City Manager's Message

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita has stepped up to protect and serve our community. City staff have modified service delivery methods to ensure the public has continued access to essential services while following state and county health guidelines. Permit processes were streamlined immediately to allow our restaurants the opportunity for success by offering outdoor dining. I urge you to support our local businesses whenever possible as they are the fabric of our economy.

As we make the transition into late summer and prepare for the upcoming school year, I am reminded daily of the generosity and community spirit during this unprecedented time. Age Well Senior Services and the RSM Cares Food Pantry have experienced a considerable increase in requests for assistance, while at the same time receiving more donations and volunteers than ever before.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Cervantez
March as part of the COVID-19 response. Enforcement of street sweeping parking restrictions was suspended during the statewide stay-at-home order.

The City recognizes that street parking during sweeping is a challenge. The routes have been designed to minimize impacts. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated to assist us in maintaining clean streets. Read on...

Veterinarian Services provided by H.E.A.R.T.

The drive-through appointment only clinics will be held on the first Wednesday of each month in the parking lot of the Bell Tower Regional Community Center, 22232 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688. Read on...

Santa Margarita Parkway Bridge Hinge Maintenance Project Update

The contractor is currently working both on the bridge and below deck. Paving over the former median area will allow one lane of westbound traffic to be diverted onto the eastbound bridge. The projected time frame for the traffic shift is early August. Read on...

Scroll down for SMP Bridge Fact Sheet and FAQs.

Great Plates Delivered program Extended through September 9, 2020

Great Plates Delivered, home meals for seniors is a program that helps California seniors and other at-risk adults to stay home and stay safe by partnering with local restaurants to provide daily meals.

Administered and delivered by Age Well Senior Services, those 60+ can enroll at myagewell.org
COVID-19 Relief T-Shirt Drive

Donate $10.00 to cover one day of meals for a local senior in need and Age Well Senior Services will give you a light summer tee to wear and proudly show your support for their senior nutrition program.

Age Well Senior Services are supporting countless seniors with meals and check-ins during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. This is one way our local community can help seniors. Read on...

Free Electronic Waste and Document Shredding Event

Safely and responsibly dispose of obsolete electronic waste and prevent identity theft during this semi-annual opportunity sponsored by the City of Rancho Santa Margarita and CR&R Environmental Services.

The event will take place on Saturday, November 7, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the parking lot of City Hall. Read on...
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS
Reconstructs the westbound bridge hinge and completes general routine maintenance to extend the bridge’s useful life.
Elimination of the audible double tire-pavement interaction noise at the hinge as vehicles traverse the Santa Margarita Parkway bridge in the westbound direction.

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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS
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SANTA MARGARITA PARKWAY BRIDGE HINGE MAINTENANCE PROJECT
JUNE - DECEMBER 2020
The Project will be completed in two phases to facilitate reconstruction of the bridge hinge and minimize traffic impacts to the greatest extent possible. During the reconstruction of the bridge hinge, expect one lane of traffic shifted from the westbound to the eastbound bridge and a reduction of one lane of traffic in each direction. Before the traffic shift can be accommodated, the east median will be removed and repaved, and temporary bridge supports will be constructed.

Access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicular traffic will be maintained for the entire duration of construction. Below bridge construction will necessitate the temporary closure of the adjacent trails and west driveway access. Access to the trails and west driveway will be available on weekends and during construction non-working hours.

Due to the dynamic nature of construction, please note that all dates and times are subject to change due to unforeseen operational factors or inclement weather.

www.cityofrsm.org
SANTA MARGARITA PARKWAY BRIDGE HINGE MAINTENANCE PROJECT

What is the Santa Margarita Parkway Bridge Hinge Repair Project?
The Santa Margarita Parkway Bridge Hinge Repair Project reconstructs the westbound bridge hinge and completes general routine maintenance to extend the bridge’s useful life.

What is the role of the City in the Project?
The City, in coordination with Caltrans District 12 and the Federal Highway Administration, is working to oversee the rehabilitation of the existing Santa Margarita Parkway Bridge over Arroyo Trabuco Creek, built in 1991 by the County of Orange. Upon City incorporation on January 1, 2000, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita assumed responsibility for general preventative maintenance and repairs. Beador Construction was selected in March 2020 to complete the construction contract administered by the City.

What is the construction schedule?
Construction begins in June 2020 and will continue approximately six months through December 2020. Work is primarily scheduled during weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with the potential for some night work.

What can motorists and pedestrians expect during construction?
The Project will be completed in two phases to facilitate reconstruction of the bridge hinge and minimize traffic impacts to the greatest extent possible. During the reconstruction of the bridge hinge, expect one lane of traffic shifted from the westbound to the eastbound bridge and a reduction of one lane of traffic in each direction. Before the traffic shift can be accommodated, the east median will be removed and repaved, and temporary bridge supports will be constructed. Access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicular traffic will be maintained for the entire duration of construction. Below bridge construction will necessitate the temporary closure of the adjacent trails and west driveway access. Access to the trails and west driveway will be available on weekends and during construction non-working hours.

Was there an environmental process completed?
The Santa Margarita Parkway Bridge Hinge Repair Project followed the proper environmental process in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition, the Project has obtained all required regulatory permits.

What can motorists and pedestrians expect once construction is completed?
The Santa Margarita Parkway Bridge provides vital access to the community. Construction will result in a significant extension of the useful life of this critical infrastructure. The most noticeable result will be the elimination of the audible double tire-pavement interaction noise at the hinge as vehicles traverse the Santa Margarita Parkway bridge in the westbound direction.

How can I stay informed about construction activities on the project?
The City is committed to keeping the public well-informed during construction. Visit www.cityofrsm.org for information and updates. Project information will also be posted on the City’s Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages. For questions or comments, email smpbridge@cityofrsm.org or call (949) 635-1832.