

# January 2026



## City Manager's Message

January is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year while looking ahead to the opportunities before us. The City remains committed to providing high-quality services, maintaining our strong financial foundation, and preserving the safe, beautiful, and connected community our residents value. I look forward to continuing our work with the City Council, staff, and community partners to build on the progress we have made together. I wish you and your family a wonderful start to the new year.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Cervantez, PhD



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



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## Emergency Management Community Emergency Response Team

### Registration for Class #5 Now Open

We are excited to announce that the spring Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for Class #5 begins in March. This free, hands-on program provides residents with essential skills in disaster preparedness, emergency response, and neighborhood resilience, empowering them to better protect themselves, their families, and the community during emergencies. Residents interested in strengthening their preparedness skills and making a meaningful impact in Rancho Santa Margarita are encouraged to participate and join this informative, educational, and interactive public safety program.

For more information, visit [cityofrsm.org/cert](http://cityofrsm.org/cert).



BE PREPARED. BE READY. BE TRAINED.



## 2026 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

### WHAT IS CERT?

CERT trains community volunteers in disaster preparedness and basic emergency response skills—empowering participants to protect themselves, their families, and their neighbors during and after a major emergency. Disasters can happen at any time; being prepared makes all the difference for you and our community.



*CERT Mission:*  
*Greatest good for the greatest number.*

### GET TRAINED

In 7 hands-on classes delivered in 3-hour sessions, you will learn about:

1. Disaster Preparedness
2. Fire Safety & Utility Controls
3. CERT Organization
4. Emergency Medical Operations I
5. Emergency Medical Operations II
6. Light Search & Rescue
7. Disaster Psychology/CERT & Terrorism/Radio Comms Intro

**Dates:** Mar 19, Mar 26, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & Saturday, May 9 Final Exercise (8 am - 1 pm)

**Cost:** Free **Time:** 6-9:00 p.m.

**Eligibility:** RSM Residents 18 years/older

**Requirements:** Ability to attend all sessions

**To Apply:** Scan QR code or visit

[cityofrsm.org/675/](http://cityofrsm.org/675/)

email: [cert@cityofrsm.org](mailto:cert@cityofrsm.org)



## 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](http://RSMConnect) to browse all offerings and access our online registration module.



## 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).





# 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+)\*

For activity flyers and more information about senior programs, contact Age Well Senior Services, or visit [RSMconnect.org](http://RSMconnect.org) or the Bell Tower Regional Community Center at 22232 El Paseo, RSM

\*Monthly Lunch Menu can also be found at [cityofram.org](http://cityofram.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

South Orange County		January 2026 Menu		Age Well	
MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION: 60 YRS OR OLDER \$5.50 55-59 YEARS OR YOUNGER \$7.50 Meals are served from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Reservations are not required. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Menu is subject to change without notice. The menu is posted on the menu board.		January 2026 Menu SERVING TIMES: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM		Age Well Orange County's partner in aging	
MONGOLIAN CHICKEN Asian Chicken Orange Brown Rice Mandarin Dip Milk		GROUND BEEF PHILLY Two Meat Soup Household Potatoes Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk		CHICKEN CACCIAOTORE Roasted Zucchini & Squash Italian Pasta Salad Orange Juice Pineapple Cobb Milk	
BEEF CHILI Roasted Potatoes Green Bean Salad Garbanzo Beans Milk		CHICKEN WALDORF Chicken Green Bean Salad Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk		CHICKEN SALSITA VERDE Mexican Coriander Spanish Rice Pineapple Cobb Milk	
CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY		ITALIAN BEEF MEATBALL Bolognese Sauce Orange Brown Rice Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk		GREEK CHICKEN SLIDER Chicken Orange Brown Rice Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk	
CHICKEN KEBAB Mediterranean Chicken Orange Brown Rice Mandarin Dip Milk		CHICKEN POT PIE Chicken Orange Brown Rice Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk		CHICKEN SHAWARMA Mediterranean Salad Pita Bread Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk	
BEEF-W/BEAN TACOS w/ TOMATILLO SLAW Corn Salad Spanish Rice Tropical Fruit Milk		TUSCAN SALMON Salmon Orange Brown Rice Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk		CHICKEN TARRAGON SANDWICH Chicken Orange Brown Rice Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk	
SESAME CHICKEN Chicken Orange Brown Rice Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk		CHICKEN BANH MI SANDWICH Chicken Orange Brown Rice Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk		CHICKEN TERIYAKI Chicken Orange Brown Rice Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk	
CHICKEN KEBAB Mediterranean Chicken Orange Brown Rice Mandarin Dip Milk		CHICKEN BANH MI SANDWICH Chicken Orange Brown Rice Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk		CHICKEN TARRAGON SANDWICH Chicken Orange Brown Rice Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk	
CHICKEN KEBAB Mediterranean Chicken Orange Brown Rice Mandarin Dip Milk		CHICKEN BANH MI SANDWICH Chicken Orange Brown Rice Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk		CHICKEN TARRAGON SANDWICH Chicken Orange Brown Rice Orange Chocolate Chip Cookies Milk	

## Meals on Wheels Menu

<p>  <b>Age Well</b>              Home Delivered Menu              (change checkin partner in app)         </p>		<p>             OVER NUTRITIONED              OVER HYDRATED              OVERHEATED              OVERSTIMULATED              OVERSCHEDULED              OVERSTRESSED              OVERSLEEPING              OVEREATING              OVEREXERCISING              OVERWORKING              OVERSOLICITING              OVERS</p>	
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Highlights</b> *NEW TIME Line Dancing on Wednesdays starts at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 7 Lunch with the Law Wednesday, January 14 New Year's Party Lunch Thursday, January 15 Art for All Ages			Happy New Year	CLOSED
5	6	7	8	9
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 Blood Pressure Clinic 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:00 Mahjong (bring own tiles) 12:30 Puzzle Club	10:30 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 Line Dancing w/Helen 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:45 Friday Flicks 1:00 AlzOC Caregiver Support
12	13	14	15	16
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 Puzzle Club	10:30 Line Dancing w/Helen* 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ New Year's Party w/ Entertainer Greg Wideen 12:30 Golden Gamers	10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 10:00 Art for All Ages (RSVP) Sponsor: M. Lemus MyMedicarePlan 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
19	20	21	22	23
CLOSED in observance of MLK Jr. Day	9:30 Bocce Ball 10:00 Tai Chi Video/Nosrat 11:00 Coffee & Conversation 11:00 Blood Pressure Clinic 11:30 Age Well Lunch 60+ 12:00 Mahjong (bring own tiles) 12:30 Puzzle Club	Line Dancing w/Helen* 10:30 Line Dancing w/Helen* 11:00 Coffee, Donuts & Medicare with Michael Lemus 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
26	27	28	29	30
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 Puzzle Club	10:30 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 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 12:45 Friday Flicks



**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](http://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](http://www.RecycleFromHome.com) or download the Recycle From Home mobile app.



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## 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](http://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**.



# HOLIDAY GREEN RECYCLING

Please recycle your organics responsibly this holiday season.

❄️ **Christmas trees** - Place these in your green recycling with any wires and lights removed. Do not put flocked trees in the green bin; these must be placed in the regular trash. If the tree doesn't fit, be sure to place your tree at your curb on the regular trash service day up until Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of January.

❄️ **Wreaths** - Remember wreaths are organics too! Make sure to remove all wire and ornaments before recycling.

❄️ **Food** - We hope you enjoy your leftovers this holiday season, but make sure any food scraps and expired foods make their way in to the organic green bins.

## NOT AN ORGANIC RECYCLING ITEM

NO flocked  
trees

NO wires or  
metal

NO cooking  
oil

The gift of sustainability.



## RSM Low-Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026

### 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 visit their website at [Heart4Pets.org](https://Heart4Pets.org).





# Low-Cost Dog & Cat Vaccination Clinic Monthly, Second Tuesday



Bell Tower Regional Community Center

**Reservations Required**

[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) • 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](http://www.Heart4Pets.org)

[contactheart4pets@gmail.com](mailto: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





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


## License Your Pet Online

Keeping your pet licensed is easy! RSM residents can visit [www.cmvas.org](http://www.cmvas.org) to purchase or renew a pet license today.

Be sure to have:

- ◆ Proof of current rabies vaccination
- ◆ Proof of spay/neuter for reduced rates

Licensing your pet helps reunite them more quickly if they're lost and supports vital animal care services.



### License your pet today! It's easy! Do it all online.

To purchase or renew a license visit [www.cmvas.org](http://www.cmvas.org)

You must provide proof of your pet's current rabies vaccination. If your pet has been spayed or neutered, you may license it at a reduced rate by providing proof of alteration.

**Dog Licensing Fees:**


	Regular	Altered
Dog	\$70	\$24
*Senior (55+)	\$35	\$12

Late Fee: licenses over 60 days delinquent will be assessed a \$45 fee.

Tag Replacement: \$8


\*Pet owners over the age of 55 may license their pets at a reduced rate by providing proof of their age.

Proudly serving the cities of Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo, Laguna Hills & Rancho Santa Margarita



SCAN ME

28095 Hillcrest | Mission Viejo, CA 92692 | (949) 470-3045



## 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.

## ALERT OC



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)



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)

A promotional graphic for AlertOC. At the top left, it says "CITY of RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA" in white text on a red background. To the right is the "AlertOC" logo in red and orange, with "STAY INFORMED" in small letters below it. A yellow bell icon with a red circle containing the number "1" is on the left. In the center is a white smartphone with a red screen displaying "Evacuation Notices", "Public Safety Emergencies", and "Disaster Notifications". To the right of the phone is a red speech bubble with white text that says "Sign up to receive:". Below that is another red speech bubble with white text that says "Text ALERTOC to 888777". At the bottom is a blue banner with white text that says "Learn more at 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

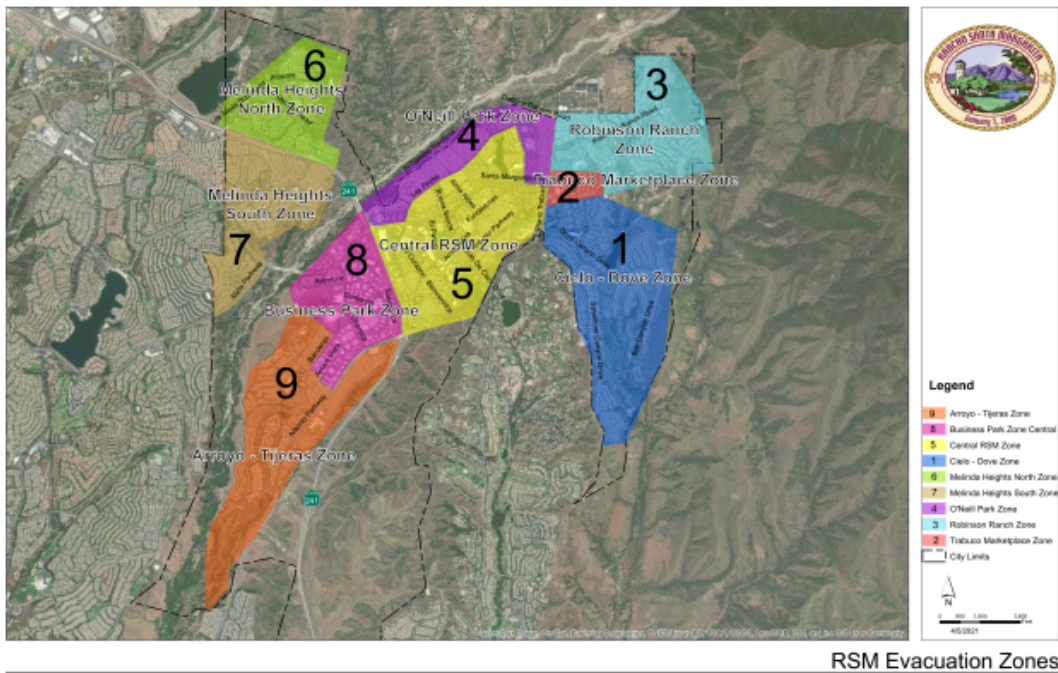
Wildfires are unpredictable. Strong winds can instantly change a fire's direction and strength, making it impossible for law enforcement to carry out evacuation orders or make door-to-door announcements.

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!







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).

## 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"

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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 Home Heating Safety

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) emphasizes keeping flammable items at least three feet away from space heaters, plugging them directly into wall outlets (no extension cords), and never leaving them unattended, especially when sleeping or away. Key safety measures include buying newer models with tip-over shutoff and thermostat controls, placing them on flat, hard surfaces, and ensuring they have modern safety features like automatic shutoff.



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



# HOME HEATING SAFETY



*For many residents, the high cost of home heating has increased the use of portable space heaters, fireplaces, and wood burning stoves. Unfortunately, using these devices can also increase the risk of home fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.*



Space heaters cause 85% of all home heating fire deaths.



Orange County  
Fire Authority

(714) 573-6200  
ocfa.org



## Home Heating Safety Tips

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from all heat sources.
- Hire a professional to clean, inspect, and service your home's heating equipment, fireplace, and chimney annually.
- Purchase space heaters that have an automatic shut off.
- Always plug space heaters directly into wall outlets and unplug them when they are not in use.
- Keep space heaters away from children and pets.
- Turn space heaters off before leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent sparks and embers from escaping.

## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas that can be deadly. Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning – headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, weakness, sleepiness, and confusion. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, get outside to fresh air and call 9-1-1.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating.
- Carefully follow the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions if a wood stove is used to heat the home.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool.

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](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; the State Department accepts renewal applications via mail or through its 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 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](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).



## **RSM Cares. Bell Tower Foundation**

@RSMCares · Nonprofit Organization

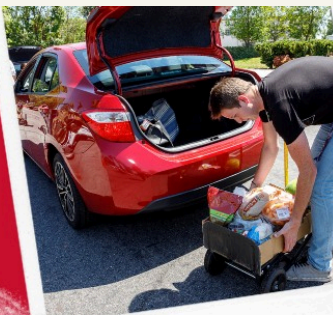
### **Food Pantry Monthly, First and Third Wednesday**

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

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

 <b>RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA LIBRARY</b> 30902 La Promesa, RSM 92688 949-459-6094 OCPL.ORG						
January 2025						
SUNDAY CLOSED	MONDAY 10AM - 7PM	TUESDAY 10AM - 7PM	WEDNESDAY 10AM - 7PM	THURSDAY 10AM - 7PM	FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM	SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM
				CLOSED		Jigsaw Puzzles and Games Adult Mixer 2pm
4	Storytime & Craft 10:30am Teen Lounge 10:30am ESL Casual Conversations 4pm OC Read: Adult Library Walk-in Training 5pm	5	6	7	8	9
		Storytime & Play and Play 10:30am Bollywood Dance Workshop 4:00pm	Kids' Club 3:30pm	Dance Party 10:30am Teen Lounge 3:00pm Teen Volunteer Orientation 5:00pm		BARBQ! Read to a Dog 2pm
11	Storytime & Craft 10:30am Teen Lounge 10:30am ESL Casual Conversations 4pm OC Read: Adult Library Walk-in Training 5pm	12	13	14	15	16
		Storytime & Play and Play 10:30am Library Fresh Open House 12:00pm ESL Casual Conversations 4pm OC Read: Adult Library Walk-in Training 5pm	Kids' Club 3:30pm	Dance Party 10:30am Teen Lounge 3:00pm Teen Volunteer Board 4:00pm		"Love Shakes" Bollywood Make-and-Take Adult Mixer 2pm
18		19	20	21	22	23
	CLOSED	Storytime & Play and Play 10:30am Coffee Adults 5:30pm	Kids' Club 3:30pm	Dance Party 10:30am Bollywood Dance Class 4:00pm		Panama Culture Talk: Exploring Panama's Bridges 2pm
25	Storytime & Craft 10:30am Teen Lounge 10:30am ESL Casual Conversations 4pm OC Read: Adult Library Walk-in Training 5pm	26	27	28	29	30
		Storytime & Play and Play 10:30am Bollywood Dance Class 5:30pm	Kids' Club 3:30pm	Dance Party 10:30am Teen Lounge 3:00pm		Are You Good to Go? Advanced Care Planning Presented by the Office on Aging 2pm

View our  
events here!



### January Activity Calendar



**BOLLYWOOD DANCE CLASS**

**Lavina Punjabi**

**Thursday, January 22nd  
4:00 - 5:00PM**

Join us for a Bollywood dance class with Lavina Punjabi from Mumbai Madness! Learn fun, easy moves you can show off at parties, events, or with friends and family. Feel the music, move with confidence, and come dance, smile, and enjoy the rhythm!

This adult-level program is sponsored by the Friends of the Rancho Santa Margarita Library. For more information, email: [ocpl.rsm@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:ocpl.rsm@occr.ocgov.com)




### Dance Class



## BOLLYWOOD WORKOUT CLASS

Lavina Punjabi

Tuesday, January 6th  
4:00 - 5:00pm

Join us and dance your way to fitness with Lavina Punjabi from Mumbai madness! This fun Bollywood Workout blends lively music, expressive dance move, and cardio inspired by the magic of Indian cinema. No experience needed, just bring your energy and enjoy the rhythm!

This adult-level program is sponsored by the Friends of the Rancho Santa Margarita Library. For more information, email: [ocpl.rsm@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:ocpl.rsm@occr.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



### Workout Class

## LOVE SHACK BIRDHOUSES

Adult Mixer

Saturday, January 17th  
2:00 - 3:30pm

Meet new friends while getting creative during another fun, relaxing Saturday afternoon craft and mixer for adults.

With acrylic markers, paint and decorate a darling wooden birdhouse in a Valentine's Day theme! For more information, email [ocpl.rsm@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:ocpl.rsm@occr.ocgov.com).

This adult-level program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Rancho Santa Margarita Library.



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Monday - Thursday: 10am-7pm  
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Sunday: Closed



### Adult Crafting

## PERSIAN CULTURE TALK

Exploring Ferdowsi's Shahnameh

Saturday, January 24th  
2:00 - 3:00PM

Discover the enchanted world of Shahnameh ("The Book of Kings"), the monumental Persian epic written by Ferdowsi over a thousand years ago. Often compared to Homer's Odyssey and Iliad, this masterpiece blends myth, heroism, and history, preserving the spirit and wisdom of ancient Iran.

Through storytelling, poetry, and cultural reflection, this program explores how Ferdowsi's timeless language continues to inspire themes of courage, justice, and destiny.

This adult-level program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Rancho Santa Margarita Library.



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Sunday: Closed



### Culture Talk

## ARE YOU GOOD TO GO?

Advanced Care Planning

Saturday, January 31st  
2:00 - 3:00pm

Have you had the important discussions with your loved ones in the event of serious illness? Planning ahead provides a gift of peace of mind for you and you those you love. This is the first in a 3-part series by the OC Office on Aging Speaker Bureau Network.

For more information, email: [ocpl.rsm@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:ocpl.rsm@occr.ocgov.com)



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### Estate Planning

## 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! Request a FREE inspection if you suspect a mosquito breeding problem near you!

Submit a service request to OCMVCD [here](https://www.ocmvcd.org).

Visit [ocvector.org](https://www.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**





Mandarin, Khmer, or Tagalog.

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](http://ocnavigator.org). Resources are available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Arabic, Farsi,

## Hazardous Waste Disposal

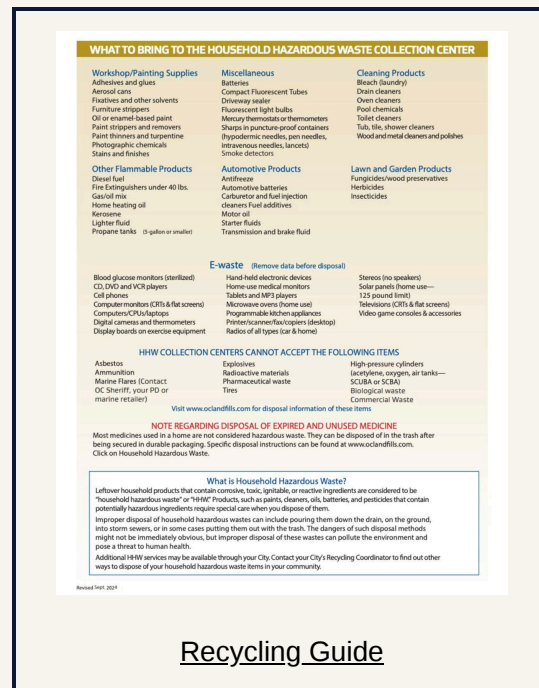
OC Waste & Recycling operates 4 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection centers throughout Orange County. Properly disposing of HHW is important because these items can cause groundwater pollution if they end up in our landfills. Items such as batteries, aerosol cans, and computers can be taken to any County-run HHW collection center.



For locations and information on accepted items, go to <https://oclandfills.com/hhw>.



OC Waste Recycling Center Guide



Recycling Guide

## 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).

## **Rancho Santa Margarita City Council**

L. Anthony Beall, Mayor  
Anne D. Figueroa, Mayor Pro Tempore  
Keri Lynn Baert, Council Member, District 3  
Jerry Holloway, Council Member  
Bradley J. McGirr, Council Member



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