES**  
MAY BE SENT TO:

- Cell phones
- Email accounts
- Hearing impaired receiving devices

**SIGN UP FOR**  
**ALERT OC FOR**  
**EMERGENCY**  
**NOTIFICATIONS.**

[www.alertoc.org](http://www.alertoc.org)

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](http://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](http://www.alertoc.org)

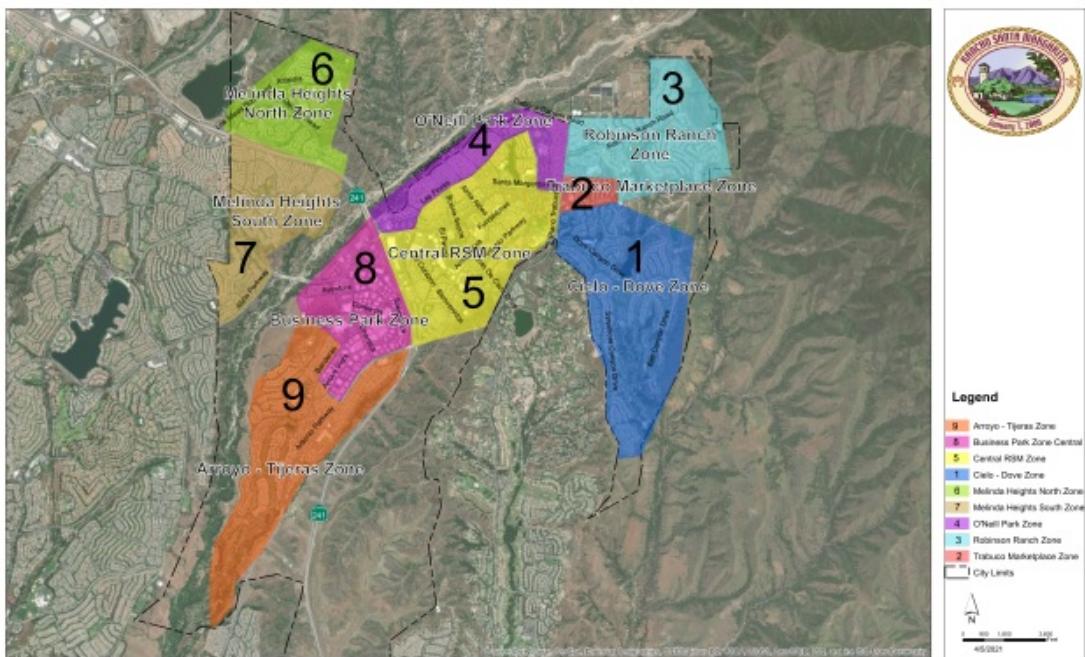
## Emergency Management Know your Evacuation Zone

Wildfires are unpredictable. Strong winds can instantly change a fire's direction and strength, 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!





RSM Evacuation Zones

## Fire Prevention and Preparedness Event Videos Available

The City, in partnership with the Office of Assemblywoman Kate Sanchez, hosted a Fire Prevention and Preparedness Event at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center. Presentations are now available on the City's [YouTube channel](#).

The event brought together local and regional experts to provide residents with essential resources, updates, and guidance on how to stay safe during fire season. Mayor Tony Beall opened the evening by welcoming attendees and emphasizing the importance of wildfire readiness. A series of speakers provided valuable information, including:

- OCFA Division Chief Cheyne Maule shared insights on home hardening and fire safety.
- Captain Dwayne Chapple, the City's Chief of Police Services, discussed evacuation readiness and public safety.
- Brenda Caloca from the California Department of Insurance addressed current issues affecting the insurance market in California.
- Tara Campbell, Chief of Staff for Supervisor Don Wagner, gave an update on O'Neill Park and the surrounding canyon areas.
- Lieutenant Kyle Werner from Mission Viejo Animal Services provided essential tips on preparing pets for emergency evacuations.

Resource tables were available throughout the evening, featuring representatives from OCFA, OCSD Crime Prevention, OC Fire Watch, RSM CERT, Southern California Edison, BeFireSafe.org, Mission Viejo Animal Services, SAMLARC, the County of Orange, and more.

This 4th annual event was a successful collaboration dedicated to empowering the community with the tools and knowledge needed to stay prepared and protected during wildfire season. Stay tuned for information on our 2026 event!





For more information on preparing for wildfires, visit the Orange County Fire Authority's Ready, Set, Go! Safety program at [ocfa.org](http://ocfa.org).

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## 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](mailto:bmcgirr@cityofrsm.org), or check out this short [video](#) to learn more about the program.



## ZERO TRASH INITIATIVE

"A clean community is a proud community"

RSM Cares, under the leadership of Brad McGirr, has created the Zero Trash Initiative to gather volunteers the first Saturday of every month to pick up trash at specific locations.

### Orange County Fire Authority Preparedness Month - September 2025

Planning in advance helps families survive and recover from disasters. Only 35% of adults in California reported being prepared for a disaster. Take steps now to protect your family and your home before the next earthquake, wildfire, pandemic, or other disaster.



There are three steps to Disaster Preparedness:

**1) Make a family disaster plan** including emergency contact information, escape routes from the home, identifying meeting places within and outside your neighborhood, and identifying household member responsibilities.

**2) Create emergency supply kits that include the 6 P's of Disaster Preparedness:**  
People and pets (personal items)  
Papers (important documents)

Prescriptions  
Pictures (and irreplaceable memorabilia)  
Personal Computer (hard drive and disk)  
Plastic (debit/credit card and cash)

**3) Prepare your home** by bracing major appliances, heavy furniture, electronics, and any overhead fixtures. Identify and have the proper tools available to shut off gas, water, and electricity if necessary.

Learn more at [ocfa.org](http://ocfa.org).



The page features a header with the Orange County Fire Authority logo, the text "ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS WEBSITES AND PHONE APPS", and a circular icon with a water bottle, first aid kit, and flashlight.

## APPS

 Federal Emergency Management Agency	 PulsePoint Respond	 PulsePoint AED
 Red Cross Emergency Alerts (per region)	 Red Cross First Aid & CPR Resource	 ICE Medical Standard: Personal Info for First Responders

## WEBSITES

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
[www.readyoc.gov](http://www.readyoc.gov)  
[www.pulsepoint.org](http://www.pulsepoint.org)  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
[www.caloes.gov](http://www.caloes.gov)  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.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](https://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](https://travel.state.gov) to determine if you qualify.

**Current Processing Times**  
**Routine Service - 4 to 6 weeks**  
**Expedited Service - 2 to 3 weeks**

For more information, please visit [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov).

**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](http://cityofrsm.org). For additional information, call (949) 635-1819. Voicemails regarding any remaining questions will be returned within 2 business days.



**[travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)  
[cityofrsm.org](http://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](http://www.rsmchamber.org).**

**Rancho Family Fest 2025**

Rancho Family Fest will take place on Friday and Saturday, October 3-4, 2025.

Follow Rancho Family Fest on [Facebook](#)!

Follow Rancho Family Fest on [Instagram](#)!

Become a Volunteer or Vendor: [ranchofamilyfestinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ranchofamilyfestinfo@gmail.com).



**RANCHO FAMILY FEST 2025**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3**  
**&**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4**

**2025 TITLE SPONSOR**

**USAG**  
US ALLIANCE GROUP

*Follow US* [f](#) [i](#)

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**

**RSM** CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Rancho Santa Margarita**

**SAMLARC** Connecting the Community

**USAG** US ALLIANCE GROUP

**BUY TICKETS AT - [RSMCHAMBER.ORG](http://RSMCHAMBER.ORG)**

**CENTRAL PARK: RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA / \$30 2-DAY ADMISSION**

**LIVE MUSIC FEATURING:**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, BEGINS AT 3:00 PM**

**TYPICAL GYPSYS** 3:30 PM  
**FLASHBACK HEART ATTACK** 5:30 PM  
**TIJUANA DOGS** 8:00 PM

**KIDS UNDER 12 ARE FREE!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, BEGINS AT 2:00 PM**

**REDNECK RODEO** 4:00 PM  
**YACHTY BY NATURE** 6:00 PM  
**FAMILY STYLE** 8:00 PM

*Please Visit: [www.rsmchamber.org](http://www.rsmchamber.org)  
or scan the QR code today!*



**Dancing**

**Live Music**

- Live Music & Entertainment
- Free Kid Fun Zone
- Beer & Wine Garden
- Dining Area with Televised Sports
- Multiple Food Booths
- SHOP Local Business & Artisan Vendors

**NEW for 2025!**

**Fine Art Fair**

Photo-credited Artist - Ferial Nassirzadeh

**Follow US**



## 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 [rsmcares@belltowerfoundation.org](mailto:rsmcares@belltowerfoundation.org) for more information or to volunteer.



## 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](#) on Instagram!

More information at [rsmcares.org](http://rsmcares.org).

**RSM CARES** ART HUB

Bell Tower Foundation



*Please join us at our*  
**FINE ART FAIR**

AT

**RANCHO**  
FAMILY FEST 2025



BELL TOWER COMMUNITY  
CENTER BALLROOM

Friday, October 3, 3:00-7:00 pm

Saturday, October 4, 2:00 - 10:00 pm



Tickets are available at  
[RSMCHAMBER.ORG](http://RSMCHAMBER.ORG)

**Also check out:**

**ART HUB'S**  
Fall Show "Autumn" art exhibit!

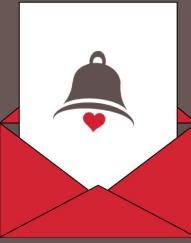
On display September 9 – October 31, located in The Bell Tower Community Center's Lobby. This will be adjacent to the Fine Art Fair at Rancho Family Fest.



## RSM Cares News and Events

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

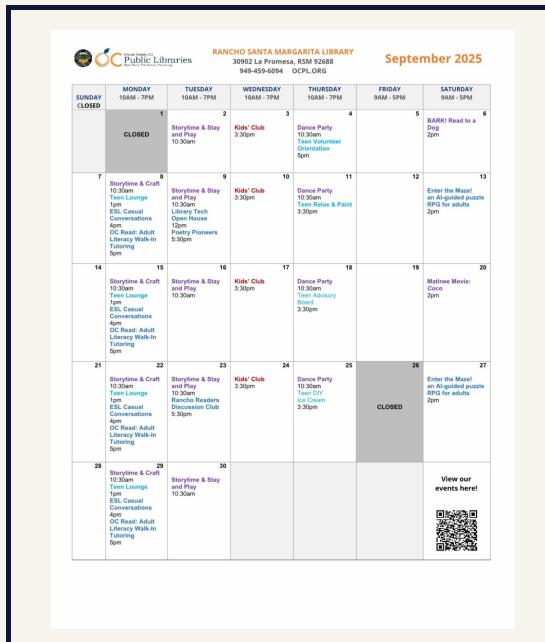


## Rancho Santa Margarita Branch Orange County Public Library

Visit the Rancho Santa Margarita Library, located at 30902 La Promesa, for a variety of services, events, and activities.

The popular Friends of the Library bookstore is stocked with books, games, puzzles, and DVDs; proceeds from sales support library services. Please call the library for current hours and volunteer information.

**View the events calendar or call (949) 459-6094 for more information on library programs and events.**



September Activity Calendar

**ENTER THE MAZE!**  
an AI-guided puzzle RPG for adults

2:00-3:00 PM, three Saturdays:  
• September 13th  
• September 27th  
• October 11th

What happens when imagination, puzzles, and technology come together? Step into a D&D-inspired mystery in this one-of-a-kind AI-guided game experience for adults who love escape rooms, riddles, bookish quests, or are curious about AI.

Each session offers a standalone story ... but attend all three for an even deeper experience!

👉 Solve riddles by the Maze Master (powered by ChatGPT)  
👉 Decipher clues and unlock logic puzzles  
👉 Perfect for ChatGPT beginners and lifelong learners!

This adult-level program is free with no registration required. Fun prizes available while supplies last! Generously sponsored by the Rancho Santa Margarita Friends of the Library.

 Orange County, CA Public Libraries  [@ocpubliclib](http://ocpubliclibraries.org) [@ocplib](http://ocpl.org)

AI Puzzle

## READING BUDDY ADOPTION

Wednesday, September 10  
3:30pm

Adopt a stuffed animal to be your new reading buddy! You will have a chance to sign an official certificate, create a collar, and take your new friend home with you. The only requirement is that you provide them with lots of love and stories.

**\*\*Limited to the first 50 participants\*\***

Supported in part by the Friends of the Rancho Santa Margarita Library



RANCHO SANTA  
MARGARITA LIBRARY  
30922 La Promesa  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
949-459-6094

Monday - Thursday: 10am-7pm

Friday & Saturday: 9am-5pm

Sunday: Closed

## TEEN RELAX & PAINT

Thursday, September 11  
3:30-5:00 PM

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon of paint-by-numbers. Choose from a variety of popular characters.

Grades 7-12

No registration required.

While supplies last.

*Mode possible through the support of the Friends of the Rancho Santa Margarita Library.*



RANCHO SANTA  
MARGARITA LIBRARY  
30922 La Promesa  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
949-459-6094

Monday - Thursday: 10am-7pm

Friday & Saturday: 9am-5pm

Sunday: Closed

## BINGO!

Wednesday, September 24  
3:30pm

A bingo event for families!

Join our Bingo party for an afternoon of family fun! We will offer small prizes and lots of laughs. Perfect for players of all experience levels, as long as you can shout "Bingo!"



RANCHO SANTA  
MARGARITA LIBRARY  
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949-459-6094

Monday - Thursday: 10am-7pm

Friday & Saturday: 9am-5pm

Sunday: Closed



[Reading Buddy Adoption](#)

[Teen Art](#)

[Family Bingo](#)

# Follow Us on Instagram!

Be the first to know about  
**RSM FOL events, sales, and  
new additions to the bookstore!**



@RSMFRIENDSOFLIBRARY



Scan me



# Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District

The Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District provides services for:

- Mosquitoes
- Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA)
- Rats
- Mosquito Fish Drop-off
- 

Submit a service request [here](#) to OCMVCD.



Visit [ocvector.org](http://ocvector.org) for more vector safety and prevention tips.



## Canyon Wildlife Initiative

A local grassroots effort focused on protecting local wildlife through education, advocacy, and stewardship, the Canyon Wildlife Initiative (CWI) is addressing the growing number of birds injured by improperly discarded fishing gear.

CWI encourages those fishing to dispose of their fishing line and hooks responsibly and to report any injured wildlife they encounter.

Learn more at [@CanyonWildlifeInitiative](#) on [Instagram](#).



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## Free Income Tax Assistance

Those with a household income less than \$67,000 in 2024 may be eligible to file tax returns for free.



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, located at 22082 Antonio Parkway, Rancho Santa Margarita, has offered a VITA chapter since 2013. **Post-season tax assistance (for late filing, amended returns, and inquiries with the IRS and Franchise Tax Board) is available on the third Thursday of each month from May through September.**

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

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**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**



Learn more at [ocnavigator.org](http://ocnavigator.org). Resources are available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Arabic, Farsi, Mandarin, Khmer, or Tagalog.

## Report Pollution

In South Orange County, landscape irrigation runoff is prohibited.

To report pollution, please either visit [myOCeServices.ocgov.com](http://myOCeServices.ocgov.com) to submit a Service Request under Water Pollution, or call the 24-Hour pollution reporting hotline at 1-877-89-SPILL (77455).

Both options allow you to request service updates or to report anonymously. If this is an emergency, call 911. Any report submitted through MyOCeServices will notify the pollution response team via email.

To learn more about the work Orange County is doing to prevent harmful runoff, visit [h2oc.org](http://h2oc.org).





# Repair Sprinklers

Fix broken sprinklers to drastically reduce unnecessary runoff.

[LEARN MORE](#)

SOME EFFORT



## Orange County Transportation Authority

### OC ACCESS Service

OC ACCESS is a shared-ride service that is available to qualified applicants whose physical or cognitive limitations prevent them from utilizing the regular OC Bus fixed-route service.

### OC Bus - Youth Ride Free

The OCTA Youth Ride Free Program provides youth ages 6 to 18 with free travel on OC Bus fixed-route service to school, work, or fun on safe, clean, and reliable buses.

### OC Bus - Community College Pass

The OCTA Community College Pass Program provides students at all of the nine OC community colleges with free travel on the OC Bus service to school, work, or fun on safe, clean, and reliable buses.

## **Senior & Disabled Fares**

Fares are valid for persons 60 and older, persons with disabilities, and Medicare cardholders.

**For more information, visit [OCTA.net](http://OCTA.net).**

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City of Rancho Santa Margarita | (949) 635 -1800 | 22112 El Paseo | [cityofrsm.org](http://cityofrsm.org)



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

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