



Rossmoor

July 2014



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A BATTLE OF WITS



Give them lemons and they make lemonade. Coyotes are some of the most intelligent and adaptable creatures on earth. Whatever man-made obstacle we create, coyotes are clever enough to find a way over, under, around or through it. They are smart, agile, stealthy, quick and effective hunters. Although not typical in rural settings, urban coyotes have been known to hunt in packs and operate much like their larger cousin, the wolf. Coyotes are not to be underestimated.

But what if instead of creating obstacles, we are inadvertently attracting coyotes into our urban environment? Not purposely of course, but attracting them nonetheless. Failing to secure trash cans and leaving pet food and water outside are two irresistible temptations for hungry wildlife. Another lure is easy prey—like our precious pets. Cats and smaller dogs are coyote magnets. Why chase wild rabbits when you can dine on unsuspecting and defenseless domestic prey?

The County of Orange manages the flood control channels and coyote gates in the area. Coyotes utilize the channels to travel between urban environments. County officials have confirmed that these gates are closed and secure (see *photo*). However, this is just one aspect of the urban wildlife mitigation strategy. Here are some others: remove sources of food and water, pick up fallen fruit, cover compost piles, put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over, keep pets in at night, put away bird feeders and other coyote prey food sources, trim shrubbery to discourage breeding habitat and remove hiding places, install motion-sensitive lighting around your home.



If you are followed by a coyote make loud noises and throw rocks. Dog walkers are advised to keep their dogs close to them on a short leash and carry a stick or cane for protection. Report sightings on the [RCSD website](#) and also to the [Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) at 858-467-4201. Animal control will only respond to coyote sightings if the animal is injured or there is a threat to human life. Orange County Animal Control can be reached at 714-935-6848. **NEVER leave small children or pets outside unattended. If a coyote attacks a person, immediately contact the nearest animal control or law enforcement agency. After hours, call 9-1-1.**

As a community we need to be proactive in discouraging the proliferation of urban coyotes. It does no good to secure your trash can, if your neighbor fails to do the same. With a little tough love and consistency, we can teach the coyotes to be less urban and more wild. **When all is said and done, we are a team of humans against a pack of coyotes—this is a battle of wits.** —LD

Learn More! DFW Coyote Presentation July 8th at 7 pm-Rush Park Auditorium.

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BOARD MEETINGS

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

**CA DEPT OF FISH & WILDLIFE
URBAN COYOTE PRESENTATION
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2014**



RCSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Michael Maynard
1st VP Bill Kahlert
2nd VP Ron Casey
Director Alfred Coletta
Director Tony DeMarco





EXECUTIVE MATTERS

It has been a pleasure working with the RCSD Board and Staff over the past six months. Many exciting and worthwhile district projects have been completed and are in progress. The [Montecito Center](#) kitchenette is being transformed. Soon renters will enjoy a newly renovated kitchenette with new cabinetry, flooring and appliances. Rossmoor Signature wall repairs are being evaluated; the project will soon go out to bid. Rush Park Auditorium will be upgraded with all new cost and energy efficient lighting. A new ADA compliant swing has been installed in the Rossmoor Park Tot Lot. We are researching online reservation software options so patrons will have the ability to shop for a facility via the district website with the option to pay for reservations online with a credit card. We have added a coyote sighting and education page to our website and are researching responsive website skin design options. Attendance at our first summer movie in the park, Frozen, exceeded all expectations. These are just a few of the ways the district board and staff are working to improve the community services in Rossmoor. Staff has been working hard for you. We are always open to suggestions on how we may improve —*JDR*

Quarterly Quote: “Perhaps a man's character was like a tree, and his reputation like its shadow; the shadow is what we think of it, the tree is the real thing.” -Abraham Lincoln-



I-405 PROJECT DELAYS COSTING MILLIONS PER MONTH



On Monday, June 23, 2014, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) staff provided an update to the OCTA Board of Directors on the status of the I-405 Improvement Project. For a copy of the presentation, [click here](#) or visit octa.net.

OCTA is currently awaiting the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) decision regarding their recommendation of a Preferred Alternative. OCTA Staff will return to the Board when there is a Preferred Alternative recommendation from Caltrans with an update on project schedule and activities.

The Corridor Cities new Alternative 4 is very similar to the proposal they sent to OCTA and Caltrans about six weeks ago. The only difference being more flexibility with their proposed HOV lane in hopes that it will be more acceptable to Caltrans.

Many current California Assemblymen and State Senators are supportive of no toll lanes on the I-405. As citizens our objective should be to persuade enough of the remaining representatives who are still undecided to join us in our crusade against imposing additional fees on motorists.

It is your tax money being spent on any build alternative and you should not have to spend an additional \$20-plus dollars per day for what is essentially a round trip using a toll lane on the I-405. Join us at our next board meeting or visit our website for the most current information.

Caltrans Preferred Alternative Recommendation	July 2014
Signed Final Environmental Document	February 2015
Notice of Decision/Record of Decision Publication	May 2015
Issue Design-Build Industry Outreach Letter	August 2014
Issue Design-Build Request for Qualifications	September 2014
Issue Design-Build Draft Request for Proposals	January 2015
Issue Design-Build Request for Proposals	June 2015
Design-Build Award	February 2016
Design-Build Notice to Proceed	April 2016
Design/Construction	2016 to 2020

CHA-CHING!



This summer's first movie in the park, Frozen was a hit! An estimated 1500 people showed up to enjoy the free summer family fun! Thank you for making it such a huge success. Two fantastic Shakespeare performances are next **See schedule at right.** Join us for our next fun feature Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 on Friday, July 18th, followed by our second concert performance of the summer by The Emperors on Friday, July 25th. The excitement builds to a fantastic finale in August with The Lego Movie on Friday, August 15th and get ready to rock out with the fantastic Elm Street Band on Friday, August 22nd.

SHAKESPEARE. . . . Shakespeare by the Sea Presents:

Sat—July 12—7PM:
MidSummer Night's Dream

Sun—July 13—7PM:
Hamlet-Prince of Denmark

Shakespeare by the Sea presents

HAMLET
PRINCE OF DENMARK

FREE Rush Park
Sat, Jul 12 at 7pm

Shakespeare by the Sea presents

AMID SUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM

FREE Rush Park
Sun, Jul 13 at 7pm

IN THE PARK

**To maximize your experience please bring:
chairs, blankets, flashlights, insect repellent**



The new ADA compliant swing makes its debut at Rossmoor Park

NEW PLAYGROUND ADDITIONS

In January, the Rossmoor Community Services District opened its newly renovated Jungle Pirate themed playground. After an extensive planning phase including community input and suggestions for the outdated Rush Park playground, the nearly 20-year old pirate ship and even older school-aged red and yellow play structure was removed in order for the District to comply with current safety and ADA standards. In its place, children can let their imaginations run wild on the new pirate ship and complementing jungle-themed pirate adventure ship.

Research shows children need challenges in play in order to create goals for themselves and understand the feeling of accomplishing those goals. Taller, larger climbing components and a free-standing fish climber for school-aged youth has brought new life into Rush Park's play area, the District has especially seen an increase in use by pre-teens. While school-aged children enjoy challenging tag games, toddlers and preschoolers

pretend to be pirates and princesses while avoiding shark infested waters surrounding the pirate ship. Ground-level play components for all include sound machines and a captain's wheel. The playground is now accessible to a broader range of ages and abilities. —EG

BONUS E-CONTENT


E-mail us at rcsd@rossmoor-csd.org and include the words SUBSCRIBE RCSD E-NEWS! in the subject line. Include your full name and street address.

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Are available 24/7 on YouTube Channel CSMP TV operated by Larry Strawther



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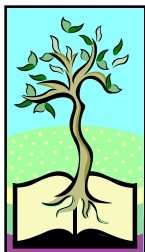


First Summer Movie in the Park—Frozen Sing-a-Long Version
“Let it go!...Let it go!...” Based in Newport Beach, Snow Sisters Parties, provided our Movies in the Park Frozen Sing-a-long event with 'Elsa' and 'Anna' character look-a-likes for pics! What a fun addition to the festivities.

SAVE A TREE

LITERALLY!

**Sign up to
receive your
newsletter**



ELECTRONICALLY



Branch Banter

With Mary

Kingman

H2O CONSERVATIONISTS

With all the talk about water shortages, it pays to explore some water saving options when selecting plants for home garden and landscaping projects. Native Southern California plant species are always an excellent choice since they have evolved and adapted to the local weather over thousands of years. These plants are very tolerant of seasonal extremes. Once established in your garden, many native plants are extremely low maintenance and require little to no watering beyond natural rainfall.

For ideas on how you can incorporate native species into your home or business projects, visit a local botanical garden, read some books, consult an expert, and browse the internet for resources. There are some beautiful native species just waiting to take root in your soil (*Salvia Celestial Blue* photo right).

Note that if plants are changed, but watering habits are not, water savings and financial benefits will not be realized. For more information about native plants visit California Native Plant Society's website at <http://cnps.org>.

