



Rossmoor

January 2016—Issue XXXIX

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Reindeer Do Fly!

REINDEER IN ROSSMOOR

The first annual [Rossmoor Winter Festival](#), held on Friday, December 11, 2015, was a tremendous success and a fun filled evening for all who attended. A colorful tree lighting ceremony helped to make the season warm and bright. Cheerful holiday music filled the air and the live choir performances by LAUSD Hopkinson and McAuliffe

Middle Schools had the crowd cheering. Photos with Santa, Selfies with the Frozen characters and arts and crafts were a huge hit. The live reindeer attraction provided a magical experience for young and old alike. Families really enjoyed the holiday movie, 'Elf' and children had fun in the bounce house. Local vendors sold unique gifts to make holiday shopping ultra-convenient and an array of food trucks and a beer garden satisfied appetites. The night wound down with an unforgettable holiday lights trolley tour complete with 3-D glasses! The event planning team did a great job creating a variety of activities and attractions. With only three months to organize the event, RCSD staff accomplished a nearly impossible feat. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to our event cosponsor, [Rossmoor Homeowners Association](#) for their generous donation and support as well as all the terrific contributors, performers, board members, staff and volunteers who helped to make this event truly memorable. We could not have done it without you. Next year we are committed to making this new tradition even bigger and better. If you would like to sign up to be a volunteer or sponsor for the 2016 Rossmoor Winter Festival please contact: Recreation Superintendent, Chris Argueta at: rcsd@rossmoor-csd.org. For photos of the event [click here](#).



The Los Alamitos Middle School Choir Performances were a huge hit at this past year's Rossmoor Winter Festival.

—LD

STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS 2015

The RCSD Board President presented the [2015 State of the District Address](#) at the January 12, 2016 regular meeting of the Board. The State of the District Address can be read on our website at: www.rossmoor-csd.org. The RCSD Board of Directors also held its annual election of officers. [Election results can also be found on our website](#). **RCSD Board meetings are televised on LATV-3 and are also available for viewing 24/7 on our website.** For questions pertaining to board meetings, agendas and speaker requests contact the [Administrative Assistant](#).

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BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Tuesday of each month
@7 p.m. in the Rush Park Auditorium. Aired on LATV3.



RCSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Tony DeMarco
1st VP Michael Maynard
2nd VP Ron Casey
Director Bill Kahlert
Director Dave Burgess





James D. Ruth
General Manager

EXECUTIVE MATTERS

Happy New Year! The year 2015 turned out to be a very good year for Rossmoor. The Board and Staff accomplished a great deal due to excellent teamwork and cooperation as well as a passion for public service. We begin the new year with new and improved outdoor facilities. Our Rush Park picnic canopy structure has been completed and renters have been reserving the new space for many celebrations. Our parks received some irrigation upgrades and new drought tolerant landscaping as the result of a turf replacement project. The new drought tolerant plants are not only beautiful, but were also free, thanks to grant funds. This year we look forward to the landscaping renovation of Kempton Mini-Park, Rush Park Tot Lot area improvements and much more. Thanks to all of you who attended and supported our first annual Rossmoor Winter Festival and helped to make it such a remarkable success. It was good to see so many families enjoying the season. This year begins my third year as General Manager of the Rossmoor Community Services District. I can't wait to see what we achieve next!

—JDR

IT'S A ZOO OUT THERE!

Orange County Mosquito & Vector Control District is responsible for issues involving vermin which includes mice, rats, mosquitoes, red fire ants, Africanized honey bees, and other similar pests. Please visit the [Orange County Mosquito & Vector Control District's website](http://www.ocmvcd.com) or call (714) 971-2421 for more information.

RESCUE DOG ROSCO LEADS BY EXAMPLE

The community of Rossmoor certainly loves its dogs. It is nice to meet the many responsible pet owners who visit Rush and Rossmoor Parks each day. Walking is a great source of exercise and one of the best ways to keep you and your pet healthy and active. Most of the dogs we encounter are kept on a leash, which is the law. That being said, too many other owners allow their dogs to roam free as if the law somehow doesn't apply to them. No matter the size—small, medium or large—leashes still apply. Excuses like, "He's friendly", "She's well-trained", "He needs to run," "This is a park!" abound. While most people love dogs, not everyone is canine-inclined; as is their right.

Leashes keep dogs from jumping on, fighting with, biting and knocking over people and other dogs. Leashes keep dogs safe from cars and coyotes. If you must let your dog roam off leash there are many local dog parks in Seal Beach, Long Beach and Huntington Beach that permit dogs to be off leash.

Please be advised that if your dog is found to be off leash in RCSD Parks, you will be subject to a hefty fine from Orange County Animal Control. If you observe an unleashed dog in Rossmoor's Parks please call: 714-896-7400. Rosco the rescue dog is on a leash and your dog must be too! Thanks Rosco!



Rosco, an Australian Shepherd Mix, and his owner choose to obey the leash law in Rossmoor's Rush Park. Good Boy, Rosco!

Quarterly Quote: "Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife, are in fact plans to protect man." *Stewart Udall*



THE NEW NORMAL

Coyotes are indigenous to the Rossmoor area. As human populations spread and open areas shrink, coyote sightings in urban environments, at varying times of day, is the new normal. Like humans, coyotes have the remarkable ability to adapt to challenging situations and surroundings. Urban coyotes are not unique to Rossmoor. The surrounding cities of Long Beach, Seal Beach, Huntington Beach, Los Alamitos, Westminster and Cypress all coexist with this intelligent, resourceful creature. Last year, the City of Irvine had many headline-making encounters with coyotes.

After a significant decrease in activity earlier in 2015, Rossmoor experienced an increase in coyote sightings toward the end of the year. A total of 16 sightings were reported to RCSD in the month of December, with a total of 20 sightings for the year. Unpredictable weather changes leading to scarcity of prey and/or changes in natural prey behavior, drought conditions impacting the coyotes natural food supply leading them to seek easier domestic prey, other food attractants, and coyote gate openings in response to rain forecasts, all may be contributing factors. Orange County Public Works manages the coyote gates, which are raised and lowered according to rain forecasts.

The Rossmoor Community Services District is not a city and does not have jurisdiction over animal control services or wildlife. The RCSD records [coyote sightings](#) for informational and observational purposes only. The goal is to increase Rossmoor's coyote data, document trends and expand local citizen awareness of urban coyotes. RCSD shares this data with The Rossmoor Homeowners Association Coyote Task Force, which was established to assess community concern regarding increased sightings and to assist in identifying possible imprinted coyotes. The RHA is working to establish an interactive map to record sightings. Although neither RHA nor RCSD have the authority to take independent action without County authorization, we can collect local data, specific to Rossmoor, to help authorities assess a need for a next step.

Orange County Animal Control Services presides over animal control in the Rossmoor Community and animal control is strictly under their jurisdiction. Animal Control will only respond to coyote sightings if the animal is injured or there is a threat to human life. To report such injuries or threats (i.e. stalking/attacks) call Animal Control at 714-935-6848. After hours you may call 714-935-7158. If you do not get a response Dial 9-1-1.

[The California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) has jurisdiction over wildlife such as coyotes, bears, mountain lions, etc. and managing related encounters. In order for them to accurately measure coyote activity and threat levels, you must report all coyote sightings and confrontations to the agency via their [wildlife incident report form \(WMD-2\)](#). The form can be accessed on the agency website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/LivingWithWildlife/publicsafety.html>. This page can also be accessed from the [RCSD website](#).

Step 1: [To add your coyote sightings to the RCSD coyote log](#), use the [Contact Us](#) page on our website. Select "Coyote Sighting Log" from the Subject Drop Down Menu. Include your name, address, phone number, time and date of the sighting along with a brief description. Step 2: You must also report the sightings to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife via their [wildlife incident report form](#).

We need residents to report coyote sightings so that their activity can be accurately measured. Practice coyote hazing techniques to keep the animals wary. Practice prevention by securing trash and food attractants. Do not let small children play outside unsupervised, especially at dawn and dusk. Do not let small pets roam free outside, even in your backyard, unsupervised, at dawn and dusk. Do not create conditions that could attract coyotes or small wild animals that coyotes feed on. Carry deterrents such as a flashlight, personal alarm, noisemaker and/or large stick, while walking your dog. Do not unleash your dog under any circumstances! There are no easy answers to the urban coyote issue. Whether you love them or hate them, coyotes are here to stay.

—LD



CH STATE

THE REGION'S #1 FAN EXPERIENCE
AND HOME TO THE NATION'S
LARGEST BASKETBALL VIDEOSCREEN

ROSSMOOR NIGHT

AT THE WALTER PYRAMID
IN LONG BEACH
SUPPORT ROSSMOOR RESIDENT, HEAD COACH DAN MONSON

MARCH 5 VS. HAWAII

ROSSMOOR BASKETBALL NIGHT IS BACK!

Saturday, March 5, 2016-CSULB

Benefits include:

- Game Ticket!
- Recognition on the Nation's Largest Videoboard!
- Complimentary Game Rosters!

Winter Weather is here and as predicted, El Niño has hit with a vengeance. Are you prepared? To make things a little easier, [Orange County Public Works](#) is supplying free sandbags on a first come first serve basis while supplies last. Contact OCPW for details. You can also obtain sandbags at your local building supply or hardware store.

STORM WATCH
OCPW
SANDBAGS

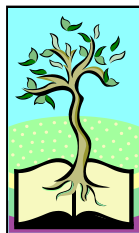
OC Public Works: 2301 N. Glassell st. Orange, CA 92865
Sandbags: 50 is the limit
(maybe pre-filled or not depends on the availability)

SAVE A TREE

LITERALLY!

Sign up to
receive your
newsletter

[ELECTRONICALLY](#)



rcsd@rossmoor-csd.org



TREE CITY USA

Branch Banter

With Mary



Kingman



STORMY WEATHER



El Niño has finally arrived and our drought stricken trees are now threatened with a different kind of danger. Many are already suffering from water stress along with pests and diseases that have been able to attack vulnerable trees. The weather will now be their greatest concern. Storms that bring heavy winds and rain will no doubt be battering those weakened limbs and bringing down trees with compromised root systems. Flooded conditions can also cause damage as well by injuring and suffocating roots and effecting soil pH and composition. Many residents have had their parkways re-landscaped to drought tolerant designs or artificial turf. Unfortunately the effects of roots disturbance due to tilling and the suffocation of roots from piled-up top soil and plastic landscape materials do not always show up right away. While a tree can look healthy up above, the root system may be compromised and unstable. We need the public to be vigilant about potential tree catastrophes waiting to happen. If you see any problems with street trees on your parkway or while walking/riding around the neighborhood, such as large broken limbs or heavily leaning trees that weren't previously leaning, please contact me immediately. I will evaluate the tree and take care of any issues that may pose a risk to the public. Keep in mind that most deciduous trees are now without their foliage and may look dead, but are actually just dormant. Although the falling leaves can create lots of messy litter for residents to clean up, it's important to remember that during their life cycle, these leaves provided oxygen, absorbed pollution, reduced energy costs and urban heat island effects by shading homes and asphalt. Trees that do still have leaves will be helping to catch the rainwater and lesson the amount that hits ground, giving more time for it all to drain away. There are so many benefits to be found in our trees – so let's appreciate them and all enjoy the much needed rain!

—MK

URBAN FOREST

