



City Manager Weekly Update



December 4, 2025



Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration – This Saturday!

Don't miss the City's annual Tree Lighting Celebration this Saturday, December 6, at Historic Town Center Park (31872 El Camino Real). Festivities begin at 4:00 p.m. with pre-show entertainment, followed by a musical holiday production. The tree lighting will take place at 5:45 p.m. followed by a variety of holiday activities throughout the Los Rios District. For additional information, please see the attached flyer or contact the Public Works & Community Services Department at (949) 493-5911.

Trolley Services for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

The San Juan Capistrano Trolley will be running from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. this Saturday, December 6, 2025, for the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony! Take advantage of the convenient park-and-ride locations listed below, services include four trolleys on 20-minute frequencies servicing a continuous loop on the Los Rios and Ortega Line. Park your car, hop aboard the trolley and enjoy an easy, festive ride right into the heart of the celebration. For additional information, please see the attached flyer or contact the Public Works & Community Services Department at (949) 493-5911.

Park & Ride Locations:

- San Juan Capistrano Community Center – 25925 Camino Del Avion
- JSerra Catholic High School – 26351 Junipero Serra Road
- El Horno Street Public Parking Lot – 31469 El Horno





Mission San Juan Capistrano's Annual Capistrano Lights Returns

Capistrano Lights returns to historic Mission San Juan Capistrano to illuminate this California landmark with festive lights, community-designed Christmas trees, large-scale nativity scene, Dickens-era carolers, holiday photo backdrops, and nightly 30-foot tree lighting with music. Capistrano Lights will occur on select evenings from December 19 through December 30. Ticket entry includes all-day admission, multi-language audio tour, and musical offerings. Holiday programming will be held nightly from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., with the tree lighting and music program starting at 5:05 p.m. For additional information, please see the attached flyer and visit the Mission San Juan Capistrano [website](#).

Skatepark Playground Closure December 1 – December 17

The City's Skatepark playground is currently closed for scheduled improvements and will reopen on December 17, 2025. During this time, existing woodchips will be removed and replaced with a new pour-and-play surface. The playground area will be temporarily fenced off while work is underway, but the skatepark itself will remain open to the public. For more information, contact the Public Works and Community Services Department at 949-493-5911.

Del Obispo Street Railroad Crossing

As part of the San Juan Creek Railroad Bridge Replacement Project, crews are expected to perform nighttime track work through Thursday, December 11, from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. These activities will occur near the Del Obispo crossing, where signal arms may be activated more frequently during this period. While most work will take place overnight, daytime work may also trigger the arms to come down intermittently at the Del Obispo crossing, primarily from Amtrak trains that are scheduled to arrive/depart at the San Juan Capistrano train station. For additional information, please contact the Engineering and Environmental Services Department at (949) 487-4307.

Northwest Open Space – Legacy Ranch Update

Earlier this year, the City Council initiated a study of potential amendments to the Northwest Open Space Specific Plan at the request of the applicant, Legacy Ranch, LLC. The Legacy Ranch concept would amend the site's permitted uses to allow for a mix of active recreational uses on the City-owned site. City staff and an environmental consultant, LSA Associates, have reviewed the proposed uses and prepared an Initial Study which determined that the project would need an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to assess potential impacts. The City published the [Legacy Ranch Initial Study and a Notice of Preparation](#) (NOP) of an EIR on November 13 for public review. The public comment period is intended to allow members of the public to help identify which environmental areas should be further reviewed. The public comment period extends through December 15. For additional information please contact project manager Laura Stokes at lstokes@sanjuancapistrano.org.



Holiday Fire Safety

Festive gatherings with friends and family are highlights of the holiday season, but they also present increased fire risks that can put you, your loved ones, and your home in danger. An average of 835 home fires are caused by decorations, equaling more than \$13 million in home fire damages each year. Ensure your holiday celebrations are fire safe and injury free by following a few suggested guidelines:

- If you are entertaining guests, use a kitchen timer to remind you that the stove or oven is on.
- Water your tree daily and remove it promptly after the holidays.
- Unplug decorations and lights before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home escape plan.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from all heat sources.

For additional tips and what to do in the event of a fire, please visit [OFCA.org](https://www.ofca.org).

SMWD San Juan Groundwater Recovery Plant Tour

Join Santa Margarita Water District on Friday, December 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the San Juan Groundwater Treatment Plant. This guided tour will offer an opportunity to see how local groundwater is treated, purified, and delivered to our community. For additional information and to register, please see the attached flyer.

New Coats for Kids Drive

A “New Coats for Kids Drive” coordinated by 5th District Supervisor Katrina Foley runs through December 19. Help keep local children warm this winter by donating new coats for kids (sizes S–L). Donations will benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Juan Capistrano and other local nonprofit organizations. A collection box for new coats is available at the San Juan Capistrano Community Center (25925 Camino del Avion). For additional information, please see the attached flyer.

THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
 PRESENTS

Christmas Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 6, 2025



4:00PM

**Pre-Show
Entertainment**

5:00PM

**Holiday Stage
Production**

5:45PM

**Christmas Tree Lighting
Countdown (Approximately)**

6:00PM

Free Holiday Activities in the Los Rios Historic District

Photos with Santa Claus • Storytime with Mrs. Claus
 Holiday Puppet Show • Mechanical Train Ride
 Business Merchant Open House • S'mores Station
 Free Kids Crafts • Costumed Characters



Spread Holiday Cheer

Please consider bringing a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Orange County Fire Authority Holiday Toy Drive. Donation boxes will be located at Historic Town Center Park during the event.



Event Sponsors



Historic Town Center Park • 31872 El Camino Real

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (949) 493-5911, EXT. 3

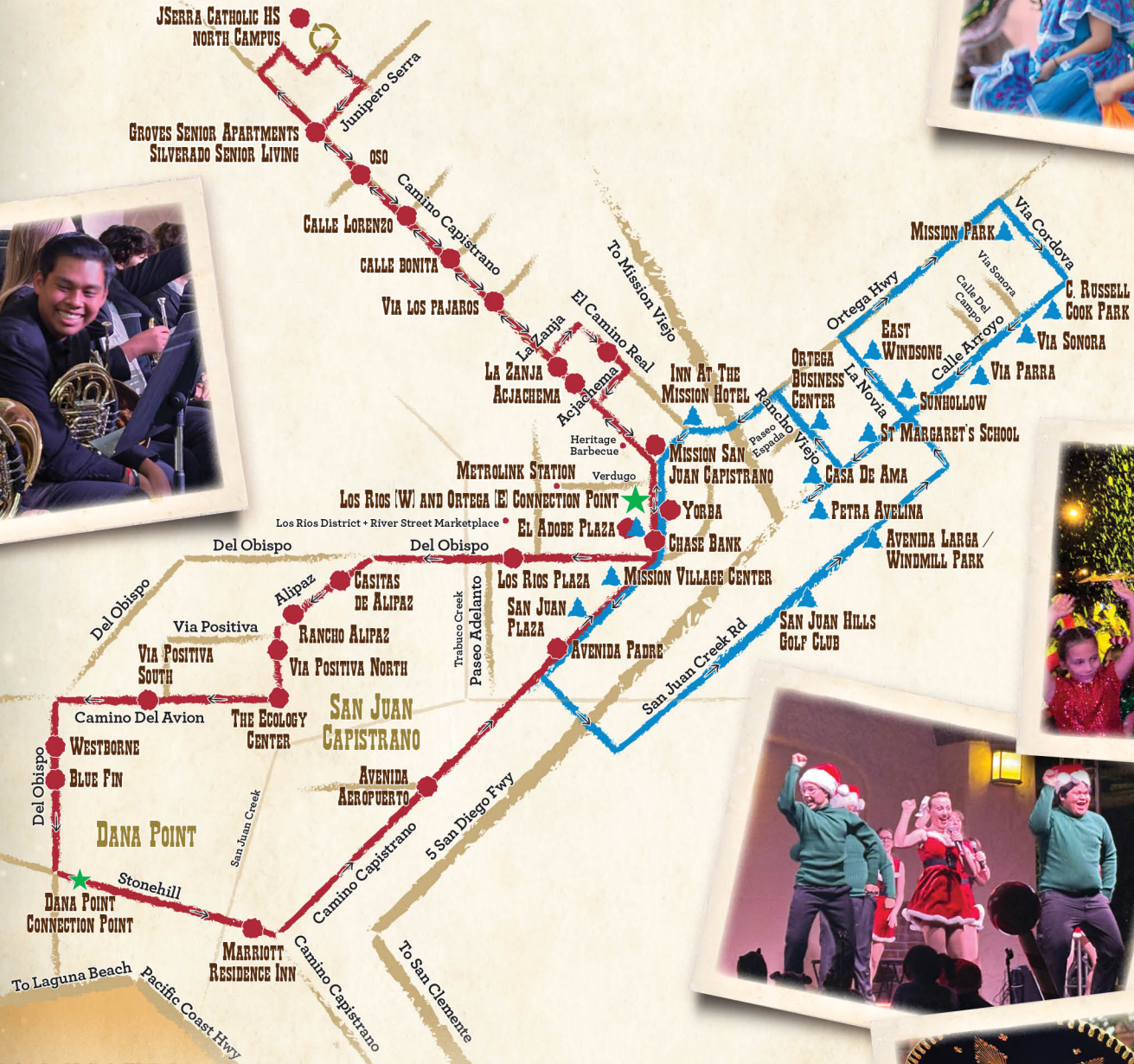


LOS RIOS LINE (WEST SJC)

Trolley Connection Point → El Adobe Plaza → Los Rios Plaza → Casitas de Alipaz → Rancho Alipaz → Via Positiva North → The Ecology Center → Via Positiva South → Westborne Dr → Blue Fin Dr → Dana Point Connection Point → Marriott Residence Inn → Avenida Aeropuerto → Avenida Padre → Chase Bank → Yorba St → Mission San Juan Capistrano → Acjachema St → La Zanja → Via Los Pajaros → Calle Bonita → Calle Lorenzo → Groves Senior Apartments Silverado Senior Living → JSerra Catholic HS North Campus → Groves Senior Apartments Silverado Senior Living → Calle Lorenzo → Calle Bonita → Via Los Pajaros → El Camino Real/SJC Library → Trolley Connection Point

ORTEGA LINE (EAST SJC)

Trolley Connection Point → El Adobe Plaza → Mission Village Center → San Juan Plaza → San Juan Hills Golf Club → Avenida Larga/Windmill Park → Sunhollow → East Windsong → Mission Park → C. Russell Cook Park → Via Sonora → Via Parra → St. Margaret's School → Casa De Ama → Petra Avelina → Ortega Business Center → Inn At The Mission Hotel → Trolley Connection Point



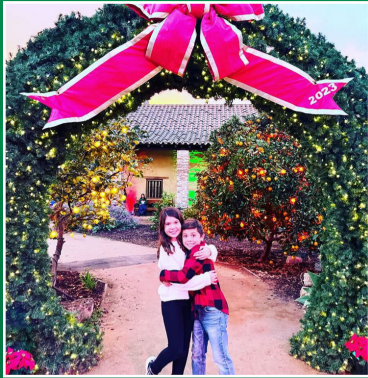
For service information and real-time trolley arrivals, use the Passio GO app or visit the website. For more information, please call Community Services (949) 493-5911.

Capistrano LIGHTS MISSION IN LIGHTS

**NEW
OPENING
NIGHT!
FRIDAY,
DEC. 19!**

DECEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 30, 2025 *(select days)*

**Family Holiday Fun
at the Historic Mission**



**Capistrano Lights: Mission in Lights Returns this December with a new
OPENING NIGHT ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19!**

Capistrano Lights Super Ticket Admission Includes:

Admission to the Mission (10:00AM - 7:00PM)

Audio Tours: History, Garden, Student and Capistrano Lights

Holiday Programming

Christmas Tree Lighting and Music Program at 5:05PM

Performances by Dickens Carolers (3:30PM - 6:30PM)

Selfies with Santa through Dec. 23 (3:30PM - 6:30PM)

Nativity in the Ruins of the Great Stone Church

Community Christmas Trees • Family Wreaths

Light Tunnel featuring over 20,000 Lights

Prayer Candles • Serra Chapel Open

Musical Performances *(select evenings)*

Kids Crafts • Sweet Treats • Santa's Sleigh & More!

Mission Grounds Close at 7:00PM

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 City Tree Lighting and Opening Night
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Capistrano Lights Opening Night	20 Capistrano Lights
21 Capistrano Lights	22 Capistrano Lights	23 Capistrano Lights	24	25	26 Capistrano Lights	27 Capistrano Lights
28 Capistrano Lights	29 Capistrano Lights	30 Capistrano Lights	31			

Member Pricing:

Adults: \$9, Seniors: \$9, Youth/Student: \$9

Children (4 and Younger): FREE

Public Pricing:

Adults: \$20, Seniors: \$17, Youth/Student: \$14

Children (4 and Younger): FREE

~ Kick off the December festivities by joining the City of San Juan Capistrano as it lights its Official Christmas Tree on Saturday, December 6. Learn more at sanjuancapistrano.org ~

MISSION MEMBERS RECEIVE UP TO 50% OFF TICKET PRICES!

Tickets On Sale Now at CapistranoLights.com

Thank You to Our Sponsors: American Endowment Foundation, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Native Hands Wine Rancho Capistrano Winery, Mission Brewing, Mike Ahumada Realtor SJC Specialist, Lana & Bruce Treuhaft and 3:16 Bakery Shop

All onsite events are subject to change. All ticket sales are final. No refunds.



Santa Margarita
Water District

San Juan Groundwater RECOVERY PLANT

Infrastructure Tour

Join Santa Margarita Water District for an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at one of the region's most important water facilities — the San Juan Groundwater Treatment Plant.

This guided tour offers an opportunity to see how local groundwater is treated, purified, and delivered to our community with safety, reliability, and sustainability in mind.

Learn how innovative technology and responsible water management are helping protect our precious water supplies for future generations. Our expert will walk you through the treatment process and highlight how SMWD is investing in local water reliability.

Fun Facts

- Uses advanced treatment, including reverse osmosis and UV disinfection
- Produces up to 5 million gallons of drinking water per day
- Sources water from the San Juan Groundwater Basin

TOUR

FRIDAY, DEC. 12
9:30 - 11:30 AM

- 2 Hour Tour
- Leaves from SMWD Headquarters



Save your Seat!

SMWD.COM/Events



Katrina
FOLEY
VICE CHAIR, OC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

New Coats for Kids Drive

NOVEMBER 13 –
DECEMBER 19, 2025

**Please bring New Coats for Kids (Sizes S-L)
for donation to:**

**San Juan Capistrano Senior Center
25925 Camino del Avion
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675**

**The collection boxes will be available from Thursday,
November 13, 2025 – Friday, December 19, 2025**

The coats are distributed to Costa Mesa, Laguna Beach, and San Juan Capistrano Boys and Girls Clubs as well as other non-profit organizations. This year, we will have more than 45 collection boxes at County Administration and in the Fifth District. Last year our office distributed more than 800 new coats for kids.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL KIMBERLEE (714)-834-3550
OR
EMAIL KATRINA.FOLEY@OCGOV.COM