# Ladera Rancho Times & TIMES ADERA INTES

**News Monthly** 

www.LaderaTimes.com

February 2015



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER



Fellow Laderians,

We have a very serious problem in this country but, before I go into that, I need to separate fact from fiction. President Barack Obama has been called every nasty name by his detractors including un-American, socialist, and even a communist. The vilification has come mostly from the far right conservatives for reasons on which the rest of us can only speculate. But if you're an honest person who sees the President as the devil for whatever reasons, you still have to give the devil his due. After all, facts are . . . well, facts

Prior to the election of President Obama, our country suffered under a misguided agenda that caused the economy to sag after the first year until it collapsed into a near depression at the end of the eight-year run. Conservatives want to blame this deep-recession on the Clinton Administration but the truth is, President Clinton inherited a recession from his predecessor and turned the economy around to where he handed his successor an annual \$500 billion budget surplus. Rather than use it to pay down the national debt, that surplus and much, much more, was promptly given in tax breaks to the wealthiest 1% of the country.

This, coupled with two unfunded wars and a collapse in the real estate market due to Wall Street greed, was our downfall. His deniers say President Obama has since run up trillions of dollars in deficit – which is absolutely a true fact – but he did so to keep the entire economy from the bottom of the abyss by bailing out Wall Street and Detroit and savings hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs. He also created programs to help Americans from losing their homes due to fraud and misconduct by Wall Street, but many of the home mortgage companies kept the government's free-interest money for themselves and the hundred-million-dollar and, in many cases, billion-dollar-plus Wall Street bonuses never stopped flowing.

But with still two years remaining under the Obama Administration, the stock market has doubled to record levels, the Gross Domestic Product has soared, health insurance rates are down 20% under the dreaded Obamacare, and the unemployment rate is down to 5.5%.

With all this good news, it is reported that by next year the Top 2% wealthiest in the world will hold as much capital as the rest of the world combined and therein lies the problem. This is a disaster that one columnist at Forbes magazine says we should be rejoicing based on the trickle-down theory. It may have worked in the past although that's debatable, but the wages of the American middle class, not to mention the poor, have not increased in 20+ years while all the wealth in this country percolates to the Top 2% where it stays. Many of America's largest corporations pay only the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, forcing their workers to rely on government subsidies simply to survive. This means bargain purchases at Wal-Mart are paid for in part by our tax dollars.

The majority of the newly-elected members of the U.S. Congress and Senate have taken an oath to Grover Norquist, who has never run for or held elective or public office, to *never* raise taxes. If the Republicans, who are shown to spend as much as the Democrats, call the Democrats the "Tax and Spend Party," then they surely must be the "Spend and Charge Party." The Top 2% receive tax breaks, like putting their money into offshore accounts or moving their businesses overseas, that the rest of us don't enjoy. As a result, they are taxed at a much lower rate. Warren Buffet says he pays a much lower percentage of income taxes than his secretary. Please note that publicly-traded companies have a fiduciary responsibility to take advantage of all tax savings or run the risk of being sued by their shareholders.

I'm by no means a "soak the rich" liberal, but I am suggesting that closing the tax loopholes for the uber-rich billionaires, eliminating the income level at which we stop paying Social Security taxes, and raising the minimum wage to a respectable \$15 an hour will go a long way toward creating income equity and tax fairness in our society.

Jim Schmitt, Editor and Publisher



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# News Item: Richest One Percent Will Own Half of World's Wealth By 2016



# **Letters to the Editor**

Dear Editor,

As I watched the video on Eric Garner It was clear he resisted arrest. It is sad that it resulted in his death.

For you Jim Schmitt to call NYPD Daniel Pantaleo a murderer is not honest reporting. You echo the same stories the liberal press print every day in this country.

I have a close friend who served on LA police force for 28 years, the people he dealt with and situations that confronted him and other policeman

takes courage.

How about the people that marched and screamed Kill a Cop!! The NYPD will deal with the officer.

For you and the Liberal press to convict him is outrageous!'

Dean Frazier Ladera Ranch

# Rules for Submissions

Submission of signed letters, articles, photos, and news tips are not only welcomed but encouraged. This is a community newspaper strives to publish all points of view.

- All submissions must contain the name, address, phone number, signature and email of person submitting the material.
- Photos should be high quality color photos. If emailing a photo, send it as a jpeg, tiff, or gif. Photos send by email must be a minimum resolution of at least 200 pixels per inch. When sending more than one photo, send them in separate emails. Be sure to include a detailed description of the photo, including identifications (left to right).
- Ladera Times reserves the right to accept, reject, or edit editorial material, photos, letters to the editor, and/or advertisements as it deems appropriate and consistent with the family-oriented editorial policy of the publication.

# PARKER DENTISTRY

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Dr. Parker is Awesome! It is very rare to find a great dentist! We were going to another Ladera Ranch dentist who told me that my 3 year old son needed to get 6 cavities filled and that he would need to be under general anestsia. Not only that, but it was going to cost \$1200!

I went to Dr. Parker for a second opinion. He took pictures of my son's teeth and showed them to me as he explained what he was seeing. Not only does my 3 year old son not need to get 6 cavities filled, but if he does get cavities, Dr. Parker will be able to use more modern technology to fix them without the use of any shots or general anestsia! Dr. Parker not only takes time to explain what he sees, but his practice is very modern and up to date with technology! Dr. Parker and his staff are incredible!

Jessie Franklin

Parker Dentistry is by far the best dentist out there! As soon as you walk in you're greeted by Miss Lynsie, she gives you a very warm welcome! The office it's self feels right, it's very prestine and clean.

Janet took me in a gave me a tour of the office, showed me every room and showed me how machines work and the purpose for them! She is very knowledgeable in everything! She polished my teeth and made me feel like a new car!

Dr. Parker is amazing! He reviewed my X- Rays with me and made me aware of certain problems I had in my teeth and GUMS (Periodontal disease.) I had no clue how important this was to my health and what a substantial problem it can be in my 30's and 40's, glad that he educated me in this!

Overall it was an amazing experience, I will sure be back and recommend people to this dentist! 10 stars if I could!

Jesse V., Lake Forest, CA

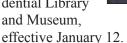






# Ladera's Elizey is Named **Director of Nixon Library**

Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero has announced the appointment of Michael D. Ellzey, of Ladera Ranch, as the Director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library



The Nixon Library, located in Yorba Linda, is one of 13 libraries in the Presidential Library System administered by the National Archives and Records Administration and overseen by the Office of Presidential Libraries.

The Presidential Libraries house the records of Presidents Herbert Hoover through George W. Bush and preserve and provide access to historical materials, support research, and create interactive programs and exhibits that educate and inspire.



Michael D. Ellzey

ing the an-Mr. Ferriero cited Mr. Ellzey's unique background to lead the multifaceted library and museum and Sciences. join the system of world

Ladera Times

class presidential libraries.

"Michael's extensive experience in managing large cultural and civic organizations will greatly benefit the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum and the National Archives," Mr. Ferriero said.

Following 13 years working with publicly held companies in Silicon Valley, Mr. Ellzey began a career in public service that includes executive appointments with the cities of San Jose, San Francisco, and Irvine, California.

In 1991, he was appoint- sity. ed executive director of the

San Jose Arena Authority, a public agency responsible for overseeing the construction and operation of the San Jose Arena.

In 2000, Mr. Ellzey was nouncement, appointed chief executive officer of the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority, the agency that supervised the renovation of the arts and cultural district in Golden Gate Park, site of the de Young Museum and the California Academy of

> In his most recent assignment with the City of Irvine, Mr. Ellzey was chief executive officer of the Orange County Great Park Corporation. Appointed in 2008, he was responsible for overseeing the conversion of publicly owned land at the former Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, into a 1,300-acre metropolitan park in the heart of Orange County.

Mr. Ellzey holds a Juris Doctor degree from Lincoln University School of Law and an undergraduate degree in political science from San Jose State Univer-

He and his wife, Mela-

nie, reside here in Ladera Ranch with two of their four children. Mr. Ellzey served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War era.

# **Correction: Albertson's Is NOT Part** of Haggen **Acquisition**

The Ladera Times erred last month when it announced that both Pavilion's and Albertson's Super Markets would be sold to the Pacific Northwest grocery chain Haggen.

Only Pavilion's in Ladera Ranch is part of that sale.

The Ladera Ranch Albertson's is **not** part of the sale and will remain under its current ownership.

The Times apologizes for any confusion this error may have caused, especially for the employees of Albertson's.

# **Artificial Turf to Save Millions of Gallons of Water**

LARMAC is expecting to receive a rebate of \$2 per square foot from the Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) for removing nearly 100,000 square feet of water-guzzling turf along Crown Valley Parkway.

The area is currently irrigated with potable (drinking) water. Upon

completion of the project, LARMAC will be refunded to coincide with the existalmost \$200,000!

This area is one of the last and largest of the turf areas irrigated with potable water, making it a prime target for the water-saving conversion to Californiafriendly landscaping.

with lower water use plants ed shortly. ing plant palette and the rebate is expected to cover all costs associated with the project, including turf removal, irrigation retrofit, plant installation and mulch.

The project is currently The turf will be replaced underway, will be complet-

Based on current water rates, this will result in an annual cost savings to the association of close to \$6.5K.

Combine this with the two million gallons of water that will be saved each year, this is a win-win for LAR-MAC and SMWD.





# **South OC Pet Owners, Beware of Coyotes**

Many South County residents have expressed recent concerns about coyote sightings and several have even lost pets to these skilled hunters, as they were unaware of the coyote activity in their area.

Coyotes are found in all areas of Orange County.

Contrary to popular belief, these animals do not require open space or "wild areas" to survive.

In fact, most coyotes within the urban setting are the offspring of generations of covotes who lived and

flourished in the urban areas meal. of Orange County.

Though these animals are far from domesticated, they are very comfortable living within close proximity small dogs should not be alto human beings.

As a result, they have little fear of humans and are frequently seen trotting within a few feet of joggers, bikers and horseback riders.

Although coyotes generally hunt between sunset and sunrise, they can be observed at all hours of the day and will not pass up the opportunity for an easy

A dog or cat left in a backyard or unattended can be taken in a matter of moments. As such, cats and lowed outside alone, even in a fenced yard.

Residents are urged to beware of coyotes in response to a recent increase in sightings and activity in the area.

Coyotes are found throughout Orange County but sightings generally increase this time of year.

If you encounter a covote be of assistance.

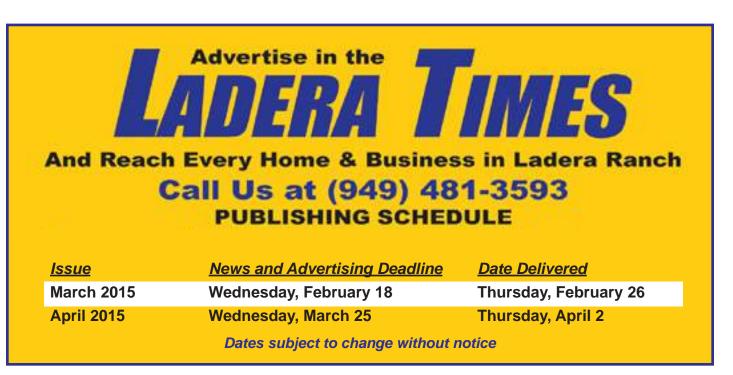
remember to leave a comfortable distance between you and a coyote and keep your pets out of the area.

Coyote dens are usually found in steep banks, rock crevices and underbrush. Covotes are most active at night and during the early morning and late evening hours, but young coyotes tend to be more active during daylight hours.

Many steps can be taken to protect you and your property from animals like coyotes and other wildlife including feeding pets indoors, storing trash in covered heavy-duty containers, and enclosing the bottoms of porches and decks.

For more helpful tips on coyote safety, call OC Animal Care at (714) 935-6848 or my office at (714) 834-3550.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at (714) 834-3550 or Lisa.Bartlett@ ocgov.com if I can ever





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**BEWARE OF SPAM!** 

# **Bogus Emails Sent To Postal Customers**

Some postal customers are receiving bogus emails about a package delivery or online postage charges.

The emails contain a link or attachment that,

when opened, installs a malicious virus that can steal personal information from the victim's PC.

The emails claim to be from the U.S. Postal Service and contain fraudulent information about an attempted or intercepted package delivery or online



postage charges.

The email instructs the victim to click on a link, open the attachment, or print the label.

But Postal Inspectors warn: Don't do it!

Like most viruses sent by email, clicking on the link or opening the attachment will activate a virus that can steal information, such as the victim's user name, password, and financial account informa-

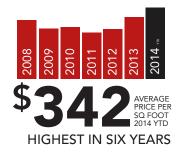
What to do? Simply delete the message without taking any further action.

The Postal Inspection

Service is working hard to resolve the issue and shut down the malicious program.

Consumers with questions about a delivery or wish to report spam, please call 1-800-ASK-USPS or email **spam@** uspis.gov.





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Stats from a report generated on 3/20/14. Based on annualized average price per square foot for single family homes and condominiums sold in Orange County, CA. All reports presented are based on data supplied by the CARETS (CLAW, CRISNet MLS, DAMLS, CRMLS, i-Tech MLS, and/ or VCRDS) or their MLSs. Neither the Associations nor their MLSs guarantee or are in anyway responsible for their accuracy. Data maintained by ons or their MLSs may not reflect all real estate activities in the market. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. This is not intended to solicit a listed property. If your property is currently listed for sale with a broker, please disregard. 🏦 🖫 0100





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# Mission Hospital Holiday Gala Nets over \$1.35 Million

The Mission Hospital Holiday Gala surpassed all previous records by raising net proceeds of more than \$1.35 million to support the hospital's greatest needs.

For the ninth straight year, Nolet Spirits U.S.A. - The Nolet family graciously served as Title Sponsor.

Mission Hospital
Foundation also thanks its
premier sponsors for their
incredible generosity: Idit
and Moti Ferder-Lugano
Diamonds; Kevin and
Patricia Moriarty; and the
Orange County Neurosurgical Associates.

The Holiday Gala celebrates the Spirit of Giving of all those who support Mission Hospital.

This year's theme of Grace, Gratitude and Growth highlighted the significant ways in which philanthropy enhances the lives of the patients, their families, and the community.

Having a medical facility of this high calibre just down Crown Valley Parkway is a real asset to the area communities.

The extraordinary success of the event brings
Mission Hospital even
closer to completing its
\$200 million comprehensive
campaign.

To date, more than \$194 million has been raised to improve the health and quality of life across the region.

Funds raised by the Holiday Gala support ongoing

investment in Mission Hospital's centers of excellence: Behavioral Health, Heart, Imaging, Neuroscience & Spine Institute, Orthopedics, and Women's services.

Among the highlights of the evening was a live auction featuring excursions to Italy, England, Hawaii and Mexico, as well as tickets and accommodations to attend the 2015 Victoria Secret Fashion Show.

Mission Hospital celebrates Holiday Gala Chairs, Margarita and Tom Solazzo, for using their incredible passion for Mission Hospital to make this year's event one of the most beautiful, inspiring and enjoyable events in our history.

Among the guests, who describe this event as the perfect blend of fun and transformational fundrais-



ing, were Matt and Margo Gunderson (shown above), from Ladera Ranch.

The evening included exceptional food, dancing

and entertainment, and most importantly, meaningful ways to become engaged and support Mission Hospital.

# Meetings Held for Mandarin Language Immersion Program for the Parents Of Incoming Kindergartners

Bergeson Elementary
School in Capistrano Unified School District invites
parents of incoming kindergartners to informational
meetings to learn about its
Mandarin Language Immersion Program. Bergeson
School is home to the
district's only Mandarin
Language Immersion Program and the first in Orange
County.

In its third year, this program offers students the opportunity to become fluent and literate in both Mandarin and English.

Interested parents can select one of the following dates for an orientation and tour: Thursday, January 29; Friday, February 20; Monday, February 23; and Friday, February 27. All meetings begin at 8:00 am.

The school is located at 25302 Rancho Niguel Road., Laguna Niguel.

Students who attend the Mandarin Language Immersion Program learn to think, read, write, and speak naturally in English and Mandarin.

They receive instruc-

tion in both Mandarin and English to develop linguistic and academic competence in both languages.

Native English-speaking students begin their study of Mandarin in kindergarten in this intensive program.

The program is a very popular program. Space is limited and parents must attend an orientation for inclusion on the interest list for classes starting next fall.

Children must be five years old by September 1, 2015, to apply for the 2015-16 school year.



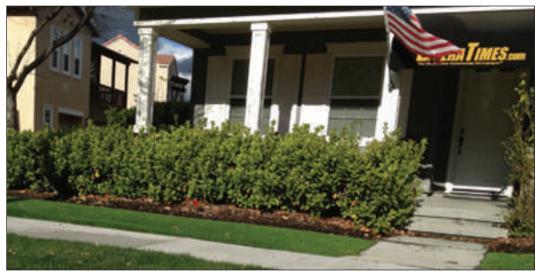
# **SMWD Offers Rebates for Turf** Removal. & Other **Water-Saving** Measures

Santa Margarita Water Authority customers, including those can apply to receive a rebate of up to \$2.00 per square foot for turf removal through the Turf Removal Program.

To qualify, a minimum of 250 square feet of lawn must be removed.

The Turf Removal Rebate requires that low flow rotating spray nozzles or drip be used in place of traditional sprayhead sprinklers.

Under the Drip Rebate Program, SMWD customers converted area.



can receive up to \$175 on drip kits to retrofit planter bed areas. Customers can receive up to three kits per home, and this program can be combined with Turf Removal Rebate Program. Commercial sites eligible for up to \$0.20 per sq.ft. of

Under the Rotating Sprinkler Nozzle Rebate Program customers can receive up to \$4 per nozzle to retrofit existing sprayhead

Board has relaxed the rules

for installing artificial turf in front yards, as is shown in the photo above. All lawn changes must be approved by the LARMAC Architectural Review Committee.

at 949-459-6526 or visit www.smwd.com for more on rebate programs.

### sprinklers. These nozzles Call Karla Vitocruz. apply water more uniformly and evenly to the landscape. The current LARMAC

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# **Water Rates, Stop Signs Up! Committees Forming**

by Jett McCormick Chairman Ladera Ranch Civic Council

All

residents

recently

received

a Notice

of Public

Hear-



ing from The Santa Jett McCormick Margarita

Water District for proposed adjustments to our water rates.

Jonathan Volske, with SMWD, outlined the proposed water rate structure at the LRCC's meeting last month.

The proposal would raise the fix rate structure, but reduce the actual water

The Council questioned Mr.. Volske on what the effect would be on the average household. He stated the to capture and store water average bill is about \$68 per when it is more plentiful in month and the increase in the first year would increase this to about \$71 per month. the heavier summer month's

SMWD's reasoning is that the new rate structure will better represent its current cost structure and better track the actual cost of the water it supplies.

The proposed rate structure would go into effect in March and continue through 2019 if approved by the SMWD Board.

The last rate increase was in 2008. For more information visit www.



### smwd.com.

The Water District is also planning a new reclaimed water reservoir the winter months and store it until it is needed during demand

In addition, the District supports the Cadez Project which is a private-public venture ground water project in southeast San Bernardino and the Huntington Beach Desalination Project. Both are in the planning stages and the District supports these projects as a means of providing reliability of the water supply.

### Council Concludes the Community Survey

The LRCC's Community Survey closed on January 25.

The Council thanks all that participated. The Governance Task Force will now review and compile the results and present it to the Council Board, most likely in March.

The results of the survey will then be published to the community and forwarded to the Lisa Bartlett, our 5th District Supervisor, for review and consideration

### Council Committee Charters

The Civic Council reviewed outlines for the new Council Committees which include: Transportation/Public Safety; Public Works/ Land Use; Governance; and ing.

Communications/Community Relations.

The Civic Council plans on approving the charters at its February 16 meeting and will seek residents interested in serving on these committees. These new committees will allow the Council to better serve the community and be more proactive in addressing issues facing the Community.

### New Stop Signs Installed on Narrow Canyon

The new four-way stop Signs at Narrow Canyon and Aura adjacent to the Goddard School have been installed!

The impact of these signs has been immediate as residents have witnessed better awareness of the pedestrians at this intersection.

For those who have not observed the new stop signs, the CHPs has been present to provide them tickets to reinforce the need to observe the stop signs...

### **Next Meeting**

The LRCC's next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on February 16 at the Santa Margarita Water District building. Help your Civic Council help you. Your membership will ensure you have a voice in your community's future and keep you informed on community issues.

### Join today at www. Irciviccouncil.org.

Membership is **FREE**. The Civic Council is over 1,000 members strong and growAdvertisement





The Goddard School's Summer Camp offers a broad range of programs and mini camps crafted to pique the interest and curiosity of every child; there is something for everybody!

Call today to enroll!

# POWERED BY STEAM. FUELED BY FUN!

For more than 26 years, The Goddard School® has been a trusted name among parents and families. Its classrooms are safe, nurturing environments for children six weeks to six years, offering age-appropriate opportunities to explore and discover.

The Goddard School's summer camp curriculum incorporates STEAM learning (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) into exciting, oneof-a-kind and fun experiences for your child every day! The Goddard School located in Ladera Ranch, CA offers a broad range of programs and mini-camps to pique the interest and curiosity of every child; it has something for everybody!

Introducing STEAM concepts early on helps children develop a strong foundation for their future education and a passion for STEAM learning. Integrating the arts into all of the summer camp activities allows children to have fun while developing essential creativity and innovation skills as well as the abilities to collaborate, communicate and think critically.

The Goddard School located in Ladera Ranch, CA focuses on academic, social, creative and physical development to provide a well-rounded experience and ensure children become respectful, confident and joyful learners. Its F.L.EX.\* Learning Program (Fun, Learning Experience) is based on accepted research that shows children experience the deepest, most genuine learning when they are having fun. A chess program was recently added to the curriculum to foster the development of critical thinking skills for preschool, pre-k and kindergarten students. Its summer camp runs from June 29th to August 21st.

For more information, please visit www.goddardschool. com or call 949-218-6200. The Goddard School located in Ladera Ranch is located at 1 Aura Lane, Ladera Ranch, CA.



1 Aura Lane, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694

agreement with Goddard Systems, Inc. Programs and ages may vary. Goddard Systems, Inc. program is AdvancED accredited. © Goddard Systems Inc. 2015

Page 18 Ladera Times

# Water District Board Meets March 4 to Discuss 2015 Proposed Rate Adjustments

The Santa Margarita Water District Board of Directors will hold a public meeting at 7:00 pm on March 4 at its Administration Office at 26111 Antonio Parkway to consider proposed adjustments to the District's rates for potable (drinking), recycled and wastewater rates.

The following are questions and answers about the proposed rate adjustments

### Q. Who does the proposed adjustment affect?

A. All SMWD drinking water, irrigation, recycled water and sewer customers, including all Ladera Ranch residents and businesses.

### Q. Why is the District considering rate adjustments?

A. Several factors led Directors to consider the rate adjustments in an effort to remain fiscally responsible to ratepayers.

The District buys potable (drinking) water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), which in January increased its charges by 5 percent and more increases are expected.

Additionally, the District is exploring and investing in new projects to provide locally controlled sources of water that increase reliability and ensure the use of every drop is maximized through recycling.

Q. What are the big changes?

A. The adjustments ensure that the District's fixed costs, such as meter reading and billing, and variable costs, such as the price of MWD water, are separated and recovered appropriately. This will stabilize District revenues, which now rise and fall seasonally with

Customers will be able to more greatly control their costs by using water efficiently. Customers are placed in various tiers based on water usage, with "1" being the most efficient and "5" being the least efficient.

water sales.

Customers who use more water place greater demands on the District's water system and scarce resources and therefore pay a higher cost per unit of water than those who use less water. Additionally, the changes will create "water budgets" for customers starting next year.

### Q. How much will my rates increase?

A. Actual rates depend on individual water usage. Under the new rates, the average residential customer's monthly water and sewer bill will increase \$2.55, from in 2016. \$69.01 to \$71.56. The 2015 increase would be the first of five stepped adjustments through 2019.

### ments take effect?

A. Increases will be phased in beginning this March 10, and continue



through 2019.

### Q. What is the District doing to dampen the impact of the increases?

A. The Board authorized use of District rate stabilization reserve funds of \$6 million (\$3 million in 2015 and \$3 million in 2016) to help soften the increase in sewer fixed charges.

For the water fixed-rate adjustments, the Board authorized use of \$3.1 million refunded by MWD when District employees caught a billing error by MWD. That money will be split \$1.9 million in 2015 and \$1.2 million

### Q. What is a "water budget"?

A. Under this new rate structure, each Single-Fami-Q. When will the adjust- ly Residential customer will be allocated a reasonable amount of water for monthly use, split into indoor and outdoor water budgets. Indoor water budgets are based on the number of persons in a household (by default, this number is assumed to be 4 persons), a standard consumption of 55 gallons of water per person per day

February 2015

and the number of days in the billing cycle.

Outdoor water budgets are calculated using the size of the irrigatable landscape area per parcel, actual daily plant water loss to the atmosphere over a given period of time, and a "plant factor" that reflects the water needs of specific types of plants and irrigation efficiencies.

Those who exceed their monthly budgets will move to higher tiers and pay more for each unit of water (a unit is 100 cubic feet, or 1 ccf, which equals 748 gallons.)

By 2019, each property will have a water budget specific to its size.

Irrigation customers. typically HOAs, are also moving to water budgets, based on the same outdoor factors.

### Q. Where can I get more information?

A. The District's website, www.smwd.com, has the complete adjustment notice, along with information about a series of public meetings to answer questions about the proposed adjustments. You can also email rates@smwd. **com** or call 949-459-6420.

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The Ranch, MB Pioneer 'Ranch Ride'

By Amy R. Spurgeon-Hoffman

In 1882, Irish immigrants Richard O'Neill Sr. and James Flood acquired more than 200,000 acres of prime ranch land here that would eventually become the future sites of Ladera Ranch and Rancho Mission Vieio.

In 1886, German engine designer and car engineer Karl Benz obtained the patent for the worlds' first automobile.

Born just two-years apart in the late 1800s, the two companies would combine 130 years later to create a product - RanchRide – that its creators, Rancho Mission Viejo LLC, known affectionally as The Ranch, and Mercedes Benz, hope would become as successful as another pairing of their generation, Hershey's chocolate and peanut butter paste in 1928 by H.B.

A match so good is what Reese and Hershey banked on with its \$0.01 and \$0.02 peanut butter cups.

RMV and Mercedes Benz are hoping its combined product will enjoy a similar fate.

Our humble community – hailed as the nation's "Best-Master Planned Community" – is making history again with a technological and green groundbreaking mobility service intended to show the world that

"Tech Coast" Ladera Ranch residents and those of the new town Rancho Mission Viejo, care about innovation so much, we will forgo our normal travel patterns to help cement an idea into history while boarding RanchRide – a primarily free pilot program of four mobility services offered exclusively to us that includes the: 1) "Circulator", (2) "Destination", (3) "Charter" and (4) the greatly anticipated "Commuter," services all wrapped up beautifully in a sleek-

black 'red carpet' worthy ride known as the Mercedes Benz Sprinter shuttle.

The high-end Ran-

Planning and Entitlement, acknowledges that the program isn't designed chRide Mercedes-Benz Sprinter shuttle -- an industry leader in safety – seats 14 individuals in butter-soft leather bucket seats, offers

> the techy types, easy access for everyone (bring aboard a walker; wheelchair; car seat; pack-

Wi-

Fi for

ages and more); picturesque oversized windows from which to view our historic ranch lands.

And, with all that, perhaps the greatest asset to the program is its exuberant, charismatic and professionally service-minded drivers - like "Noble" - who want to help our community jump aboard and "Just ride!"

Historic landowners Rancho Mission Vieio and the mobility experts at Mercedes-Benz brought the program here last fall.

Richard Broming, Rancho Mission Viejo

community to view mobility and use transit options.

Senior Vice President of

to replace Southern

Californians love

of cars; how-

ever, it's a way for

us as a

Ladera Ranch has three active adult neighborhoods and one of the most engaged and large family-oriented resident populations in Southern California as well as a strong working population and consumer base." Richard said," all of which will benefit from using RanchRide.

Residents must have a RanchRide card to ride and can register at www. RanchRide.net.

A future upcoming app will enable residents to see exactly where RanchRide is at all times.

The Circulator and

during the pilot program. However, these services are expected to be offered for a fee at a later time – \$2 per trip for passengers 10 and up for Circulator Services; Destination Services would be \$5 and \$10 per trip.

The Charter Service is fee-based now and rates depend on: pick-up points, destinations and numbers of shuttles and/or people required.

Riders can send RanchRide their booking requests and then the RanchRide team will reply with a flat fee for the Charter service.

According to Diane

Gaynor Executive Vice President and Partner of Roni Hicks & Associates: "The Ranch reached out to Mercedes-Benz once it learned about the company's Car2Go and other mobility programs they were pioneering here in California. We met with the Mercedes-Benz Business Innovation Group and then they selected the communities of Ladera Ranch and Rancho Mission Vieio for the testing of their different mobility services (what is being offered under RanchRide) because both communities are home to the consumer groups targeted by Mercedes Benz.

"Plus, both communities are within well-defined suburban markets," Diane told me. "Specifically, these target markets include young people, working adults, and retired, active adults. This makes Ladera Ranch and Sendero/Gavilan ideal for Destination services are free testing mobility options.

"The bottom-line is that RanchRide is unique because it allows both Mercedes-Benz and Rancho Mission Viejo LLC to test mobility services in welldefined suburban markets among target consumer groups of young and mature families as well as active adults.

"On behalf of The Ranch, we are very happy to be partnering with Mercedes-Benz to implement RanchRide." Daine added

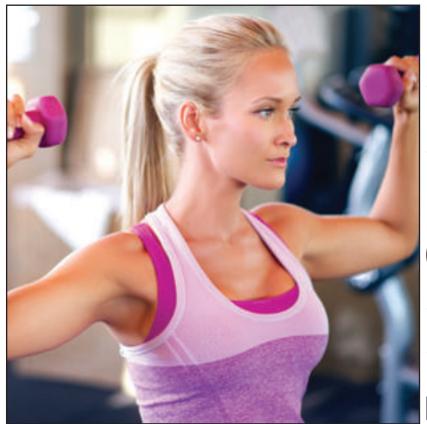
The community of Rancho Mission Viejo will be built over the next 20 or so years on about 6,000 acres of the remaining 23,000 acres of Rancho Mission Viejo ranchlands. The remaining 17,000 acres form a habitat reserve called The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo).

The approved Rancho Mission Viejo community plan calls for a total of

(continued on next page)

Groundbreaking - The ecofriendly free shuttle pilot program RanchRide - with "Circulator" "Destination", "Charter" and "Commuter Express" Services – is exclusively offered to residents of Ladera Ranch and those of the Sendero and Gavilan neighborhoods of the new community of Rancho Mission Vieio. These luxury Mercedes-Benz Sprinter shuttles, shown in photos above and on the cover by Any Spurgeon-Hoffman, accommodate 14-passengers and offer easy onoff access, Wi-Fi, leather seating and breathtaking views from oversized windows.

On the Cover - RanchRide pioneer driver "Noble", already legendary and truly beloved amongst travelers, warmly greets his regular passenger "Nancy. Noble encourages his senior travelers - so many whom have limited by transportation options, to just "Get on and ride!"



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# **Help Create Next Peanut Butter Cup**

14.000 homes – of which 40% or about 6,000 homes will be designated for people age 55-plus.

Sendero is the first village to be developed in Rancho Mission Viejo and offers 11 different neighborhoods, of which four are situated within the gated enclave called Gavilan and are exclusive to people 55plus.

Sales at Sendero have been incredible and there is only one Gavilan neighborhood now available for sale and the bulk of the remaining "all age" neighborhoods of Sendero have only between 15 and 25 homes available for sale each.

Combined. Sendero is 85% sold out (out of a total of 941 homes), said Diane.

I wanted to see what it was like, so I hoped on board one brisk Friday in January.

I knew instantly it was going to be fun the moment bers. inaugural driver Noble pulled the large shuttle up to my stop, opened the doors with a warm smile. and welcomed me aboard.

At our next stop, he recognized a regular passenger waiting for him along the Circulator route: a fixed-route loop operating weekdays within Ladera and soon to be phased in at RMV.

The Circulator's "Around Town" daytime loop takes residents between shopping centers,



clubhouses and the Shops

"There's Nancy!" Noble happily announced as we pulled up. "It's just been a wonderful experience," Noble said. "People walk in and say, "Ahhhh," and just sit back and relax! to drive!"

And so far, it's the seniors of our community who are registering and hoping on in record num-

"They really appreciate us," Noble said. "Just interacting with them is wonderful. They just love it. The first timers are overwhelmed, some of them in their 80s or 90s. just to get out and see their community!"

"It's a big deal to them," acknowledged Noble, who said this experience has taught him to be more mindful of daily trips out and about.

"They say RanchRide offers them independence so they don't need to bug their kids." the affable driver said.

One senior rider headed to Albertson's had a stroke four years back that prevented her from even walking or talking. The fact that she was out today headed They appreciate not having on an errand made her stop and reflect.

> She was so grateful just to be out and headed to the grocery store. And it was because of the RanchRide.

> "This isn't just a shuttle," said Noble, who enjoys the landscape along the route thru the large bus windows. "This program matters and the companies care. I used to be indoors with a computer and a phone. This is a joy for me to be a professional service worker, to meet people's needs, especially the seniors."

He's not just their driver, he's their cheerleader. "I say 'You don't even have to be going anywhere!" he laughed with

his trademark smile. "Just get on and ride!"

And so far, they do! Nancy boarded and was happy to see her new friend. They talk about her life, her children, her grandchildren. She's happy to share fond memories of working a Ham Radio at the 1984 Olympics.

She and other riders that morning, couldn't express enough gratitude for their new means of seeing the world. Some don't wish to drive anymore. Some prefer to save the car for emergencies.

Looking ahead at the "Destination" service options – including San Juan Capistrano, Laguna Beach or Fashion Island – means a day on the calendar with new friends. An opportunity to help our economy and spend money at restaurants or shopping malls, when they might otherwise be homebound. Help create jobs for those working there.

What does the RanchRide mean to you, I asked Nancy. "Fun times," she smiled coyly under her

"And I would rather ride with Noble than drive myself. He's very gentlemanly. I try to get others in my community to go places too! And the bus is so beautiful!"

Another senior resident noted that she and her friends are happy RanchRide serves

their Ladera community. "I am not worried now,"

she smiled gratefully.

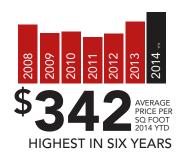
in Coto de Caza and she no It makes me love living in longer can drive.

"In case I need some-Her family lives nearby thing, it's a peace of mind. Ladera Ranch."

Listen to Noble, just register at www.

RanchRide.net, and ride. And help create the next Reese's peanut butter cup!





# BACKIN BLACK



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Stats from a report generated on 3/20/14. Based on annualized average price per square foot for single family homes and condominiums sold in Orange County, CA. All reports presented are based on data supplied by the CARETS (CLAW, CRISNet MLS, DAMLS, CRMLS, i-Tech MLS, and/ or VCRDS) or their MLSs. Neither the Associations nor their MLSs guarantee or are in anyway responsible for their accuracy. Data maintained by the Associations or their MLSs may not reflect all real estate activities in the market. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. This is not intended to solicit a listed property. If your property is currently listed for sale with a broker, please disregard. 🏚 🖫 0100





# **Slow Down, Do More**

A close friend of mine called the other day, just to check in and say, "Hey, we're still friends even though we live in different countries."

It was wonderful to hear from her and it was wonderful to speak the shorthand of longtime friends and be reminded why this person fills me up.

We all need more of that. We need to be more of that.

Even though it's been a while since last spoken, we had only a few minutes. "How are you," I asked?

"From Thanksgiving, to my children's birthdays, then Christmas and New Years, I was shut-yourmouth-busy," she confided. "Then until the end of January, I'm sort of in a fog. I can't seem to get my act together."

I reminded her that last year as we'd been working on a project together and getting nowhere fast in the midst of the post-holiday funk, we'd committed to give in to January, to let it be the re-grouping that January demands.

We said our hasty goodbye's as she bustled off to care for children, but the message of the call lingers etill

With so much excess during the month of December and everything that means to us individually, we often overcommit January too, in a misguided attempt at greater happiness.

We are inundated with articles and helpful hints on "Starting The New Year Off Right," and suggestions on how to do more, be more, live more through New Year's Resolutions.

While certainly the media is well meaning, let's be honest, more is not better. It is simply more.

In my life coaching practice, one of the first principals we undertake is the art of dreaming.

Certainly everyone looks forward to it, but it is not always easy.

Perhaps the most difficult thing about dreaming is that it requires that we take some time with it. We have to nurture the spirit in order to get in touch with ourselves.

If you're abusing your soul on a regular basis when you call it up to make an order, it's not necessarily going to answer. the path to your be ever. You just have the time to feel it.

(Michelle Path to your be ever. You just have the time to feel it.)

Making resolutions is admirable. I'm actually

a big fan of them. And in order to do so successfully, there needs to be an empty slate on which to write them and dream them and then, even more empty space in which to nurture them to life.

As we begin the second month in what we all hope will truly be "THE BEST YEAR EVER!" I hope you take some time.

I hope you give yourself room to relax, regroup and listen to the inner voice, the inner spirit that has so much wisdom for you if you will simply slow down long enough to listen.

As my friend and I each got back to the business of our days, we took with us the remembered knowledge that running faster and jumping higher isn't the best way to get more done.

through its array of web media functions.

She is also the founder of Global Women Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit public charity created to bring women together

The Universe is a generous place to live and if we allow it, and ourselves, to move and grow naturally, the life we love will grow from it innately.

Slow down friends!
Take a deep breath and recognize you're already on the path to your best year ever. You just have to take the time to feel it.

(Michelle Patterson is the CEO of Women Network LLC, a media and production company giving

women a voice to share their message. Women Network's "umbrella platform" shines a light on organizations and corporations who empower women and bring them together as a community to experience "We are Better Together." Women Network is creating the largest community of women globally. They are the exclusive event producer of the California Women's Conference. This fortunate relationship allows Women Network to provide additional promotional benefits to the California Women's Conference through its array of web media functions.

*She is also the founder* tion, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit public charity created to bring women together to create global change by empowering them to transform their communities. Its mission supports women to effectuate this change through serving as a world-wide conduit for connecting community, mentoring, education, and financial support. Mrs. Patterson lives in Ladera Ranch, California with her husband of nearly twenty years, Eric, and their two children, Jaclyn and Chase.)

# Love Is In the Air

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Page 26 Ladera Times February 2015

# CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS BY RAM MUKHERJI



On January 5, the schools and District administration office opened after the winter holiday recess without any incident.

District students and staff are enjoying Martin Luther King birthday holiday. **\* \* \*** 

Superintendent Kirsten Vital has almost arrived at the halfway point of her first year in the District. She is busy visiting all school sites.

This school year faces greater challenges than ever as the District fully implements the new state standards in English/language arts and mathematics and makes preparations for administering related new

student tests in the spring.

Superintendent Vital's second Community Forum was held on January 26 in the Board Room at the As I write my article the District Education Center. And the final forum for the school year will take place on April 28 at the Aliso Niguel High School at 7:00



The District has announced a series of handson programs for elementary and middle school parents to be held in neighborhood middle and elementary schools.

This presentation will enhance the understanding of the new State standards. The last program of this series will be held on March

5 at the District Board room.



Tesero High School has been selected from a pool of more than 20,000 schools nationwide as a semifinalist by the Grammy Foundation. The school was chosen based on it's excellence in its Music program.

\* \* \*

The 5th graders of Chaparrel Elementary school participated in their Science Camp at Pali Institute during the second week of January. I am sure the students enjoyed this outing as in the past years.



The Board approved the membership of CUSD in California School Board Association (CSBA).

One of the benefits of being a member of CSBA is a membership to a service entitled Governance and Management Using Technology (GAMUT).

The annual CSBA meeting is an important tool to the newly elected School Board members. The CSBA membership would give Board members and administrators access to high-quality resources. support, and services that would help them fulfill their complex governance and leadership roles.

The CSBA membership was dropped due to financial crunch in the past



The Class Size Reduction Program in grades K-3 has been abandoned. This is a great news, which is possible because of additional State funding of the school programs.



I hope the Board raises

minimum Reserve fund to a higher level so that any future financial crisis can be handled without jeopardizing fiscal solvency.



Ram Mukherji is a former Trustee of Tri-City L.A. County Unified School District and Past President of Ladera Ranch Maintenance Corporation.



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# **FHA Lowering Pivate Insurance Costs**

### by Cathie Berlin, **Real Estate Editor**

Here's some good news, the annual mortgage insurance cost is expected to drop by one-half percent on all new FHA loans.

This should apply to purchases, cash out, and streamlined refinances.

With a current FHA loan, a borrower is charged an insurance premium which is the loan amount

times 1.35 percent, divided by 12 (months).

The new formula will be calculated by the loan amount times .85 percent divided by 12.

This could add up to quite a savings on monthly loan costs for a borrower.

Here's another nice thing, when paying off an FHA loan you won't have to pay interest through the end of the month as before.

For home purchases, FHA does not require that you be a first-time home buyer.

Gift funds are allowed for the 3.5% down payment. You can use nonoccupant co-borrowers to

help you qualify. FHA is bit more flexible

on credit. You can go to a middle credit score of 580 with 3.5% down or in some cases a 500 credit score

# **Monthly Real Estate Report by Cathie Berlin**

### LADERA RANCH RECENT SALES ACTIVTY - 30 DAYS ENDING JANUARY 26, 2015\*

				Date	Days On			Price Per
<u>Address</u>	<u>Beds</u>	<b>Baths</b>	Sq Ft	Closed	<u>Market</u>	List Price	Sold Price	Sq Foot
116 Sansovino	2	3	1200	1/23/2015	219	\$359,000	\$300,000	\$250.00
16 Arabis	2	3	1541	1/16/2015	110	\$439,900	\$419,150	\$272.00
1 Lansdale	3	3	1533	1/8/2015	86	\$510,000	\$490,000	\$319.63
42 Sheridan	3	3	1700	1/5/2015	68	\$529,000	\$524,000	\$308.24
19 Half Moon	3	3	1567	12/31/2014	18	\$559,500	\$540,000	\$344.61
20 Passaflora	3	3	1838	1/20/2015	65	\$544,000	\$544,000	\$295.97
2Lindenwood Farm	3	3	1600	12/29/2014	97	\$549,000	\$550,000	\$343.75
37 St Mays	3	3	1900	12/31/2014	78	\$558,000	\$556,500	\$292.89
68 Amy	3	3	1600	1/12/2015	157	\$569,000	\$560,000	\$350.00
78 Livingston	3	3	1545	12/30/2014	33	\$565,000	\$565,000	\$365.70
22 Wood Barn	3	3	1500	1/23/2015	22	\$575,000	\$570,000	\$380.00
52 Tarleton	3	2	1914	1/12/2015	87	\$589,700	\$580,000	\$303.03
6 Paddock	3	3	1914	12/30/2014	187	\$589,990	\$585,000	\$305.64
74 Livingston	3	3	1858	1/12/2015	28	\$634,900	\$619,000	\$333.15
5 Keystone	4	3	2000	1/20/2015	41	\$645,000	\$625,000	\$312.50
7 Salvatore	3	3	2084	12/30/2014	30	\$724,800	\$640,000	\$307.10
21 Dawnwood	4	3	2200	1/16/2015	97	\$725,000	\$705,000	\$320.45
71 Bedstraw	5	4	2556	1/21/2015	175	\$749,000	\$725,000	\$283.65
76 Bedstraw	4	3	2800	12/29/2014	65	\$814,900	\$806,000	\$287.86
37 Terrastar	4	3	2500	1/9/2015	31	\$825,000	\$810,000	\$324.00
46 Tuberose	4	3	2750	1/12/2015	168	\$849,900	\$832,400	\$302.69
58 Laurelhurst	4	4	2920	12/30/2014	102	\$919,000	\$890,000	\$304.79
14 Coral Blue	4	6	5429	1/9/2015	231	\$2,599,000	\$2,465,000	\$454.04

\*"Based on information from the Association of Realtors/Muliple listing as of January 26, 2015, and/or other sources. MLS data is deemed reliable but not guaranteed accurate by the MLS. The Broker/Agent providing the information contained herin may or may not have been the listing agent".

with 10% down.

February 2015

An FHA loan will still require the one-time up front mortgage insurance premium of 1.75 percent added to your loan balance but, overall, it's a great opportunity to help you purchase a home if you don't have 5, 10 or 20 percent down payment.

If you currently have an FHA loan, it's a great time to see if you can refinance and decrease your monthly loan payment.

If you have any questions or would like more info about selling or buying real estate, please feel free to contact



email me at: cathieberlin@cox.net. or contact any Realtor® of your

of the several advertising their services in Ladera Times.

on Facebook at: Ladera **Ranch Homes-Cath**ie Berlin.

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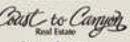
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Cathie Berlin 949-291-1959 Cathie.Berlin@cox.net

www.CathieBerlin.com CalBRE #01159745







Following are highlights from the Orange County Police Blotter. For more, go to LaderaTimes.com.

### January 27

1:57 am, patrol car asked to check out male in his late 20s to early 30s in a green Toyota pickup who is unknown to the areas and is looking at houses and writing down info, Foilate Way.

6:55 am, deputies asked to check on possibly burglary of a neighbor's house after observing two males enter the garage, Orange Blossom Circle

### January 26

lim Schmit

9:35 pm, an 18-y-o male

who may be on drugs is shouting at customers at Mc-Donald's in Mercantile East Shopping Plaza.

7:44 am, a 24-y-o white male was arrested following an altercation between him and a woman at the 2000 block of Corporate Drive.

3:50 am, an informant says the guard for the Community Park across the creek from Sendero in Rancho Mission Viejo revs the engine of his Mitsubishi Lancer for about 30 minutes every morning before he leaves the

Editor & Publisher

property to go home. The informant said he spoke to another guard who yelled obscenities at him.

### January 25

7:36 pm, a Hispanic male with black shirt, and an older Toyota Tundra asked informants if they ordered a stove, but there was no stove in back of truck for delivery. Fieldhouse.

6:37 pm, officers asked to stand by while the father dropped off his kids in a child custody exchange, Tisbury Way.

6:15 pm, officers called to a custody case in which the informant's daughter told him her mother is slurring and she's not supposed to be drinking or doing drugs per the court order, Fieldhouse.

4:44 pm, juveniles skateboarding across the hill from the water tower above Kohl's have set a piece of cardboard on fire and are kicking it around, 27700 block of Antonio Parkway.

1:11 pm. a woman in a silver Subaru said her husband lost his drone last week and tracked it to another residence but was told by a neighbor that the homeowners were not currently home. He was asked not to wait in front of the residence but is still there, Passaflora Lane.

10:09 pm, Angels Beauty Supply at the 25600 block of

ported on trespassers on Antonio Parkway by the bridge between Ortega Highway and Sendero Way. 12:36 am. an informant's

Crown Valley parkway reported vandalism to the store. 9:45 am, a security guard in a marked white pickup re-

15-y-o son was not breathing and was rushed to Mission Hospital by the OCFD, Thalia Street.

February 2015

### January 24

11:27 am, a loud party was reported at Laurel Glen Apartments, Sklar Street.

10:24 pm, an informant said he heard a gunshot and saw a white flash in the middle of Three Vines Court but it turned out to be a backfire of a car that has since left the area.

8:55 pm, deputies check on an Onstar Emergency Activation with no response on a white Chevy Volt on Sleepy Hollow and the owner was notified.

8:07 pm, deputies were asked to check out a white Chevy Suburban near the park and it turned out to be four subjects smoking marijuana inside, Wickford Lane.

9:00 am, deputies followed up on secondhand info from an anonymous informant about a child that was supposedly hit with a pipe the day before, Mason Lane.

### January 23

5:27 pm, an informant said a pack of wild juveniles are skateboarding, making noise, and darting out into the street in front of cars at the old Beachfire Restaurant site, Sienna Parkway & Main



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# Calendar of Events

Dates, times, locations, and events are subject to change without notice so double check before setting out to attend an event. Events can be added to the Calendar by emailing details to LaderaTimes@cox.net. For a more extensive list of events, go to **www.LaderaTimes.com**.

Wednesday, Febru- Saturday, February Lima at 949-545-1066 Thursday, February 24 ary 11 - LARMAC 21 - Ladera Ranch and 26 at San Juan Hills Executive & Little League Opening Tuesday and High School. Day from 9:00 am Open Thursday, Sesto 4:00 pm at **February** Wednes-Founder's Park 24 and sion day, April **15** - LAR-Meetat the corner 26 of Avendale Team MAC ing, Boulevard Nikos Executive Avand Daisv. Bas-& Open endale Entertainketball Session Clubment and food Acasd-Meeting, Avendale house vendors are emy wanted. Those will host Clubhouse on Daisy, beinterested are asked tryouts on on Daisy, be-





# Team Nikos Basketball Academy 'The Finest Basketball Program in South OC!'

by Mike Tolmaire

Basketball in South Orange County is on the rise.

If you're looking for a program that is geared to take your athlete's skills to the next level, look no further.

Team Nikos Basketball Academy (TNBA) is a professional, high quality basketball program that provides elite level coaching and top-notch training.

TNBA takes recreational NJB players and surrounds them with experienced, dedicated coaches that have played and coached at the

collegiate and professional level. The coaches will teach your athlete what it takes to compete at a high level, as they have lead their teams to two AAU National Championships over the last two years.

TNBA is also designed to help your child become a better, all-around athlete.

Your child will build character, develop leadership skills and the discipline necessary to become successful, on and off the court.

TNBA has trained and developed many talented,

young student-athletes that are currently participating at various high schools in the area, including San Juan Hills, Tesoro, San Clemente, JSerra, St. Margaret's and Santa Margarita.

These are among the many high schools that you will find TNBA alumni putting in work in the classroom and on the court.

TNBA will host tryouts on Tuesday and Thursday, February 24 and 26 at San Juan Hills High School.

Check out **www. teamnikos.com** for more information.

# Email Your Stories to LaderaTimes@cox.net

Individuals or organizations, such as sports leagues, clubs, non-profits, businesses, etc. with a news story should email it to LaderaTimes@cox.net.

The story should answer the questions: "Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How." Photos should be 200 pixels- or dots-per-inch or at least 6" wide.

The *Ladera Times* is published the Thursday on or about the first of every month, so stories for that issue should be submitted by the 15th of the prior month.

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# Laderians Take Up New Unsafe Intersection War

By Amy R. Spurgeon-Hoffman

If there's one thing Laderians know, it's a dangerous intersection.

This time, the dialogue of County-deemed "safe" intersection vs. real world application and near misses turns to the non-regulated and wideopen intersection of Tuberose Street and Agapanthus Street in the affluent Avendale Village, where many homes on **www.Realtor.com** hover near the \$1 million mark.

The neighborhood is so charming and idyllic, it has tract names like: Astoria, Canopy Lane, and Willow Bend. But no cross-walks for children and moms with strollers.

Attention turned here last fall when a near miss of two children resulted in a grassroots movement to ask OC traffic engineers once more why there are no traffic control measures and crosswalks?

The answer is mired in beaucratic state and county

guidelines and the ins and outs of when and when not to put in a stop sign or crosswalk.

But anyone who watches the intersection for any length of tuime can see that tghe intersectrion is not safe.

The intersection of Narrow Canyon and Aura Lane were deemed acceptable by the County for years despite efforts by the Ladera Times and the Ladera Ranch Civic Council (LRCC) to get the county to install a traffic light or at least four-way stop signs.

It took six severed gas lines after a car plowed through the intersection and into home one morning last year to get the county to act.

The four-way stop signs wer finally installed last month.

Residential homes at the intersection of Tuberose and Agapanthus Streets align three of the corners with large landscaping hampering



views from each entrance into the intersection. A neighborhood playground and baseball diamond occupy the fourth corner

Last year the county reported that there are no blind spots at this intersection. "Field review of this intersection do not show unsafe conditions at the location in accordance with the design guidelines," according to Orange County Public Works Strategic Communications Officer Shannon Widor. "No accidents have been recorded at the intersection for the past five years." This was the same argument the county said about the Narrow Canyon/ Aura Lane intersection.

Moms, babies, and toddlers make the daily trek across this dangerous intersection for playtime every day.

Repeated attempts to reach OC Traffic Engineers Isaac Alonso Rice and Rick Diaz went unanswered.

LRCC Chairman Jett Mc-Cormick takes residents concerns seriously and has solid

**Finally** – The photo on the left, by Lola's Cafe owner Matthew Surrena, shows the four-way stops signs and painted pedestrian lanes were installed at the intersection of Narrow Canyon and Aura Lane in mid-January.

New Fight – The Ladera Ranch intersection of Tuberose and Agapanthus, shown above in a photo by Amy R. Spurgeon-Hoffman, is the latest target for county safety measures after Laderians, including two young children, were nearly hit last fall.

advice for fellow Laderians: Report near miss accidents to the police and attend open session at LRCC's monthly meetings to bring up any issues.

"The LRCC can take public comment on this issue at our February 16 meeting, Jett said. "We understand concerns about the intersection, but there is a mandated detailed review process that needs to be adhered to as these types of issues are considered."

The LRCC will be finalizing subcommittees at its February meeting; Councilmember Todd Stearns has been appointed as the new Vice Chair of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee for the LRCC.

The Council meets the third Monday of each month at the Santa Margarita Water District Board Room, located at 26111 Antonio Parkway, at 7:00 pm. For more info on how to become involved, go to **www.lrciviccouncil.org**.

# STOP

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flicts with pets or livestock,

Many residents of Ladera Ranch have expressed concerns about coyote sightings and the consequences of predator animals within the urban environment. One resident lost a family cat to a covote. There re several strings on the subject on the community website **LaderaLife.** prevent deadly

Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep rodent populations under control. They are by nature fearful of humans. But coyotes and other wild animals are in trouble, and the problem is people are careless with food and garbage.

If coyotes are given access to human food and garbage, their behavior changes.

They lose caution and fear of humans, as explained by one Ladera resident, Chris Davis who said a coyote in his neighborhood stood its ground despite his yelling and arm-waving. "I could tell that the covote knew I was not going to hurt it."

Coyotes may cause property damage. They might threaten human safety. They can be a menace to pets and children.

Relocating a problem

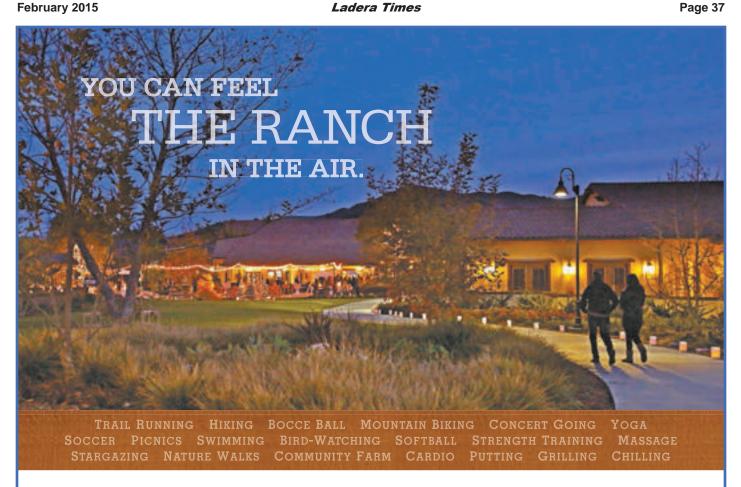
children. coyote ☐ Do not leave is not an small children or pets option outside unatbecause it only moves tended. the problem to someone Install else's neighmotionborhood. sensitive Help lighting around conflicts for these the beautiful wild house. animals by these • Trim "Coyote country" pregroundcautions: level □ Never feed shrubbery to reduce or attempt to tame coyotes. The result hiding may be deadly conplaces.

spring, when feeding and protecting their young.

- ☐ If followed by a coyote, make loud noises. If this fails, throw rocks in the animal's direction.
- ☐ If a coyote attacks a person, immediately contact the nearest Department of Fish and Game or law enforcement office.
- ☐ Stash your food and trash. Allowing covotes access to human food and garbage is reckless and deadly.
- ☐ Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
- ☐ Remove sources of water, especially in dry climates.
- ☐ Bring pets in at night, and do not leave pet food outside.
- ☐ Put away bird feeders at night to avoid attracting rodents and other coyote prey.
- ☐ Provide secure enclosures for rabbits, etc.
- ☐ Pick up fallen fruit



☐ Be aware that coy-



You can see it in the gentle foothills, and sense it from the warmth of your neighbors. Since opening last June, Sendero, our first village, has blossomed. Parks, paseos, trails, pools, and three clubhouses are all welcoming hundreds of new Ranch residents. Our sports field, Sendero Farm and The Marketplace are on the way.

Village of Sendero named U.S. Community of the Year by the National Association of Home Builders

Both family and 55+ neighborhoods are thriving, and folks are enjoying a fun-filled calendar of events courtesy of the nearby nature reserve, plus all the Sendero activities staged by our own RanchLife team. It's a whole new to-do list, made for good times, vivid memories, and a full life. Visit RanchoMissionViejo.com to see more.

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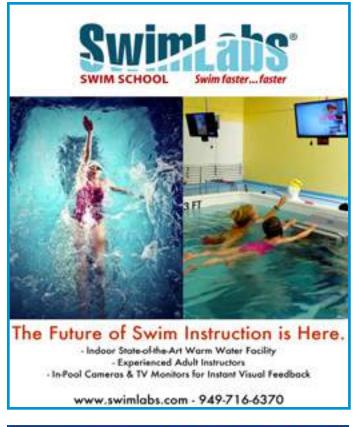






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