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CONTACT:

Molly McLaughlin
City Clerk
949.635.1806
Carrie Arneith Miller
Keena•Thomas Communications
949.455.4600

MONEY Magazine Names Rancho Santa Margarita as One of the Best Places to Live

According to MONEY Magazine, Rancho Santa Margarita has great schools, affordable homes, low crime, and much more.

Rancho Santa Margarita, CA – Congratulations to Rancho Santa Margarita! MONEY Magazine just named the community as one of the Best Small Towns (BST) for families in the United States. The magazine used a variety of criteria to select the best towns, including job growth, income increases, cost of living, housing affordability, school quality, arts and leisure, safety, health care, diversity and several ease-of-living criteria.

“It is extremely rewarding to have Rancho Santa Margarita selected from thousands of small towns across the United States and named in the Top 100 of Best Small Towns,” shares Gary Thompson, Mayor for the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. “I think it’s interesting to note that only 3 towns from California were selected: Walnut, Clayton and Rancho Santa Margarita.”

MONEY Magazine described Rancho Santa Margarita as an Orange County suburb tucked beneath the Saddleback Mountains, with great views of Modjeska Peak. When compared to other towns on the Best Small Towns list, Rancho Santa Margarita received high marks for median family income (\$122,165 RSM vs. \$97,441 other BSTs), test scores in reading (61.9% above the state average vs. 25.6% other BSTs) and low property crime (11 per 1,000 RSM residents vs. 19 per other BST residents).

“We have been celebrating the safety of our community for years, so it’s no surprise to find that MONEY Magazine found Rancho Santa Margarita to be a safe and secure place to live,” says Thompson. “Public safety is one of my highest priorities, and my City Council colleagues and I want Rancho Santa Margarita to remain a community where residents feel safe.”

Rancho Santa Margarita placed 82 out of 2,466 towns that were considered for inclusion on the list. Towns with a population of 8,500 to 50,000 residents were part of the consideration set.

For a complete list of the Best Small Towns, please visit www.money.cnn.com.

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