

December 2025



City Manager's Message

As we look ahead to a new year, I encourage you to join us for Rancho Santa Margarita's annual New Year's Eve Celebration on Wednesday, December 31st, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Bell Tower Community Center. This free, family-friendly event features foam snow play, inflatables, games, live musical performances, caricature artists, a photo booth, and food available for purchase. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate close to home with friends and neighbors as we welcome 2026 together.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Cervantez, PhD

Community Services New Year's Eve "Celebrating Family & Friends"

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita invites residents and guests to celebrate close to home at its free, family-friendly New Year's Eve Celebration on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center.

Designed for all ages, the event features foam snow fun, inflatables, games, hands-on activities, caricature artists, a festive photo booth, and live performances by Blind Melody – Lily Gabora, Elliot Battle & The 5150s, and special guest Tasmen Hughes. With food and beverages available for purchase and activities both indoors and outdoors, families can enjoy a relaxed, festive evening together as the community welcomes 2026.



For more information, visit rsmconnect.org.



THE CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA
"CELEBRATING FAMILY AND FRIENDS"
NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENT



2026



**RING IN THE NEW YEAR SURROUNDED BY MUSIC,
GAMES, FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT!**

December 31 ★ 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Bell Tower Regional Community Center
22232 El Paseo



Orange County Sheriff's Department Crime Prevention

The goal of crime prevention is to deter and reduce crime through active community efforts. Information is disseminated to citizens and local businesses to increase awareness. Neighborhood and Business Watch Programs are an integral component of crime prevention. For more information, contact Jill Jackson, Crime Prevention Specialist.

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

For more information, visit Police Services on the City of RSM website at



The holidays season is a time of joy, family gatherings, and cherished memories. Unfortunately, it is also a time where bad guys take advantage of the spirit of the season. Would-be burglars know that this is the time of year where you may not be at home as much, whether you are traveling or shopping, and there are likely to be more valuables and cash in your house. So what can you do to keep yourself from becoming a victim? RSM Police Services have few tips to help you protect your home this holiday season.

Decorate Wisely

While a beautiful tree surrounded by presents in your front room creates a picturesque scene, it also shows the world just how many (and what size) gifts you have. Burglars look at this as an open invitation to come in and help themselves. Consider putting the tree in a room away from the street to minimize visibility from a passerby.

Watch The Trash

Be careful what you take out to the trash. For example, you don't want to leave the box to your brand-new big screen right next to your trash can. This tells potential thieves that you have new items of value in your home. If you can, break the box down and put it inside your recycling container. If this is not an option, wait until right before trash pickup to take the box to the curb.

Be Mindful with Social Media

As always, posting on social media that you are going out of town is never a good idea. Neither is posting pictures of all the great gifts you received over the holidays. While you may feel like you want to share your experiences with your friends and family, these sort of posts let bad guys know what is in your house and when you won't be there. If you absolutely must post these things online, be sure that your privacy settings are set so that only those on your friend's list can see your posts.



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

A vertical collage of three images. The top image is a close-up of a road surface, showing a dark, textured asphalt road with a white curb on the right. The middle image is a wide-angle shot of a suburban neighborhood at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. In the foreground, a winding road curves through a lush green landscape with trees and bushes. Several cars are parked along the side of the road. In the background, a suburban neighborhood with houses and trees is visible under the sunset sky. The bottom image is a wide view of a winding road through a suburban area. The road is paved and has a white curb on the right. Several cars are parked along the side of the road. The background shows a suburban neighborhood with houses and trees under a clear sky.

[illegible]



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.



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.



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

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

CONTACT US

Phone: (949) 709-7592

Email: rsmc1@myagewell.com



Age Well Senior Services

Bell Tower Regional Community Center

22232 El Paseo, RSM 92688

(949) 709-7592

Congregate Lunch Menu

South Orange County		December 2025 Menu		Age Well	
SERVING TIMES: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM					
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
ITALIAN BEEF MEATBALL SUB SANDWICH Tuscan Bean Soup Orange Apple Shrimp Milk	CHICKEN WALDORF SANDWICH Cream of Broccoli Soup Cream of Tomato Soup Carrot Cake Milk	GREEK CHICKEN SLIDER WATZAZI SAUCE Greek Tomato Salad Carrot Cake Milk	BEEF CHILI Korean Potatoes Savory Salad Mashed Potatoes Milk	TERIYAKI CHICKEN Chicken Teriyaki Mediterranean Salad Mashed Potatoes Milk	
1	2	3	4	5	
REEF MEATBALLS W/MAIRARA Pasta Shrimp Pineapple Cup Milk	CHICKEN SHAWARMA Mediterranean Salad Pasta Shrimp Pineapple Cup Milk	BEEF w/BEAN TACOS w/ TOMATILLO SLAW Corn Beans Pineapple Cup Milk	CHICKEN POT PIE Baked Potatoes Mashed Potatoes Milk	CHICKEN TARRAGON SANDWICH Tuscan Bean Soup Orange Apple Shrimp Milk	
6	7	8	9	10	
CHICKEN KEBAB Mediterranean Salad Mashed Potatoes Orange Apple Shrimp Pineapple Cup Milk	TUSCAN SALMON Mashed Potatoes Orange Apple Shrimp Pineapple Cup Milk	SESAME CHICKEN Cauliflower Broccoli Soup Orange Apple Shrimp Pineapple Cup Milk	CHICKEN BAHMI SANDWICH Tuscan Bean Soup Orange Apple Shrimp Pineapple Cup Milk	ROASTED TURKEY w/CHERRY SAUCE Tuscan Bean Soup Orange Apple Shrimp Pineapple Cup Milk	
11	12	13	14	15	
22	23	24	25	26	
30	31	CLOSED		60 YRS OLDER: \$5.50 Under 60: \$7.50 Suggested contribution: \$5.50 No cash for cashless payment No cash for cashless payment	

AGE WELL RESPECTS THE RIGHT OF ALL INDIVIDUALS TO LIVE AND ENJOY THE QUALITY OF LIFE THEY DESIRE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE BEST WAY TO LIVE IS TO LIVE WELL. WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN US IN OUR JOURNEY TO LIVE WELL.

Age Well

Age Well is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are a community of people who are committed to living well and helping others live well.

Home Delivered Menu

CHICKEN TARRAGON SANDWICH
TUSCAN BEAN SOUP
ORANGE
APPLE SHIMP
PINEAPPLE CUP
MILK

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>CHICKEN PARMESAN SPAGHETTI GARLIC BREAD SWEET POTATOE APPLE SHIMP MILK</p> <p>CHICKEN BARCHESO SPAGHETTI GARLIC BREAD SWEET POTATOE APPLE SHIMP MILK</p> <p>SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS GARLIC BREAD SWEET POTATOE APPLE SHIMP MILK</p> <p>CHICKEN & MEATBALLS GARLIC BREAD SWEET POTATOE APPLE SHIMP MILK</p> <p>CHICKEN CHICKEN OVER BROWN RICE GARLIC BREAD SWEET POTATOE APPLE SHIMP MILK</p> <p>CHICKEN CHICKEN OVER BROWN RICE GARLIC BREAD SWEET POTATOE APPLE SHIMP MILK</p> <p>CHICKEN CHICKEN OVER BROWN RICE GARLIC BREAD SWEET POTATOE APPLE SHIMP MILK</p> <p>CHICKEN CHICKEN OVER BROWN RICE GARLIC BREAD SWEET POTATOE APPLE SHIMP MILK</p> <p>CHICKEN CHICKEN OVER BROWN RICE GARLIC BREAD SWEET POTATOE APPLE SHIMP MILK</p> <p>CHICKEN CHICKEN OVER BROWN RICE GARLIC BREAD SWEET POTATOE APPLE SHIMP MILK</p> <p>CHICKEN CHICKEN OVER BROWN RICE GARLIC BREAD SWEET POTATOE APPLE SHIMP MILK</p> <p>CHICKEN CHICKEN OVER BROWN RICE GARLIC BREAD SWEET POTATOE APPLE SHIMP MILK</p> <p>CHICKEN CHICKEN OVER BROWN RICE 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December Activity Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
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 Blood Pressure Clinic 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+ *Lunch with the Law  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 w/Simone 10:30 Coffee, Donuts & Medicare with Michael Lemus 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 10:00 Holiday Flower Shoppe sponsor: Michael Lemus 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 w/Simone 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 11:30 Blood Pressure Clinic 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 11:00 RSM Library Resources 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 w/VIDEO 10:30 Line Dancing w/Helen 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ Holiday Luncheon Entertainer: Joe Ritkes
22	23	24	25	26
Age Well Senior Services Closed Happy Hanukkah	Age Well Senior Services Closed	Age Well Senior Services Closed	Age Well Senior Services Closed Merry Christmas	Age Well Senior Services Closed 
29	30	31	1	2
Age Well Senior Services Closed	Age Well Senior Services Closed	Age Well Senior Services Closed New Year's Eve	CLOSED Happy New Year	CLOSED 

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

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 or download the Recycle From Home mobile app.

Public Works

Residential Street Sweeping Now Twice a Month (October–April)

As autumn leaves begin to fall, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita is increasing street sweeping services to address the seasonal buildup of debris. **From October through April, residential streets will be swept twice per month.**

Service maps and annual calendars are available on the City's [website](#) to help residents stay informed about scheduled days.

To ensure effective service, please remove all items from the street—including vehicles, basketball hoops, trash cans, and toys.

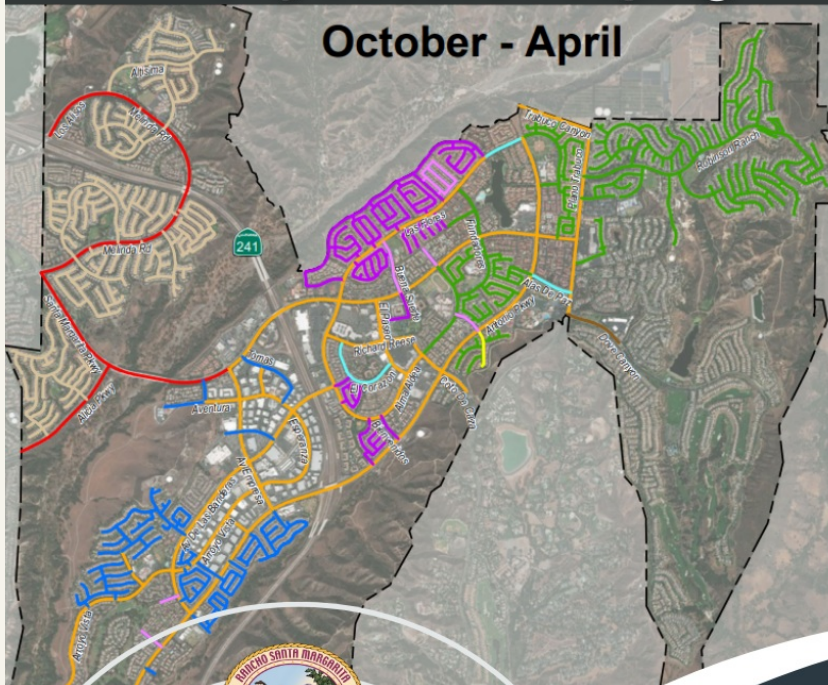
Street sweeping not only keeps our community safe and beautiful but also protects local water quality by preventing contaminants from entering storm drains.

Thank you for doing your part to keep Rancho Santa Margarita clean!











Please call 949-635-1800, ext. 6703, for more information.

City Street Sweeping

October - April



Legend

-  Route 1
(2nd & 4th Monday)
-  Route 2
(2nd & 4th Wed.)
-  Route 3
(Every Thursday)
-  Route 4
(Every Friday)
-  Route 5
(1st & 3rd Friday)
-  Route 6
(2nd & 4th Friday)
-  Route 7
(Every Tuesday)
-  Route 8
(Every Thurs. PM - Fri. AM)
-  Route 9
(2nd & 4th Monday)
-  Route 10
(2nd & 4th Wed.)


CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA



Regular residential sweeping will increase to twice per month during October - April.



PLEASE DO YOUR PART!

For every car that is on the street, two to three car lengths go unswept. Please do your part by moving vehicles on the street sweeping service days.

Your efforts are extremely impactful! Go to the City website to access service maps and the annual service calendars.

Contact The City With Any Street Sweeping Questions



(949) 635-1800 EXT. 6503



WWW.CITYOFRSM.ORG/536/STREET-SWEEPING

CR&R
INCORPORATED
environmental services
the face of a greener generation 

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**.



**RSM Low-Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic scheduled for
Tuesday, December 9, 2025**

Monthly Low-Cost Mobile Pet Vaccine Clinics Monthly, 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.

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

A flyer for a pet vaccination clinic. At the top left is a circular logo for 'HEART' (Healthcare & Emergency Animal Rescue Team). The text reads 'Low-Cost Dog & Cat Vaccination Clinic' and 'December 9th' in large yellow letters. Below the text is a photo of two Weimaraner dogs looking out of a car window. At the bottom, it says 'Bell Tower Regional Community Center', 'Reservations Required', and 'heart4pets.org'. A small seal for the 'Rancho Santa Margarita' is in the bottom right corner.

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) • DHPP (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

contactheart4pets@gmail.com

(714) 993-9193

Mission Viejo Animal Services Drive-Through Pet Vaccine Clinics

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

2026 Vaccine Clinic Dates:

Saturday, March 14 (8:30 - 10:00 a.m., weather permitting)

Saturday, May 9 (8:30 - 10 a.m., weather permitting)

Saturday, August 1 (8:30 - 10 a.m., weather permitting)

Saturday, October 24 (8:30 - 10 a.m., weather permitting)



Location:
Mission Viejo Animal Services Center
28095 Hillcrest
Mission Viejo, CA 92692
(949) 470-3045

*Prices do not include a \$3 per pet medical waste disposal fee

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





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 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.

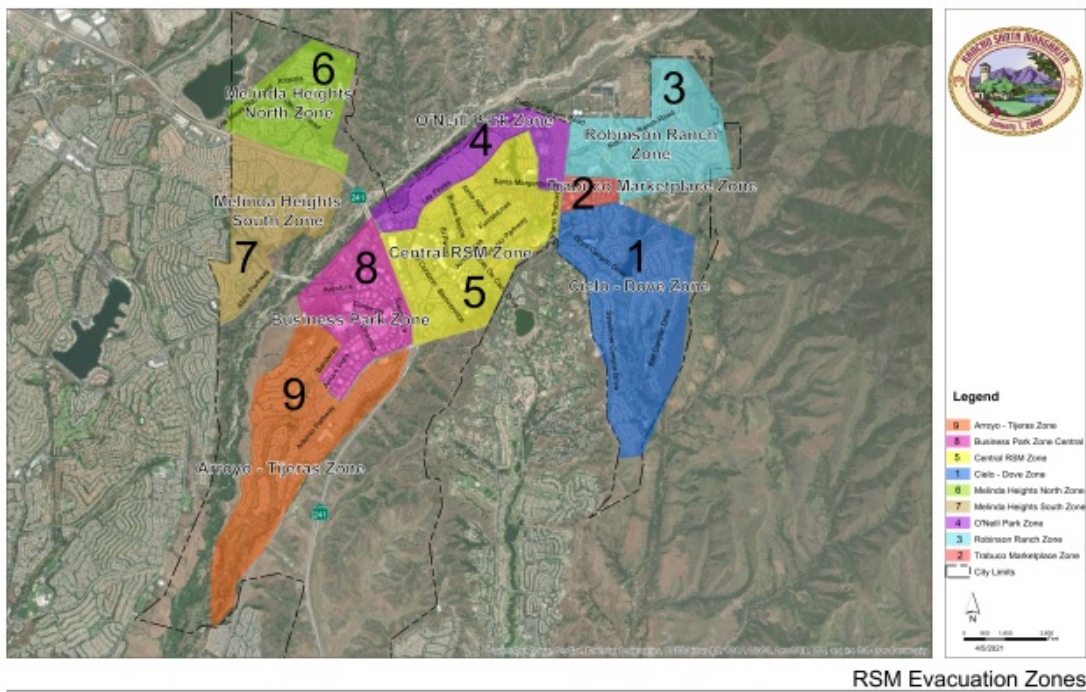
Public safety and City officials will send official evacuation notifications and information during an emergency through AlertOC. Please ensure you and your loved ones are registered to receive critical information via text, email, or telephone.

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!

Are You Ready
for the next
Fire?

Know Your Evacuation Zone





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.



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

As the holiday season approaches, many of us fill our homes with festive lights, candles, and decorations—but these traditions can also bring increased fire risks if safety steps aren't taken. According to the Orange County Fire Authority, holiday décor contributes to millions of dollars in home fire damage each year.

Taking a few simple precautions can help ensure your celebrations remain joyful, safe, and fire-free.

Learn more at ocfa.org.



HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY



The holidays should be enjoyable. To ensure your holiday celebrations are fire safe and injury free, follow these safety tips.



Holiday decorations are responsible for more than \$11 million in home fire damages each year.



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

(714) 573-6200
ocfa.org



Candles

- Consider using flameless candles and flame-resistant candleholders to reduce fire risk.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from flammable materials and place them on heat-resistant surfaces.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Extinguish all candles before leaving a room or going to sleep.

Lighting and Decorations

- Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections before using.
- Replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulb.
- Don't overload electrical outlets with too many lights or decorations and make sure all extension cords are marked for proper use.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).
- Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.

Christmas Trees

- Place your tree away from fireplaces, radiators, heater vents, air ducts, and other heat sources.
- Make sure the tree is out of the way of day-to-day traffic and doesn't block doorways.
- Ornaments and other holiday decorations should be non-combustible or flame-resistant.
- Remove your tree promptly from your home after the holidays. An ignited tree can be totally consumed by fire in 3-5 seconds, and generate over 2,000 degrees of radiant heat.

May 2020

Passport Acceptance Facility

Non-renewal Applications By Appointment Only

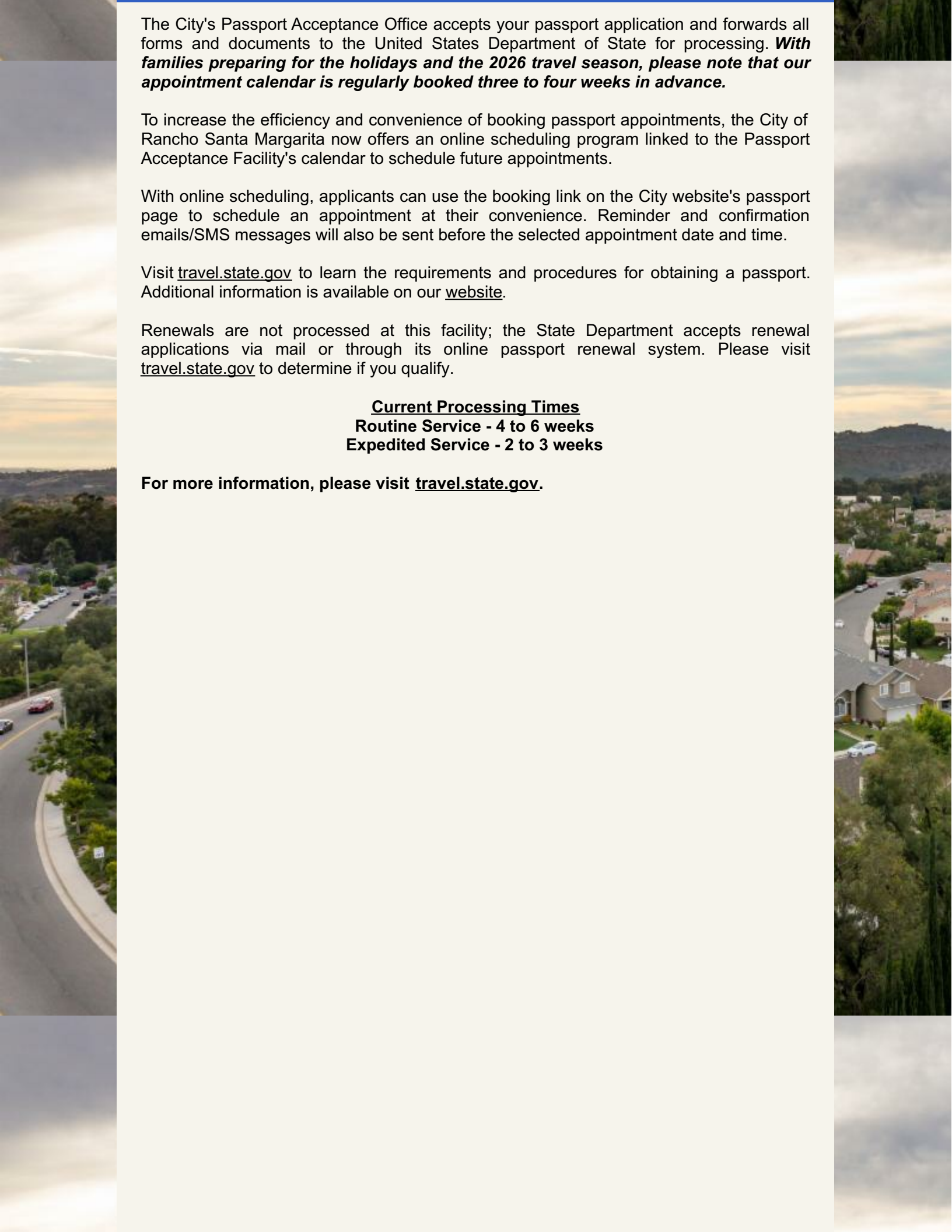
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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 holidays and the 2026 travel season, please note that our appointment calendar is regularly booked three to four weeks in advance.***

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

With online scheduling, applicants can use the booking link on the City website's passport page to schedule 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; the State Department accepts renewal applications via mail or through its online passport renewal system. Please visit 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.

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 at the time the passport was issued, you MUST renew by mail using Form DS-82 or online by selecting the U.S. Department of State website link [here](#). Select U.S. Passports, Renew or Replace a Passport, Renew Online, and follow the instructions. If you do not meet these qualifications, you will need to complete a first-time passport application, Form DS-11, apply in person, and present the required documentation.

For official passport and travel information, or to download passport forms, please visit the [US State Department website](#).

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.

Shop • Dine • Win in Rancho Santa Margarita!
Support local businesses this holiday season and get

rewarded for it!

Here's how it works:

- Shop or dine at any RSM business between November 3rd and December 14th
- Upload your receipts weekly at RSMShopDine.com
- Be entered to win weekly \$50 gift cards and a \$300 Grand Prize on Dec 20th

It's that simple! Shop local, dine local, and you could win big while supporting our business community.

Brought to you by the RSM Chamber of Commerce with support from our local sponsors.

Disclaimer: This giveaway is hosted by the RSM Chamber of Commerce and is in no way sponsored, endorsed, administered by, or associated with Facebook or Instagram. Winners will be contacted directly by the Chamber.

Learn more at www.rsmchamber.org.





CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SHOP • DINE • WIN

Rancho Santa Margarita

SHOP OR DINE LOCAL + UPLOAD YOUR RECEIPT = CHANCE TO WIN
WEEKLY \$50 GIVEAWAYS PLUS FINAL \$300 GRAND PRIZE.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SHOP LOCAL NOV 3RD TO DEC 14TH!

 SHOP OR DINE AT ANY RSM BUSINESS

 UPLOAD YOUR RECEIPTS WEEKLY ON RSMShopDine.com

One weekly winner receives a \$50 gift card to their favorite RSM business
All entries submitted to final \$300 gift card Grand Prize Drawing on Dec 20th



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING SPONSORS:





RSM Cares. Bell Tower Foundation

@RSMCares · Nonprofit Organization

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 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! ❤️



12th Annual Event!



RSM CARES
Bell Tower Foundation



Breakfast with Santa

December 6, 2025

Purchase Tickets at rsmcares.org

CHILDREN \$8 ADULTS \$16

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.



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.

(949) 933-6001

RSMCares@belltowerfoundation.org



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.

December Highlight: Winter Reading Kickoff Monday, December 8th, from 4-7:00 p.m. Special visit from Anaheim Ducks mascot Wild Wing, hands-on hockey fun, and a talk and book signing with *Narwhal* series author Ben Clanton.

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

WILD WING'S WINTER READING CHALLENGE

FACEOFF FOR LITERACY PRESENTED BY THE

ANAHEIM DUCKS

Monday, December 8th & Tuesday, December 9th

JOIN US FOR A DOUBLEHEADER EVENT FEATURING:

DUCKS GAMING LOUNGE | OUTDOOR HOCKEY RINK | SLAPSHOT LANES | GAMES & MUSIC & CRAFTS | LIMITED EDITION ANAHEIM DUCKS LIBRARY CARDS | AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR TALKS | REGISTRATION FOR THE WINTER READING PROGRAM | WILD WING MEET-AND-GREET

DON'T MISS THIS EXCITING LINEUP WITH FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



Mon., Dec. 8th at the Rancho Santa Margarita Library
30902 La Promesa, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

4:30-6:00 pm: Anaheim Ducks Faceoff Activities

6:00 pm: Author Ben Clanton – complimentary books available, while supplies last.

BEN CLANTON is the *New York Times* bestselling author and illustrator of the Narwhal and Jelly series whose picture books include the Ploof series (with Andy Chou Musser) and the Tater Tales series.

Tue., Dec. 9th at the Tustin Library

345 E. Main Street, Tustin, CA 92780

4:30-6:00 pm: Anaheim Ducks Faceoff Activities

6:00 pm: Illustrator Dom Granato – complimentary books available, while supplies last.

DOM GRANATO is the illustrator of the book *I Can Play Too*. An artist and a hockey player, he grew up making art everywhere and anywhere. He makes art for a living and still plays hockey on an LGBTQ+ team in San Francisco, because he can play too.




For more information, call (714) 566-3072
or email ocpl.programs@occr.ocgov.com
Learn more at ocpl.org/winter-reading-challenge

Winter Reading Kickoff Event

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OC Public Libraries
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA LIBRARY
30902 La Promesa, RSM 92688
949-459-6094 OCPL.ORG

December 2025

SUNDAY CLOSED	MONDAY 10AM - 7PM	TUESDAY 10AM - 7PM	WEDNESDAY 10AM - 7PM	THURSDAY 10AM - 7PM	FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM	SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM
	1 Storytime & Craft 10:30am Teen Lounge 1pm ESL Casual Conversations 4pm OC Read: Adult Library Walk-in Tutoring 5pm	2 Storytime & Play 10:30am	3 Jingle Mingle 3:30pm	4 Dance Party 10:30am Teen Lounge 1pm Teen Volunteer Orientation 5pm	5 Adult Mixer - Quilted Quiver Quilts 2pm	6
7 Storytime & Craft 10:30am Teen Lounge 1pm ESL Casual Conversations 4pm Winter Reading Kickoff Event - Plus Books & Prizes 5pm	8 Storytime & Play 10:30am Library Tech Open House 12:30pm Party Phones 5:30pm	9	10 KIDS' Club 3:30pm	11 Dance Party 10:30am Teen Lounge 1pm	12	13 BARK! Read to a Dog 2pm
14 Storytime & Craft 10:30am Teen Lounge 1pm ESL Casual Conversations 4pm OC Read: Adult Library Walk-in Tutoring 5pm	15 Storytime & Play 10:30am	16 Harpist Tiffany Wu 10:30am KIDS' Club 3:30pm	17 Dance Party 10:30am Teen Lounge 1pm Teen Advisory Board 4pm	18	19 Jazz Duo Winter Concert - Body and the Bow Tie 2pm	20
21 Storytime & Craft 10:30am Teen Lounge 1pm ESL Casual Conversations 4pm OC Read: Adult Library Walk-in Tutoring 5pm	22 Storytime & Play 10:30am	23 LIBRARY CLOSURES AT 5 PM	24 LIBRARY CLOSURES AT 5 PM	25 CLOSED	26 Game On! 2pm	27
28 Teen Lounge 1pm ESL Casual Conversations 4pm OC Read: Adult Library Walk-in Tutoring 5pm	29	30 LIBRARY CLOSURES AT 5 PM	31 LIBRARY CLOSURES AT 5 PM			View our events here! 

December Activity Calendar

JINGLE MINGLE

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday
December 3rd
3:30-5:30 PM

Gather together at the library to celebrate the closing of the year with crafts, refreshments, face painting, music by harpist Tiffany Wu, and winter warmth for all ages.

All are welcome!

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



RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA LIBRARY
30902 La Promesa
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
949-459-6094
Monday - Thursday: 10am-7pm
Friday & Saturday: 9am-5pm
Sunday: Closed

Jingle Mingle

BIRDY AND THE BOW TIE Jazz Duo Winter Concert

Saturday, December 20th
2:00 - 3:00 pm

Inspired by early 20th century music, particularly vintage jazz, Birdy and the Bow Tie's appealing sound is a mix of Alison Marae's contralto vocals and cheery ukulele with Wil Forbis' tasty lead guitar and jazzy scat. Alison and Wil have been performing together since 2013.

Their jazz numbers and holiday classics are sure to leave you feeling uplifted... so come swing with us, cats and kittens. This concert will be a real winter blast!

This adult-level program is sponsored in part by the Friends of the Rancho Santa Margarita Library.
For more information, email: ocpl.rsm@occcr.ocgov.com



RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA LIBRARY
30902 La Promesa
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
949-459-6094

Monday - Thursday: 10am-7pm
Friday & Saturday: 9am-5pm
Sunday: Closed



Winter Concert

OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES PRESENTS Music Appreciation Program featuring Tiffany Wu



Join us for a music appreciation program. Music lovers of all ages are invited to spend the morning at the library and enjoy a performance by harpist, Tiffany Wu.

Wed, Dec 17 at 10:30am
Rancho Santa Margarita Library
30902 La Promesa
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

No registration required, all ages welcome.
For more information, call 949-459-6094
or email ocpl.rsm@occcr.ocgov.com



This project is funded in part through a grant from the California Department of Aging and administered locally by the Orange County Office on Aging.

Harpist Tiffany Wu

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

Got mosquitoes? Don't ignore them! OCMVCD recently detected West Nile virus in the Cities of Garden Grove and Anaheim. Now is the time to be proactive. Request a FREE inspection if you suspect a mosquito breeding problem near you!

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

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



GOT MOSQUITOES?

REQUEST AN INSPECTION AT [OCVECTOR.ORG/REPORT-AN-ISSUE](https://ocvector.org/report-an-issue)



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.

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.

Runoff Pollution

OC residents are the solution to runoff pollution—make a difference by reporting pollution online, submitting a water pollution service request, or calling the 24-hour pollution reporting hotline at 1-877-89-SPILL (77455). Together, we can help our water bodies thrive for future generations!



Using commercial car washes is a great way to protect our waterways! They recycle water and drain it to the sewer system rather than the storm drain system.

Prefer to wash cars at home? You can still help keep our water bodies healthy by following these simple actions:

- Wash your car on landscaped areas or permeable surfaces (like gravel) to help filter runoff
- Use biodegradable, phosphate-free soaps
- Direct rinse water toward landscaping or lawns, not into the street or storm drains
- Use buckets instead of a hose to minimize water usage.

To learn more about the work Orange County is doing to prevent harmful runoff, visit h2oc.org.

Commercial Car Washes Protect OC's Waterways



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**](https://www.octa.net).



Holiday Happenings around Orange County

This is a list of holiday events reachable by transit.



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!