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## RSM Messenger

May 2015

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### RSM City Council

#### Mayor

Brad McGirr

#### Mayor Pro Tempore

Tony Beall

#### Council Members

Carol Gamble

Jerry Holloway

Mike Vaughn

### City Manager's Message

Last month, Governor Brown issued the first ever statewide mandatory water reductions executive order. This direction is aimed at saving water, increasing enforcement of wasteful water use, streamlining the state's drought response and investing in technologies that will make California more drought resilient.

I am happy to report that Rancho Santa Margarita has been a leader in water conservation since its incorporation as a city in 2000. The City Council has been at the forefront of proactive resource conservation by directing the utilization of drought tolerant landscaping and drip irrigation technology in City landscaping projects. You've probably seen such technology in use on the Empresa/Santa Margarita Parkway median improvements, and it is being incorporated into the soon-to-be constructed monument and landscaping improvements at the Alicia/Santa Margarita Parkway intersection.

Another outstanding example is the Upper Oso Habitat Restoration Project, in which ALL water utilized for irrigation is pumped out of the nearby Oso reclaimed water reservoir, and does not adversely affect the City's water supply.

We believe it is imperative to assist residents and business owners to conserve and protect our water supply; visit our [website](#) for resources and events highlighting water awareness, including information on rebates, drought tolerant landscaping, and other incentives and ideas. We thank you for your efforts as we weather the drought as a community and conserve our precious resource.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer M. Cervantez



**Relay for Life Rancho Santa Margarita**  
**Saturday, May 2, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.**  
**Central Park**

## Quick Links

- [City's Website](#)
- [Online Request System](#)
- [Class Registration](#)
- [Bell Tower Facility Rentals](#)
- [AlertOC](#)



Join friends, families and neighbors at Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society's Annual Fundraiser dedicated to finding a cure for cancer. All proceeds will support cancer patients, survivors, research and development. The event will include activities for the entire family.

Visit the RSM Relay for Life [website](#) for more information, to join a team, or volunteer at the event.

## City Council Meetings

Held on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. 22112 El Paseo Rancho Santa Margarita, CA

## Community Living Magazine



**Register Now**

**for Recreation Classes  
at the Bell Tower**

**Regional Community Center**

**SUMMER CLASS  
REGISTRATION BEGINS  
MONDAY, MAY 18**

## ZeroTrash RSM

**Saturday, May 2, 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

(Participants meet at the courtyard between Cinepolis and Panera)

ZeroTrash RSM is a community initiative of volunteers who meet on the first Saturday of each month to rid the city of trash, litter, stickers and graffiti. Join this collaboration of

friends and neighbors of all ages in their mission to improve the appearance of the City and enhance our environment.

For more information, or to register as a volunteer, visit the Bell Tower Foundation [website](#).

Individuals and groups are welcomed and encouraged to attend.



## Water Awareness Day

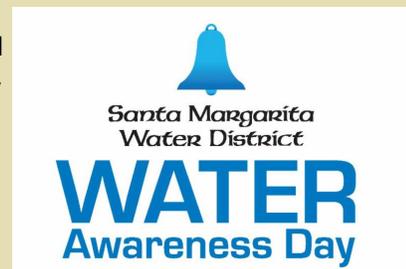
**Saturday, May 2, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Santa Margarita Water District  
26111 Antonio Parkway, RSM**

The Santa Margarita Water District invites the public to attend its annual Water Awareness Day event, a family-friendly educational event focusing on water use and efficiency, conservation and supply reliability through a variety of crafts, water education presentations, demonstrations and tours.

This year's event will be held Saturday, May 2, at the District office located at 26111 Antonio Parkway in Rancho Santa Margarita from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Scheduled activities will include a hands-on tide pool exhibit, water presentations, a drought-tolerant garden display, games and crafts, music, face painting and refreshments. Click [here](#) for the SMWD flyer.



## RSM Community Services offers Summer Camps for all Ages

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita offers a variety of day camp experiences for children of all ages. Our camps create an exciting, safe environment for your kids to have an unforgettable summer of fun. And while they're taking part in unique experiences and adventures, they're also building self-esteem, developing interpersonal skills and making lasting friendships and memories. Summer is just around the corner, register today!



Registration may be completed online at [cityofrsm.org](http://cityofrsm.org), in person at the Community Center, or by mail. For more information, call Community Services at (949) 216-9700.

## E-Waste and Document Shredding Event Saturday, May 9

8:00 a.m. - Noon  
City Hall Parking Lot  
22112 El Paseo, RSM 92688



Dispose of unwanted electronic items (no appliances or fluorescent light tubes) in an environmentally safe manner at this free collection event. Document shredding will also be available, limit 10 file size boxes per household. Click [here](#) for a detailed informational flyer and a complete listing of all accepted items.



## Meals on Wheels Seeks Volunteers

Age Well Senior Services' Meals on Wheels program is in need of regular route drivers in Rancho Santa Margarita. Volunteers are also needed to serve as on-call substitute drivers to fill in when regular drivers are unavailable.

Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver meals to homebound seniors between the hours of 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. one day per week. Monday through Friday.



Click [here](#) for more information, or contact Cherie Unholz at (949) 216-9700, ext. 1271.

## Street to be Re-named In Honor of City's Master Planner

Richard Reese Way will soon become the new name of El Portal, the 2,400-foot thoroughfare that runs alongside Central Park, the City Hall/Community Center complex, the city library and the city center between La Promesa and Avenida De Las Flores.



Reese was the community's master planner, which incorporated as the City of Rancho Santa Margarita on Jan. 1, 2000.

"He's truly the heart and soul of this community ... a gem of a human being," said Mayor Brad McGirr at the regular City Council meeting on March 22. "He's the man responsible for the city we have here today. ... We live in an urban village surrounded by wilderness. This city was planned in a very specific manner. I can't think of anything else I've done since I've been mayor that means more to me."

Mayor McGirr stressed the deliberate choice of "Way" in the street-naming process; "There is meaning behind it; we want everyone to know that this City we are so proud of today is because of Richard Reese and his vision - we are doing it the Richard Reese Way."

This is only the second time in the City's history a street has been renamed. At the request of Community Lutheran Church, the street Via Sosiego (translated Calm Way or Calm Road) was renamed to Via Con Dios (Go with God). The decision by the council also includes up to \$2,000 to reimburse the only business with an El Portal address, Tutor Time Child Care/Learning Center, to cover costs of an address change and update state-issued childcare licenses. Tutor Time supported the idea from the outset. The cost of signage is expected to be about \$1,800, largely because PV Maintenance has offered to replace five street signs at no cost to the City.

Reese, who is 87, and was in the audience as the decision was made, credited all city council members through the years for maintaining his vision, saying the master developer has control of the community "up to a point, but when you sell the first home it no longer belongs to you, it belongs to the residents. As a master planner you pray the leadership of the community will carry that vision forward." He also spoke of the affirmation that hung on his office wall at the onset of the project in 1979, and that it was a promise to those who would eventually settle in the county's southeastern cul-de-sac:

"It is possible to create an urban village in a permanent open space setting in such a manner that people will have the opportunity to choose to live lifestyles that reach beyond the mere satisfaction of basic human needs and embrace wellness, well-being, full self-expression and participative governance as normal everyday activities."

A public ceremony is currently being planned; details regarding the ceremony and street sign unveiling will be published in the June edition of this e-newsletter and on the City of Rancho Santa Margarita's [website](#).

**\$10 Million Lawsuit Against City Dismissed:**

## \$10 Million Lawsuit Against City Dismissed,

### Daichendts Agree To Pay City's Statutory Court Costs

Earlier this month, and less than 45 days after the City of Rancho Santa Margarita filed two motions to dismiss the two zoning and damages lawsuits brought against it by Gary and Joe Daichendt of Theory R Properties through their company Rancho Canyon LLC, on the grounds that both lawsuits were meritless, the Daichendts dismissed their cases and have agreed to pay the City's statutory court costs. "The litigation filed against the City by the Daichendts has been successfully defended, resulting in a dismissal in favor of the City," said Mayor Brad McGirr.

This ends the Daichendts' litigation against the City, one year after they originally filed suit claiming that the City acted improperly by denying their request for a zone change on their property (the former Nissan dealership site), and five months after their sponsored ballot measure to attempt to reverse that denial, "Measure Z", was rejected and defeated by Rancho Santa Margarita voters in last November's election.

The Daichendts, developers with no auto-related experience, purchased the former Nissan dealership site on Santa Margarita Parkway in May 2012, and acknowledged the existing auto center zoning on the property. From the time first occupied, the site had been an auto dealership, and the zoning for the site is Auto Center with an Auto Center Overlay that allows for expanded auto-related uses.

The Daichendts requested the City Council to change the zoning on the property in order to establish a commercial strip mall shopping center. The uses proposed by the Daichendts included a gym, car wash, dry cleaner, coffee/sandwich shop and a drive-thru restaurant. The question presented to the City Council was whether or not the zoning on the property should be changed to accommodate this proposal. Joe Daichendt publicly stated that "he made a calculated risk in purchasing the property and was wrong" and had also threatened to file litigation against the City prior to the public hearing if the City did not agree to change the zoning on his property.

At the January 8, 2014 City Council public hearing, the Daichendts presented their information, including examples of their efforts to attract an auto-related use. City staff presented the recommendation made by the Planning Commission to deny the requested zone change. Both the applicant and City staff had experts to discuss the economic viability of the site. Compelling points were made by many people, both in support of and opposed to the change.

Ultimately, after an 8-hour public hearing, the City Council voted 3-1 to deny the requested zone change on the grounds that zoning is long-term and should not to be changed based on the opinions, preferences or economic circumstances of a single developer. Among the reasons cited, a change would have a detrimental impact on the synergy of the existing RSM Auto Center and reduce its overall size; the change would facilitate future zoning changes that could dismantle the Auto Center; the change would reduce the job and salary opportunities to the residents (projected at a \$40 million dollar loss over 10 years); an offer to purchase the former Nissan dealership property for an auto dealership use was pending; and the residents of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita should not be under any obligation to correct a real estate investor's mistake by changing the City's established land use policies.

"Zoning and land use decisions are fundamental to our community's much envied quality of life and financial stability. As your representatives, the City Council has only one task - to do what is best for the residents and the City. The City will continue to defend against lawsuits like this to preserve our community's character and balance of land uses," stated Mayor McGirr.

## Save the Date - Flag Day Ceremony

Sunday, June 14, 2015

Central Park



### FLAGS SOUGHT NOW FOR JUNE DISPOSAL

The Saddleback Valley American Legion Post 862 and Boy Scout Troop 623 invite the public to attend their 10th annual flag retirement ceremony on Sunday, June 14 at the Rancho Santa Margarita Civic Center, 22112 El Paseo. Held outside the Bell Tower near Central Park, the ceremony is held to properly destroy - by burning - worn, damaged or otherwise unserviceable American flags in a dignified manner.

Celebrating Flag Day on June 14 has been a long tradition for United States citizens. President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation in 1916 offering national recognition for "Old Glory."

Flags can be disposed of in a receptacle located in the lobby of the Bell Tower Regional Community Center, located at 22232 El Paseo, and is courtesy of Eagle Scout Candidate Parker Clements' project entitled Respecting Old Glory.

For more information, call the Bell Tower Regional Community Center at (949) 216-9700.

### Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic

Wednesday, May 6

Bell Tower Regional Community Center

22232 El Paseo

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Cats only)

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Dogs & Cats)

INFO: (714) 993-9193

[www.scvvc.webs.com](http://www.scvvc.webs.com)



Bring your cat or dog for low cost vaccinations from the Society for California Veterinary Vaccine Care and pet licensing from OC Animal Care. Cash or credit card (\$3 processing fee) is the only forms of payment accepted. AVID micro identification chips are also available which includes the registration and continuous, 24/7 lifetime monitoring.

#### Important Rabies Information

If you have a prior Rabies vaccine certificate, license tag or license renewal notice for your pet, please bring it with you to the clinic.

Vaccines for dogs include:

**vaccines for dogs include:**

Rabies	\$ 7.00
DAP/DHPP	\$19.00
Bordetella	\$14.00
Lyme	\$22.00
Microchip	\$ 28.00

*\$2.00 hazardous materials disposal fee per pet*

**Vaccines for cats include:**

FVRCP "3-in-1"	\$18.00
FELV	\$21.00
Purevax	\$20.00
Microchip	\$28.00

*\$2.00 hazardous materials disposal fee per pet*

Prices are subject to change, clinic will cancel in the event of rain.

## May Recreation Highlights

To register for these and other classes, visit Community Services on the City's website at [www.cityofrsm.org/classregistration](http://www.cityofrsm.org/classregistration).

### Little Ninjas

**\$43/ 4 Classes**

This class will cover basic development of skills, structure, and coordination of a Karate class. Ages: 4 - 5 yrs.

Instructor: Robert McDonough

110235 03    T                    May 5 - May 26        3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

### Tunes and Tales

**\$43/ 5 Classes**

**\$48/ 5 Classes\***

Let's get the wiggles out! Tunes and Tales is a music and movement class for children ages 1.5 - 4. Sing-a-longs and finger play songs start off this fun-filled class, followed by music activities using bean bags, rhythm sticks, instruments, a parachute and more. A short story will be read each week in the 2.5 - 4 year old class. The children will have a great time while developing their listening and social skills. Parent/adult participation required. Ages: 1.5 - 4 yrs.

Instructor: Vivian Stapleton

110913 01	Th	May 14 - June 11	9:30 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.	1.5 - 2.5 years
110913 02*	Th	May 14 - June 11	10:15 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.	2.5 - 4 years

### Paint, Pops and More!

**Paint, Paste and More!**

**\$78/ 6 Classes**

Encourage your child's creativity and imagination through hands-on exploration of a wide variety of manipulative and sensory materials. Different activities are introduced each week, so come for fun and dress for a mess. All activities are amendable to suit all ages. Ages: 1.5 - 5 yrs.

\$20 cash materials fee due first class session

Instructor: Wendy Rault

110302 03	T	May 19 - June 23	10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
110302 04	Th	May 21 - June 25	10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.



**Rancho Santa Margarita Civic and Community Center**