



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Laguna Niguel Enhances Local Senior Transportation Program with Senior Wheels Program Expansion

Laguna Niguel, CA – In an exciting development for local senior residents, the City of Laguna Niguel is expanding and rebranding its existing Senior Transportation Program, now known as 'Senior Wheels'.



The City's Senior Transportation Program, which is made possible in part through Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Measure M2 funding, has been providing low-cost transportation service options to Laguna Niguel seniors, age 60+, for more than 10 years. While the program has provided thousands of rides to Laguna Niguel seniors since its inception, there has been a decline in ridership since the pandemic began in early-2020. While ridership has slowly increased post-pandemic, the program has not returned to previous participation levels, thus warranting an expansion and a rebranding of the program.

The newly revamped Senior Wheels program, which was unanimously approved by the City Council on December 19, 2023, includes significant updates such as expanding ridership eligibility, providing additional destinations and trips, and rebranding the program for ease of access. The program aims to increase ridership levels by providing more inclusive and comprehensive transportation services to the community's senior residents while still meeting all OCTA Senior Mobility Program eligibility requirements. Qualifying Laguna Niguel seniors can now utilize the Senior Wheels program to travel to the Sea Country Senior & Community Center at no cost, and to other locations such as grocery stores, medical appointments, and/or to visit friends/family for only a nominal fee, as low as \$2.50.

"I am thrilled about the launch of our revamped Senior Wheels program. At its core, this program is about more than just transportation; it's about ensuring our vibrant seniors remain active in the community. Staying connected with friends, family, and essential services is vital for reducing isolation and enhancing our overall quality of life," said Mayor Kelly Jennings. "To commemorate the launch of this enhanced initiative, the City Council authorized that all rides be free for the month of January 2024. I encourage our senior residents to visit the Sea Country Senior and Community Center to learn more and register for the Senior Wheels program."

The City's Parks and Recreation Department facilitates the Senior Wheels program from the Sea Country Senior & Community Center, and contracts with California Yellow Cab to provide roundtrip transportation from a senior resident's home to eligible locations throughout the city and county. The program provides curb-to-curb service on demand from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, including some holidays. In order to qualify for this program, individuals must be a Laguna Niguel resident, at least 60 years of age, and unable to drive a vehicle for any reason. For more information about the City's enhanced Senior Transportation Program, now called Senior Wheels, please visit: www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/seniorwheels, or call (949) 425-5151.

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