

LADERA RANCH

ROOTS AND WINGS

LADERA RANCH'S OFFICIAL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

WINTER 2023



Winter FEST LADERA p.2

Your HOA at Work
p.6

Teens in Ladera
p.12

**LARMAC's
Superwomen**
p.14

Emma Megerian, President, and
Carson De Filippo, Vice President,
LARCS Teen Leadership Council

WINTER
Events
p.4



The Walsh Family

IT'S STARTING TO FEEL A LOT LIKE WINTER

Welcome the magic and wonder of the winter holiday season. This hometown celebration is a time for fun and laughter as you greet neighbors, meet new friends, and enjoy the festivities.

There will be crafts for the kids, photo ops, entertainment for the family, and a chance to take your photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Winter Fest
Saturday, December 2
2:00–5:00 p.m. | Town Green



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LADERA RANCH COMMUNITY SERVICES (LARCS)

Oak Knoll Village Clubhouse
 28192 O'Neill Drive
 (949) 388-8300 | contact.larcs@laderalife.com
 Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Events • Programs • Laderalife.com • Community Partnerships
 Groups/Clubs • Roots and Wings Magazine • Ladera Happenings

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Armando Rutledge
 Vice President Jay Rogers
 CFO Barton Warner
 Secretary Dalia Viera
 Director at Large Todd Stearns
 Non-Voting Officer Jill Lau
 Non-Voting Officer Joya Celik

LADERA RANCH MAINTENANCE CORPORATION (LARMAC)

Avendale Village Clubhouse
 1 Daisy Street
 (949) 218-0900 | contact.larmac@laderalife.com
 Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Closed daily for lunch: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
 Available by appointment.

Membership Cards • Laderalife Registration
 Architectural Plan Submittal • Enforcement Review
 Common Area Maintenance • Facility Reservations

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Chase Fitzpatrick
 Vice President Tony Castillo
 Treasurer Ryan Vallone
 Secretary Erick Kollerbohm
 Assistant Secretary Vacant
 Non Voting Officer Henry Shahinian

Titanium Security..... (949) 351-9253

To report a non-emergency concern regarding LARMAC property or amenity, a violation of community rules, or an issue with parking on private street areas patrolled by LARMAC, please call or text Titanium Security, 24/7.

FirstService Residential (949) 448-6000

Ladera Ranch is professionally managed by FirstService Residential, California.

Sign up at

Laderalife.com/newsletter to stay up-to-date with the latest events, announcements, and projects.

Laderalife

If you have recently moved, check your Laderalife account to ensure your home address, mobile number, and email address are current.

As a service to Ladera Ranch residents ("Participants"), LARCS makes available various service providers such as instructional and recreation class instructors, sports leagues, social events and others that may be added from time to time (collectively, the "Providers"), which agree to provide classes and other activities to Participants. However, neither LARCS, LARMAC, FirstService Residential CA, DMB Ladera, nor any of their directors or officers (collectively, the "Ladera Parties") recommend or endorse any of the Providers or any classes, activities, information, advice or services provided by such Providers (collectively, the "Products"). The Ladera Parties are not responsible for the accuracy, reliability or quality of any Product provided to Participants by or on behalf of any Provider. Any reliance upon any Products of a Provider shall be at the Participant's sole risk.

The Ladera Parties expressly disclaim any and all warranties, expressed or implied, including, without limitation, warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, with respect to any Product any Participant obtains from a Provider. In no event shall the Ladera Parties be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, punitive or consequential damages of any kind whatsoever with respect to any Product or information provided by, on or behalf of, a Provider. Since individual needs vary from Participant to Participant, the Ladera Parties suggest that each Participant conduct the necessary due diligence to ensure that any Product and/or Provider selected for use by a Participant is appropriate for such Participant's circumstances. LARCS reserves the right, as its sole discretion and without any obligation, at any time to withdraw any benefit of discount and to cancel any provider.

Your attendance at LARCS and/or LARCS Partnership events constitutes your permission to LARCS and/or parties designated by LARCS to photograph you and your family members, including minor children, and to use such photographs in all forms of media and any and all promotional purposes including advertising, publicity, display, audiovisual, exhibition, commercial and editorial use. The term "photograph" as used herein, encompasses still photographs, audio recording and motion picture footage. LARCS reserves the right to reproduce and/or authorize reproduction and use of such photographs for use in all promotional markets. LARCS and any of its associates, affiliates, designated directors, officers, agents, and employees are not liable for any claims of civil violation of privacy as result of photographs taken at LARCS events.



Better Together has been the theme for 2023 and, therefore, is the theme for the year-end issue of Roots and Wings magazine. Together, our residents have achieved so much that is significant to our community.

Active Participation to be a Part of the Solution

Many have stepped up by getting involved in committees, our two boards, volunteering at community events, helping in classrooms, supporting Parent-Teacher Associations, and coaching sports. Your commitment to others is an investment in our hometown. We're grateful for those who attend LARMAC Board meetings in person and online. Together, we've tackled challenges, found solutions, and built a stronger sense of community.

Applying Expertise to Serve Our Community

We're happy to welcome Erick Kollerbohm and Ryan Vallone to the LARMAC Board and Todd Stearns to the LARCS Board. Their expertise is welcome, and their commitment to serving the community is appreciated. Other resident volunteers who contribute their expertise and talents are those who serve on the Covenant and Aesthetics Review Committees, which maintain community standards, the Event Planning Committee, which plans our community events; and the Technology Advisory Committee, which offers valuable recommendations to the LARCS Board.

Your HOA at Work

LARMAC has completed a long list of capital and reserve projects this year (see page 6). This work aligns with our mission to keep Ladera Ranch a premier master-planned community. We've responded to hundreds of resident-initiated maintenance requests, and the compliance team has worked with homeowners to ensure that the community Aesthetic Standards are maintained. These efforts help promote strong property values.

Community Safety

LARMAC and LARCS have worked extensively with the California Highway Patrol, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, the Orange County Fire Authority, and Supervisor Katrina Foley, 5th District Orange County, on community safety issues and initiatives. This ongoing effort has brought renewed attention and resources to Ladera Ranch.

As a resident, you are crucial in partnering with law enforcement to keep Ladera safe. If you see something, say something! This goes for affirming good behavior, especially in young people, and helping curb crime. If you witness poor behavior, speak up and report it. Law enforcement leaders emphasize that phone call reports from residents directly impact budgets and resource allocation.

Celebrating the Holidays

Join our winter events, like Winter Fest, on December 2 at Town Green. Let's celebrate the holidays, continue to build friendships, and strengthen our community.

It takes a village coming together to maintain our sense of community. We need you. We need each other. Together, we're better!

Happy Holidays!



<i>Armando Rutledge</i>	<i>Chase Fitzpatrick</i>
ARMANDO RUTLEDGE	CHASE FITZPATRICK
President	President
Ladera Ranch	Ladera Ranch
Community	Maintenance
Services (LARCS)	Corporation (LARMAC)



NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 15 LETTERS TO SANTA

Write a letter to Santa to let him know what you wish for this holiday season. Your letter may be dropped off in his special mailbox at the Avendale Village Clubhouse or Winter Fest on December 2. From the North Pole, Santa will reply to each letter he receives. Be sure to include your return address.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 SANTA VISITS

4:00-7:00 p.m. | Covenant Hills Village Clubhouse
Registration begins November 13

Mr. and Mrs. Claus will listen to holiday wish lists while taking photos with your family. Bring your camera to capture this special moment. Space is limited. Registration is required.



NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 12 HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTESTS

Get into the holiday spirit by entering your home or neighborhood in the annual Holiday Decorating Contest by noon on November 29. Categories include Most Creative Use of Lights, Best Use of Theme, Classic/Traditional, and Best Yard Display. Winners will receive a gift card and yard sign to display throughout the holiday season.

To vote for your favorites, visit **LaderaLife.com** starting November 30.

Residents must obtain an Encroachment Permit from the County of Orange if holiday displays, including a string of lights, are stretched over public right of way. To learn more, visit ocplanning.net/permits.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 WINTER FEST

2:00-5:00 p.m. | Town Green

Join us for an afternoon of fun winter-themed activities, pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and more. Don't leave early; Santa will turn on the holiday lights in the park at 5:00 p.m. This fun family event will create cherished family memories and ignite the spirit of the winter season.



For the latest information, visit **LaderaLife.com/events**



DECEMBER 4-15 TOY DRIVE

Ladera Ranch is collecting toys and gift cards for 1ST Light Armored Reconnaissance families, a Marine Battalion based at Camp Pendleton, to share cheer with children newborn to 18.

Collections sites

Avendale Village Clubhouse

Mon-Fri: 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Sat: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Oak Knoll Village Clubhouse

Mon-Fri: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



MENORAH LIGHTING

Visit LaderaLife.com for event details

Join us as we celebrate Hanukkah as a community at the Ladera Ranch Festival of Lights. This year, LARCS is partnering with local organizations to create an evening of community with music, dancing, dreidels, crafts, candle lighting, and traditional Hanukkah snacks.



CREATE AND CONNECT WORKSHOPS

6:00 p.m. | Oak Knoll Village Clubhouse

Unwind and explore your artistic side at these Create and Connect Workshops. They are the perfect backdrop for a seasoned artist or a beginner. Our friendly and experienced facilitators will nurture your creativity as you sip wine, delight in savory appetizers, and have fun with friends.

Tuesday, December 5 Gift Wrapping
Wednesday, January 31..... Botanicals in a Box
Monday, February 12 Galentine's Day
Thursday, March 13 Mood Moss Terrarium

Winter EVENTS 2023



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 COCKTAILS & COMEDY

6:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Covenant Hills Village Clubhouse
\$50 per person | 21+

Laughter may be the best medicine, and not far behind is a good drink, so you'll get the best of both worlds at Cocktails & Comedy. Admission includes two drinks, food, entertainment, and more. Save \$5 per ticket when you purchase before February 2.

2023 Completed Projects

As part of its mission to maintain amenities, community grounds, and common-use spaces, LARMAC has completed the following projects this year.



Capital Improvement Projects

- Founders Park volleyball lights
- Video surveillance cameras at several locations

LARCS/LARMAC Projects

- New 18-hole disc golf course

Noteworthy Accomplishments

- Founders Park turf renovation
- Hired Titanium Security, the new security patrol vendor
- Resurfaced Avendale sports courts
- Created a dedicated sports and recreation page to LaderaLife.com
- Completed Phase 1 of the Shot Hole Borer project in collaboration with the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)

Reserve Projects

Clubhouses

- Avendale Clubhouse interior painting; pool restrooms painting and door replacement

Landscape

- Acacia removal in prioritized areas
- Eucalyptus and Pine tree removals
- Horno Basin clean out and repairs
- Landscape renovations and galvanized pipe replacement
- Trail and pathway repairs

Neighborhoods

- Mailbox replacement: Potters Bend, Savannah, Tarleton 1, and Weatherhaven
- Neighborhood and park gazebo refurbishment and painting: Oso Grande, Celestial, Boreal, Eton, Linear, Weatherwood, Brittlestar, Poets, Town Green, Arborage, and The Gables
- Trellis refurbishment and replacement: Canterra Plunge, Chalk Trail and Mission Hills Park, Arborage, Meridian, Westcott, and Windmill

Parks

- Arroyo Park fence replacement
- Founders Park turf renovation, vinyl fence installation and landscape enhancements
- Patio furniture and bench replacement: Avendale Clubhouse, Boreal Plunge, Terramor Skate Park, Arroyo and Walden Park

Playgrounds

- Four playground structures and six rubber play surface replacements
- Playgrounds: Sienna Botanica, Exploration and Town Plunge
- Rubber play surfaces: Eton, Linear, Oak Knoll, Poets, Weatherwood and Cox Sports Park

Sports Facilities

- Avendale tennis and pickleball court resurfacing
- Cox Sports Park BBQ and garage door replacement
- Founders Park volleyball drainage installation



Avendale Clubhouse



Boreal Benches



Chalk Trail Park



Town Plunge Playground



LARMAC Continues to Innovate to Control Costs

Solar at Cox Sports Park keeps energy costs flat; In-house staff saves thousands annually.

In 2017, the LARMAC Board considered opportunities to use solar to control operating costs. Cox Sports Park was the best opportunity to install this cost-saving measure since it used the most energy of all LARMAC's facilities. The sports park facility used the most energy during the lowest cost time of day – in the evening when the field lights were in use. Additionally, given the proposed footprint of the large shade structure that would be installed on Cox Sports Field, the system could generate the most energy.

In 2018, the investment of \$433,900 to install the solar array project was estimated to reduce electrical usage by 71%, saving the association \$63,000 in the first year alone, and would have a payback period of five years.

Since the solar project was installed at Cox Sports Park, electrical usage at the sports park has been reduced by 75% or 154,416 kWh. In 2018, the park used 206,472 kWh, and in 2022, the electricity usage was 52,056 kWh.

With the rise in energy costs over the past five years combined with the fact that LARMAC is using less energy today, LARMAC has seen a 233% increase in the average kWh cost. It paid \$0.68/kWh in 2018 and now pays an average of \$2.27/kWh.

Since the solar array system was activated in late 2018, a normalized annual savings is challenging to determine given the inconsistent use during the past five years. Field use decreased significantly in parts of 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID shutdowns. Adding to the complexities are the dynamic rates SDG&E introduced, which vary based on usage.

When LARMAC compares the first eight months of 2023 with the same period in 2018, there is a noticeable reduction in overall usage and expense:

- 2018: 140,439 kWh / \$97,255 in expenses / \$0.69 average kWh
- 2023: 56,458 kWh / \$88,085 in expenses / \$1.56 average kWh
- Energy usage is down 60%
- Energy expenses are down 9%
- Average kWh rate is up 126%

These comparison numbers reflect a significant energy reduction (60%); however, the cost of energy is significantly higher today than it was in 2018 (up 126%), which leads to annual savings that are considerably less than the energy reduction.

Another way that LARMAC has used innovation to control its operating costs, and monthly homeowner assessments, is by bringing projects in-house. LARMAC has trained in-house staff members to repair concrete sidewalk lifts and rebuild wooden trellis and gazebo structures, which saved the master homeowner association tens of thousands of dollars by using LARMAC staff to complete the work rather than outside vendors. A recent example is a trellis repair project that was completed in-house and saved the association approximately \$30,000.

Ken Gibson, LARMAC General Manager, said, "The LARMAC Board is comprised of resident volunteers who contribute their talents and expertise to benefit our community and residents. The foresight of the LARMAC Board and the staff working together to make the project a reality is to be commended. It has made a significant impact in containing costs and, ultimately, saving residents money."

Learn more about these and other projects on LaderaLife

- Amenity Maintenance
- Community Projects
- Pest Control
- Landscape



LaderaLife.com/YourHOAatWork





Ladera Doesn't Just Happen

Resident volunteers give their time and expertise to maintain Ladera as a premier community

Every aspect of what attracted your family to Ladera Ranch is purposeful and intentional, from the designs of the homes and neighborhoods to the color schemes and plant palettes for each home style. Hundreds of other details and responsibilities are overseen by the Ladera Ranch Maintenance Corporation (LARMAC) Board of Directors.

The resident volunteers who take on these roles serve you, their neighbors, and community because they care. They care about maintaining Ladera Ranch as a premier master-planned community and keeping it a wonderful place for residents to call home.



Chase Fitzpatrick

Serving our community as a volunteer is a privilege. Being actively engaged, and in tune with our neighbors, allows us to advance the common vision of improving upon what makes Ladera Ranch a fantastic community.



Samantha Talley

Serving the community has meant a lot of late nights and missed dinners, but it has been worth it to do my part to help grow the community I love. I'm proud of LARMAC's renegotiation of contracts and spending our community dollars wisely to offset inflation.



Tony Castillo

Serving Ladera gives me a sense of accomplishment and pride. My family has lived in our original home in Ladera since 2003. I'm proud of playing a role in bringing on an excellent security patrol company that has made significant improvements.



Ryan Vallone

Being new to the Board, my goal is to contribute to the strategic decision-making process that aligns Ladera Ranch's mission and objectives. I hope to foster collaboration among board members and drive initiatives that positively impact the community.



Erick Kollerbohm

Serving Ladera allows me to be directly involved with the decision-making process using my background and experience in public works and infrastructure project management to serve the community.



Thank you Matt Plaxton and Ricardo Naranjo for your years of service to Ladera Ranch.



Matt Plaxton



Ricardo Naranjo

Matt Plaxton

Serving on the LARMAC Board has been a rewarding experience. It's provided me with a profound sense of connection and purpose. I'm reminded of the importance of giving back and contributing to the well-being of our residents.

Ricardo Naranjo

Serving on the LARMAC Board has been a privilege. This unique experience has allowed me to represent the best interests of the community in areas such as contractor evaluations, facilities, and budgets.

Not photographed: Henry Shahinian



Ladera Ranch Community Services

Fostering connectedness among neighbors;
nurturing the spirit of service to the community

Ladera Ranch Community Services (LARCS) is a community services organization (CSO) that builds a strong social fabric by encouraging neighborhood interaction through technology, programs, activities, and the spirit of volunteerism. LARCS promotes communications among neighbors, organizations, alliances, and businesses through LaderaLife.com and publications to keep residents informed.

LARCS is an independent 501(c)(4) nonprofit public benefit corporation with an independently elected governing Board of Directors.



As an unincorporated community, LARCS is similar to a municipality's community services. The division provides the following services to the community:

- Community Events
- Recreation Programs
- Roots and Wings Magazine
- Neighborhood Block Parties Reimbursement Program
- LaderaLife.com
- LARCS Scholarship Program
- Teen Leadership Council
- Event Planning and Technology Advisory Committees
- Legacy Brick Program
- Ranch Hands Volunteer Program
- Community Clubs and Groups



LARCS LADERA RANCH *lifestyle*



LaderaLife

LaderaLife.com is the official website for community news and updates. Residents can view events, official announcements, project updates, and reserve amenities such as tennis courts and clubhouses.



Ladera Happenings

The official newsletter for the community remains a meaningful way for residents to stay informed weekly with quick news briefs. Over 8,200 residents receive Ladera Happenings with access to the most current announcements, events, and programs from LARCS and LARMAC.



Social Media

Social Media is how we connect with our residents and future residents in real time. We use our pages to get the word out on topics that our residents care about. Our following is at 5.3K for Facebook and 2K for Instagram.



LARCS is funded primarily through a Community Enhancement Fee paid at the sale or resale of any home in Ladera Ranch.

- **First time sales:** 1/8% of the purchase price
- **Resales:** 1/4% of the purchase price



Roots and Wings

The official print magazine of Ladera Ranch is always well-received by residents who appreciate this high-impact, high-quality publication. The quarterly issues include upcoming projects and lifestyle features such as events, recreation programs, and resident spotlights. Roots and Wings Magazine is recognized as the platinum standard in community publications.

LARCS LEADERSHIP & STAFF

FOSTERING A SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM, NURTURING A LEGACY OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DALIA VIERA
Secretary

ARMANDO RUTLEDGE
President

JAY ROGERS
Vice President

TODD STEARNS
Director at Large

JOYA CELIK
Non-Voting Member

BARTON WARNER
CFO

JILL LAU
Non-Voting Member

LARCS COMMITTEES



Provides insights, strategies and ideas that promote greater use of LaderaLife.com - Ladera Ranch community website.

Members:

Emre Celik, Bob Daly, Robert Lozano, Chris Schleich, and Jason Walsh



Provides ideas and recommendations to the Board of Directors that will ensure cost-effective and quality community events that promote a unique community spirit for the residents.

Members:

Alison Duff, Christine Reves, Stephanie Stein, Jim Finken, Harpreet Kaur, Georgette Shrake, and Lea Prokopowicz



Provides opportunities for teens to come together for leadership development and community outreach.

Members:

Aleena Ali, Apoorvi Singh, Anur Narayanan, Anya Bryan, Arjun Narayanan, Brooklyn Whitcomb, Carson De Filippo, Connor Mai, Dylan Fingerish, Emma Megerian, Fae Nguyen, Gabriella Bensadoun, Kendall Schmidt, Liam Megerian, Megan Zimmerman, Naomi Nguyen, Nikita Karnik, Sarina Ali, Sasha Payidiparty, Shaurya Sharma, Sophie Picariello, Vikram Ganesan, Alexa Stein, Ariana Price, and Sai Chintamaneni.

LARCS STAFF

ASHLEY BLAIR | Community Services Director
ashley.blair@fsresidential.com

DAVID ROBERTSON | Communications Manager
david.robertson@fsresidential.com

JOANNE KOPENY | Events and Programs Manager
joanne.kopeny@fsresidential.com

JUDY YOUNG | Community Lifestyle Coordinator
judy.young@fsresidential.com

MILAN CAPIZZI | CSO Special Projects Coordinator
milan.capizzi@fsresidential.com



Teen Leadership Council

Welcome *New* Members



Newest Members (L-R):
Ariana Price,
Alexa Stein, and
Sai Chintamaneni

The Teen Leadership Council (TLC) is a diverse group of students in grades 8 to 12. They have demonstrated exemplary leadership skills and serve their community through volunteerism.

TLC further allows teens to develop their leadership, planning, and implementation skills. They do this through hands-on involvement in community outreach projects, organizing events, and actively participating in community activities.

Members strive to inspire other teens in the community to get involved so that they, too, may aspire to make positive contributions to their communities.

This year, 22 teens submitted applications to be considered for three openings for the 2023-2024 year. The Council is excited to welcome the newest members.

Stay Informed. Stay Connected. 5 Ways to Get the 411 on 92694

- 1 Visit LaderaLife**
From official announcements, home improvement resources, community events, recreation programs, projects, and more, check LaderaLife first. It's legit.
- 2 Read Ladera Happenings**
If you're a 92694 resident, you should receive this weekly newsletter on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. Sign up at LaderaLife.com/newsletter. You'll love being in the know!
- 3 Attend LARMAC Board Meetings**
We make it easy to attend in person or online. You'll be better informed and feel better about your community. Plus, we allow you to voice your compliments, concerns, and ideas.



- 4 Browse Roots and Wings Magazine**
We hope you're enjoying your free subscription to Ladera's official magazine. Learn about upcoming events, classes, projects, and more.
- 5 Scroll, Click, and Like on Facebook or IG**
Are we friends yet? Let's connect on Facebook and Insta. It's our way of saying we're committed to making it easy for you to stay connected to your community.

A Leap of faith

By Eva Mazzara



Making the Transition from High School to College



Eva Mazzara

Hi, my name is Eva and I recently graduated from Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA) and now attend Saddleback Community College. Throughout my time at OCSA, I met many incredible people who are my closest friends and participated in ballroom dance events with my conservatory - my favorite had to be when we went to Nationals in Provo, Utah! As I look back on my high school years, I realize that you never truly realize how fast time flies until you look back

on a period of time in your life.

Change can be a daunting experience no matter your age - even if it's a positive change. As I stepped into my Sociology class, I felt a mix of so many different emotions.

A different classroom setting, different campus, different people, even the chairs were different! But within a week, my nervousness took a back seat. As a social person who values community, I made it a priority to involve myself in things on campus I am passionate about.

Whether at Saddleback College or another campus, there are many opportunities for students to connect with organizations or others who share their interests and passions. Or, discover what you may want to pursue.

As an 18-year-old trying to navigate my way in life and transitioning from high school to college, I'm the first to say that finding yourself in a new environment can initially seem intimidating. That's OK, though! It's completely normal, but it doesn't have to stay that way. It's all about perspective. Look at it as a new chapter of your life that is about to be written.

Consider joining or starting a new club. Colleges like Saddleback frequently have club rushes, which allow students to meet new people and get engaged with the culture.

If you're a high school student who is considering starting at Saddleback College, I encourage you to schedule an appointment with a counselor, look at the website, and get an idea of something that may spark your interest. Look at the clubs and programs you might want to join.

Time does fly by quickly and we can get overwhelmed but remember that patience is key. Allow yourself time to adjust. Don't be afraid to ask any questions you have. Everyone is extremely helpful in guiding new students. Remember to take it one step at a time and be kind to yourself and your mind.

5 Tips for making the transition to college, or anything new

1. Create new opportunities for yourself; try something new
2. Get involved and embrace the culture at school
3. Continue to pursue your passions in your new environment; passions can lead to a career
4. Take it one step at a time and be patient and kind with yourself
5. Meet with counselors or experts, other students, and ask questions



Tips for Teens Facing Transition

How I Cope With Change in My Life



SUPERWOMEN

KEEPING LADERA MOVING

In addition to maintaining Ladera as a premier master-planned community, Ladera Ranch Maintenance Corporation (LARMAC) assists residents by setting them up with their resident access card, facilitating access to Covenant Hills to build custom homes, and guiding them through the home improvement process.

Meet three LARMAC staff members who are crucial in keeping Ladera on the move. You may get to know them on a first-name basis. They are among the industry's best and brightest, and each have a passion for helping residents – from getting connected, building their dream home, to keeping their property looking great.



MEGAN OTTE

Member Services Manager

Megan leads the Member Services team, which is responsible for fielding all resident inquiries, issuing access cards to residents, answering hundreds of questions, and much more.

In her role, Megan actively supports the Ladera Ranch Maintenance Corporation (LARMAC) community vision and philosophies, and FirstService Residential's commitment to delivering exemplary client and resident service. She ensures excellent customer service and prompt and accurate responses to resident inquiries that come through the Member Services desk.

The Member Services team assists residents in completing their clubhouse and picnic shelter reservations, processing payments, and securing insurance and vendor information, which is important in protecting the association, and, ultimately, homeowners.

Megan enjoys meeting new families when they come in to pick up their access cards. Families want to know everything there is to do in Ladera – and the best time is during the winter holidays when it's most magical. "Seeing the smiles, and the children's excitement on their faces never gets old," she says.

Megan loves having good old-fashioned conversations. It's an opportunity to establish a connection with our residents.

"The LARMAC team loves this community and the values it was founded on. Each one of us has a special part in ensuring Ladera



Ranch continues to be a successful and sustainable master-planned community while fostering the small-town feel that Ladera is known for," Megan continues.

Most residents who meet Megan are surprised that she's an old soul. She is a fan of older sitcoms that include I Love Lucy, Golden Girls, and The Dick Van Dyke Show. She admits that she has a bucket list goal of playing a game of bingo at a real bingo hall.

When asked what she wished every resident knew about LARMAC, she replied, "That we genuinely enjoy every aspect of what we do for our residents. Whether it is welcoming new residents to the neighborhood, creating their access cards, answering questions about their reservation, or offering assistance when a resident shares a concern or issue, we genuinely care and love our role in the community."



As Ladera's official website, LaderaLife makes it easy to find a wealth of helpful information and resources.

MIKAILE BROWN Custom Lot Coordinator

Covenant Hills has a total of 173 custom homes with 6 lots to be built. As Ladera Ranch's Custom Lot Coordinator, Mikaile facilitates the Custom Home Design Review process for all developed and undeveloped custom homes. She also facilitates special projects and ensures compliance for all custom home builds, which keeps Mikaile busy.



Mikaile is considered one of FirstService Residential's top associates who leads by example and lives out her values at work. Her even-keel demeanor helps calm homeowners who experience the excitement of building a custom home. Mikaile has been recognized by her industry and her peers as having impeccable attention to detail and for her passion for the process of building a new home.

Mikaile says, "I totally nerd out on the process of building a home. I love seeing a dirt lot turn into a beautiful home. It's exciting to see families enjoy their homes after months, sometimes years, of designing and constructing their dream homes."

When asked how she remains focused and calm while doing such a demanding job, she said, "I read." On weekends, Mikaile can be found curled up with her cat, LouLou, as she works through her never-ending TBR (to be read) list.

KRISTY PENNINGTON Aesthetics Review Coordinator

As the liaison between homeowners and the Aesthetics Review Committee (ARC), Kristy facilitates the Aesthetics Review process for the production homes within Ladera Ranch. She guides homeowners through the plan submittal process from start to finish.



The Aesthetics Review Committee must approve all plans for architectural or landscaping modifications before the modifications can be made.

Kristy notes, "The Home Improvements section on LaderaLife has a wealth of information related to the Aesthetics Review process and has the most up-to-date information." Her Ladera Pro Tip for obtaining approvals on the first submittal is reviewing LARMAC's Aesthetic Standards and sharing them with your contractor and designer before starting and submitting the plan.

Kristy's favorite part of her job is contacting homeowners to inform them that the Aesthetics Review Committee approved their plan.

Two truths and a lie: Kristy

See if you can guess which is which.

1. Kristy raised her niece and two nephews for nine years, which has taught her patience.
2. Kristy loves a double-double with extra pickles from In-N-Out and can't resist the paper hats.
3. Kristy loves 80s and 90s hip-hop and R&B and is playing Pandora's Hip-Hop BBQ right now.

Get Kristy's answers to the most frequently asked home improvement review process questions. Visit LaderaLife.com/superwomen



Reach LARMAC by email at contact.larmac@laderalife.com to schedule an appointment or ask for assistance. It's the easiest way to connect with your master homeowner association.



laderalife.com/lifestyle/recreational-programs

RECREATION PROGRAMS

EARLY CHILDHOOD

HOLIDAYS WITH MUSIC TOGETHER

Register at svmusictogether.net

Age 0 - 4

This class follows the same format as a regular Music Together class but features holiday songs and music.

Mon / Dec 11 & 18 / 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. / \$40 / Flintridge
 Mon / Dec 11 & 18 / 4:15 - 5:00 p.m. / \$40 / Flintridge
 Th / Dec 14 & 21 / 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. / \$40 / Flintridge
 Th / Dec 14 & 21 / 10:15 - 11:00 a.m. / \$40 / Flintridge



MUSIC TOGETHER

Register at svmusictogether.net

Age 0 - 4

Music Together is the gold standard in early childhood music and movement. Families participate in songs, rhythmic activities, movement, and instrumental jam sessions. We create a fun, informal, musically rich social setting that supports the different learning styles of children.

Mon / Jan 15 - Mar 18 / 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. / \$230 / Flintridge
 Mon / Jan 15 - Mar 18 / 4:15 - 5:00 p.m. / \$230 / Flintridge
 Th / Jan 18 - Mar 21 / 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. / \$230 / Flintridge
 Th / Jan 18 - Mar 21 / 10:15 - 11:00 a.m. / \$230 / Flintridge

LADYBUG HOLIDAY MUSIC CLASSES

Register at magicstepsstudios.com

Age 0 - 5

Get in the holiday spirit with our 3-week holiday session. Classes will be filled with your favorite holiday tunes to sing, dance, and enjoy with your child. Grab those holiday sweaters and join us for the fun!

Tu / Nov 28 / 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. / \$30 / Trial Class / Chaparral Park
 Tu / Nov 28 / 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. / \$30 / Trial Class / Oak Knoll
 Tu / Dec 5 -19 / 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. / \$85 / Chaparral Park
 Tu / Dec 5 -19 / 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. / \$85 / Oak Knoll
 Wed / Nov 29 / 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. / \$30 / Trial Class / Chaparral Park
 Wed / Dec 6 -20 / 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. / \$85 / Chaparral Park



LADYBUG MUSIC CLASSES

Register at magicstepsstudios.com

Age 0 - 5

Join us for our award-winning class filled with upbeat and original Ladybug Music that nurtures your child's basic music skills and is designed for optimal early childhood development. Moms, dads, grandparents, and nannies are invited to enjoy the fun!

Tu / Jan 9 - Mar 12 / 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. / \$295 / Chaparral Park
 Tu / Jan 9 - Mar 12 / 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. / \$295 / Oak Knoll
 Wed / Jan 10 - Mar 13 / 4:00 - 4:45p.m. / \$295 / Chaparral Park

LITTLE FROGLET'S PARENT-ME NATURE CLASS

Register at wildchildnatureenrichment.com

Age 2.5 - 5

These classes offer enriching science-based lessons filled with hands-on activities, songs, puppets, experiments, and nature exploration. Each session has a new nature-based theme to introduce children to the scientific method and to encourage ongoing learning at home.

Wed / Jan 10 - Feb 28 / 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. / \$200; \$120 Sibling / Chaparral Park

RECREATION PROGRAMS

ENRICHMENT

MANNERS, CHARACTER, AND SOCIAL SKILLS

Register at theetiquettefactory.com/msjenn

Age 5 - 10

This unique learning experience helps children understand why integrity, respect, empathy, and charity help our lives personally and professionally. Over 50 different etiquette skills are taught using games, role play, and activities. A one-time supply fee of \$20. No class on 2/14.

Wed / Jan 10 - Feb 21 / 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. / \$145 / Flintridge

FAMILY CPR & CHOKING RELIEF

Register at orangecountymidwife.com

Age 7+

This class covers CPR and choking relief skills that are excellent for parents, grandparents, sitters, nannies, and siblings. Students will use CPR manikins for hands-on practice. Certification is not provided and is for self-education purposes.

Sat / Dec 2 / 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. / \$60 / Avendale

Sat / Feb 10 / 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. / \$60 / Avendale

SPORTS AND FITNESS

SKYHAWKS SOCCERTOTS

Register at skyhawks.com

Age 2 - 5

This soccer-themed motor skill class makes it easy for youngsters to develop motor skills and self-confidence. Older classes will focus more on developing core soccer skills and personal focus and introduce an element of light competition. The instructor-to-student ratio is kept small to maximize individual development. Parent participation is required for ages 2 - 3.5 years.

Fri / Jan 12 - Mar 1 / 2:30 - 3:10 p.m. / \$119 / Oak Knoll / Age 2 - 3.5

Fri / Jan 12 - Mar 1 / 3:20 - 4:00 p.m. / \$119 / Oak Knoll / Age 3.5 - 5

Sat / Jan 13 - Mar 2 / 2:00 - 2:40 p.m. / \$119 / Oak Knoll / Age 2 - 3.5

Sat / Jan 13 - Mar 2 / 2:50 - 3:30 p.m. / \$119 / Oak Knoll / Age 3.5 - 4.5

Sat / Jan 13 - Mar 2 / 3:40 - 4:20 p.m. / \$119 / Oak Knoll / Age 4.5 - 5

SKYHAWKS SOCCER

Register at skyhawks.com

Age 6 - 8

Young athletes will gain the technical skills and sports knowledge required for their next step into soccer. Areas of focus are dribbling, passing, shooting, and ball control. By the end of the program, your child will have learned new life skills such as teamwork and sportsmanship, made new friends, and improved their soccer skills.

Fri / Jan 12 - Mar 1 / 4:10 - 5:00 p.m. / \$119 / Oak Knoll

Sat / Jan 13 - Mar 2 / 4:30 - 5:10 p.m. / \$119 / Oak Knoll

LADERA RANCH TENNIS - JUNIORS PROGRAM

Register at laderaranchtennis.com

Age 10+

Ladera Ranch Tennis is the official year-round tennis program of Ladera Ranch. Coaches train students with firm foundations and excellent technique, equipping them with the skills to break into competitive tennis. Students will receive an unwavering commitment to help them reach their highest potential and have fun while playing the sport. Private lessons and classes are available for adult players.

Yellow Ball / M - Th / 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. / Covenant Hills / Age 10 - 16

Yellow Ball+ / M - Th / 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. / Covenant Hills / Age 14+

Program Pricing

Two days per week: \$540

Three days per week: \$720

Four days per week: \$840



STROLLER STRIDES

Register at laderaranch.fit4mom.com

Age 18+

FIT4MOM is the nation's leading prenatal and postnatal fitness program, providing fitness classes and a network of moms to support every stage of motherhood. From pregnancy through postpartum and beyond, our fitness and wellness programs help make moms strong in body, mind, and spirit - unlimited monthly classes.

Mon - Fri / ongoing / 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. / \$79 month / Cox Sports Park

YOGA

TEEN MINDFULNESS YOGA

Register at pearlsforlife.org

Age 13 - 17

These classes are offered for teenagers discovering life and connection with their bodies. As they take time to stop, be still, breathe, and relax their minds, this experience allows them to develop their mindfulness skills and build self-esteem and health.

Wed / Jan 10 - Mar 27 / 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. / \$240 / \$20 drop in / Avendale

AQUATICS

EVOLUTION RACING CLUB

Register at evolutionracingclub.com

Age 5+

Evolution Racing Club is a competitive swim club offering year-round and seasonal swim team options at Avendale Clubhouse Pool. Please visit the website for more program information or email cynthia@evolutionswim.com.

DANCE



LINE DANCING WITH LAUREN

Register at LineDancingWithLauren.com

Age 16+

Dancing is good for the soul! Beginners will learn fundamentals and popular dances in this 6-week series. Dance to pop, rock, R&B, country, and more. Students 15 years and younger need instructor approval.

Tu / Jan 23 - Feb 27 / 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. / \$90 / \$20 drop-in / Oak Knoll

Wed / Jan 24 - Feb 28 / 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. / \$90 / \$20 drop-in / Oak Knoll



1ST Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Ladera's Adopted Marines

In 2017, Ladera Ranch Community Services (LARCS) adopted 1ST Light Armored Reconnaissance (1ST LAR Battalion), a Marine Battalion from Camp Pendleton. 1ST LAR was activated in May 1985 and is a fast and mobilized armored terrestrial reconnaissance battalion of the United States Marine Corps, nicknamed the "Highlanders."

LARCS works with residents and community partners year-round to host collection drives and give much-needed items to the brave men and women serving our country.



National Night Out

Each summer 1ST LAR participates in National Night Out, an annual community-building event and national campaign that promotes police/community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.



Collection Drives

Care Packages

Items needed are snacks, including individually bagged chips, salsa, nuts, cookies, beef jerky, non-melting candy, and trail mix and single-serving packets are also a good addition. Necessities, such as lip balm and shaving cream are appreciated. Residents may include a personal note thanking our servicemen and women for their bravery and service to our country.

Baby Showers

Diapers, shampoo, lotion, wipes, new clothes, towels, hats, blankets, pacifiers, and nursery furniture.

Toy Drives

Starting in November, a toy collection drive will run to collect new, unwrapped toys for the children of our Marine families.



To learn more about the 1ST LAR Battalion and collection drives, visit laderalife.com/marines.





Better Together



*By C. Todd Stearns, President
Ladera Rancho Chamber of Commerce*

Individuals may achieve a level of happiness or success on their own, but it seems to eventually plateau rather quickly. Partnering with others can really take things to the next level. Synergy is achieved when people work together and have strong communal networks.

The Ladera Ranch we're living in is a good case study of how successful Better Together can be.

Our four retail centers, business parks, and smaller, home-based businesses comprise our business community, each with a niche or specialty. We are fortunate to have an incredible diversity of businesses in Ladera.

Residents depend on our businesses for goods and services, convenience, and quality. Our businesses rely on revenue to sustain and grow their operations and need skilled workers.

Currently, there is only one available vacancy in our four retail centers! Many quality businesses have opened that people seem to enjoy and support. The Counter is one of them. Their food is delicious, and they employ locals. Our residents want these businesses, like The Counter, to succeed and are doing what they can to support them.

Better Together means we can depend on our local businesses to help fundraise and return the favor by frequenting them whenever possible. We contact the manager or owner to work through issues when the service isn't perfect. It means sharing a good experience when you have one - in-person with staff and the owner, as well as on Yelp and other review sites.

We're also better together because sales tax from local transactions funds fire and police services in Ladera Ranch. When you spend locally in Ladera Ranch, you help fund our local law enforcement and help keep Ladera safe.

Ladera Ranch - we're better together!



Ladera Ranch resident Felix Carrillo and his team cut the ribbon at the grand opening of The Counter on October 5, 2023.

Bridging Community



*By John Gresko,
Vice Chairman, Ladera Ranch Civic Council*

The Ladera Ranch Civic Council has made remarkable progress in strengthening connections between our community and elected officials. Embracing our identity as an unincorporated area, Ladera Ranch has successfully established a direct line of communication with our representatives, fostering a cooperative environment that brings positive change.

The Civic Council's mission centers on creating a platform for direct engagement with key decision-makers such as Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley, State Assemblywoman Kate Sanchez, State Senator Catherine Blakespear, and Trustee Michael Parham, Vice President of the Capistrano Unified School District Board. The Council provides a unique avenue for interaction where officials openly share insights about ongoing projects and district developments.

The tangible outcomes of our collaboration are evident, especially in our active involvement in shaping eBikes-related legislation and addressing community safety issues with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Police.

Supervisor Foley has acknowledged our community's high level of engagement. The Civic Council is committed to fostering dialogue and receiving updates from each office to comprehensively understand ongoing initiatives that impact Ladera Ranch and our region.

I invite all residents and stakeholders to join the Civic Council public meetings where residents may interact with the Council to voice their thoughts, concerns, and ideas that impact Ladera Ranch. Your involvement is integral to our community's well-being and progress.

We can continue to bring positive change by collaborating with our elected officials. Together, we will continue to promote growth and advancement for Ladera Ranch.





Ladera Ranch Community Services
 Oak Knoll Village Clubhouse
 28192 O'Neill Drive
 Ladera Ranch, CA 92694

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- 2 Document the incident
- 3 Submit a report

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Traffic and e-Bike Issues
 Non-emergency: (949) 670-7030
 Emergency: 911



Orange County Sheriff
Crime or Suspicious Activity
 Non-emergency: (949) 770-6011
 Emergency: 911



ocsdsouthpatrol
 ocsheriff

Titanium Security
LARMAC Property
Vandalism & Graffiti
 Text or call: (949) 351-9253

Community Partners Supporting the Ladera Ranch Community

PLATINUM



GOLD



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NON-PROFIT & CHARITY PARTNERS

AMERICAN RED CROSS • FRIENDS OF THE LADERA RANCH LIBRARY • GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF ORANGE COUNTY
 JAMES HENRY RANSOM FOUNDATION • LADERA RANCH CIVIC COUNCIL • LADERA RANCHO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 1ST LAR MARINE BATTALION • LADERA LEGS