

Ladera Rancho Times &
LADERA TIMES

News Monthly

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July 2014

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER



Fellow Laderians,

Back in the '60s or '70s, the liberal-control Congress pushed through a law that essentially stated if a mentally ill person presents no danger to himself or the public, he could not be held in a mental institution against his will. The hospitals were delighted because they were costing them money. So, in a classic example of unintended consequences, the hospitals released all their mental patients into the street. I wondered back then as I do now, what did the sponsors of this law think was going to happen? Did they think families would welcome them and their mental health problems with open arms? Did they think there was a wealth of jobs awaiting them? Did they expect society would support them with medications, money to live on, and free housing?


Of course, they didn't think this through at all and, as a result, where do you suppose many of these people end up? In the street, of course, where, instead of taking their prescribed meds, many of which kept them from being a danger to themselves and society, they became addicted to street drugs, which makes them very dangerous.

Now a report comes out that says Medicare and Medicaid do not provide the same coverage and treatment for the mentally ill as patients with physical health issues. "More than half a million Americans with serious mental illness are falling through the cracks of a system in tatters," a *USA Today* report shows. "The mentally ill who have nowhere to go and find little sympathy from those around them often land hard in emergency rooms, county jails, and city streets. The lucky ones find homes with family. The unlucky ones show up in the morgue."

Pennsylvania Republican Congressman Tim Murphy, a child psychologist who is leading an effort to remodel the mental health system, says, "We have replaced the hospital bed with the jail cell, the homeless shelter, and the coffin. How is that compassionate?" States looking to save money under pressure from insurance companies have pared away both the community mental health services designed to keep people healthy, as well as the hospital care needed to help them heal after a crisis. All too often, people with mental illness get no care at all.

Although mass shootings focus the public's attention on mental illness, nothing seems to be done about it. There have been 74 mass shootings since Columbine and virtually all of them were committed by people with serious mental illnesses, including 22-year-old Elliott Rodger, whose May 23 attack near the University of California, Santa Barbara campus killed six and injured 13. His father, Peter, said he couldn't get the help he needed for his son.

The NRA won't allow our reps in Washington to discuss any measure of gun safety in the fear that someone will take their guns away although, in my 72 years, I have never heard a responsible politician make such a threat. But we must have a sane and sensible dialogue about this issue and we can start by keeping guns away from the mentally ill while providing them with better diagnosis and treatment.


Jim Schmitt, Editor and Publisher

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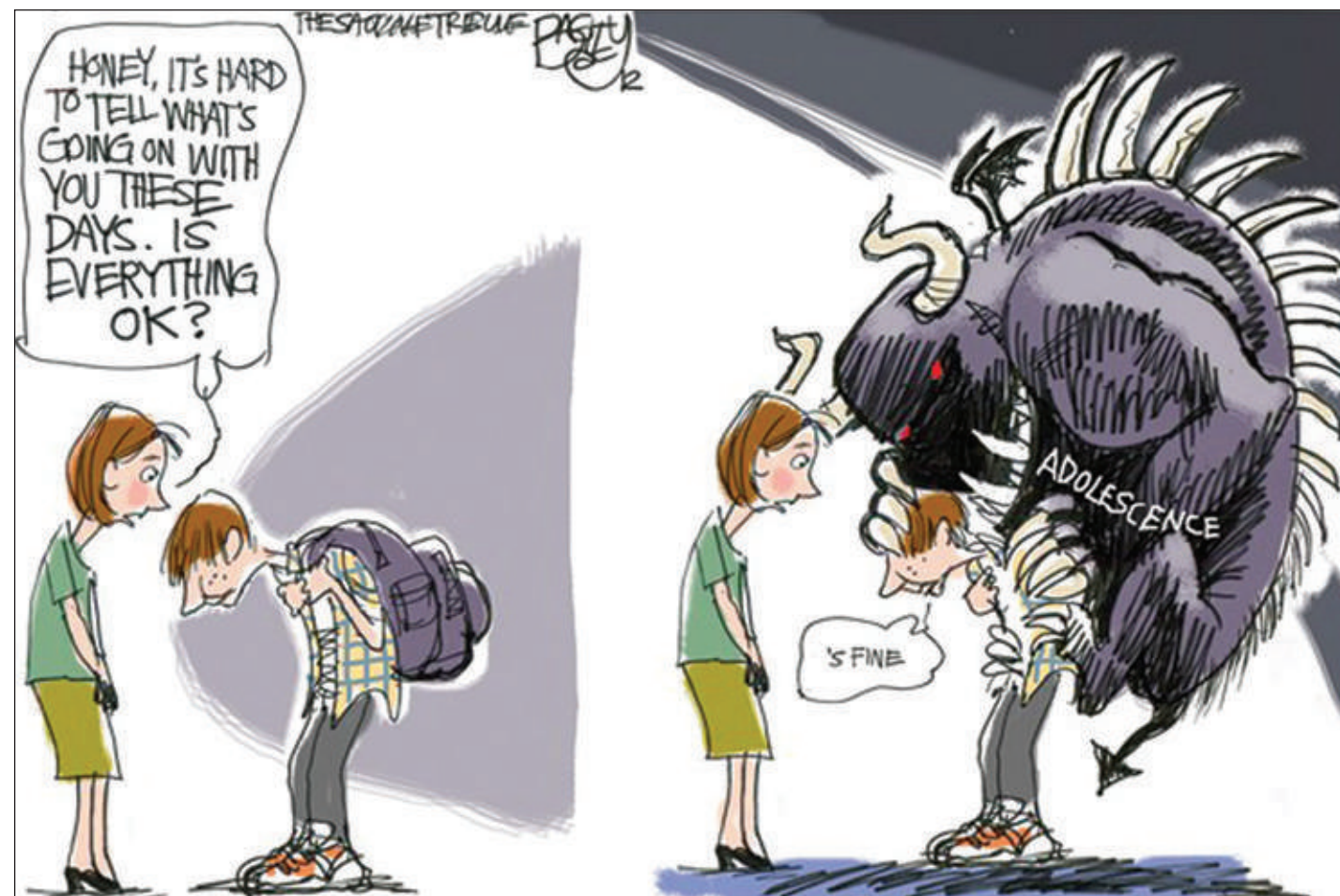
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Letters to the Editor

Dear Jim,

Your June 2014 editorial, while well intentioned, is off the mark. LARMAC does not spend "\$1 million per year on sports activities." It does spend millions on landscaping and some of that includes the fields on which sports are played in LR. But those cost would exist regardless of whether or not sports were played on the fields. You made it sound like LARMAC directly spends \$1 million a year on sports activities. They don't. Not even close.

Moreover, the inference from your editorial is

that LARMAC is responsible for building a community center. I disagree. A community center should be put in place so (among other things) our teens have a place to hang out, etc. But the "C" in LARCS is where you should focus your attention. Ladera Ranch Community Services is the perfect owner for a Community Center. And they have the money.

Increasing HOA dues to "raise a half-million a year while we draw up plans" may sound like a good idea, but in practice it isn't that simple. But we

need look no further than LARCS for the money in the bank today. They have it now and there is very little risk they would ever "go broke" so they should spend some of it on a community center. (This, by the way, is a massive credit to those few individuals that have given so much time to that board over the past seven years+. Thank you LARCS board members!)

Your premise is that LARMAC should fund a center, and on that point, you have missed the mark. LARCS is the solution, not LARMAC. Best regards,

John Novak
Ladera Ranch
(Editor's Note: John

was a member of the LARMAC Board for a three-year term and served one year as Board President. Before that, he served as a non-voting Board Officer.)

Hello Jim

I hope all is well with you. I just read your June issue of the Ladera Times and I wanted to reach out to you to say Thank You for such a wonderful opportunity to help educate the community about LARCS!

As always, I appreciate your support to LARCS. Susan Jones
LARCS Executive Director
(More letters on Page 6)

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More Letters to the Editor

(More letters from Page 4)

Dear Editor,

I've read your mission statement and can't find the part where it says "promotion of an extreme liberal viewpoint."

Regardless, I am a fiscal conservative and social liberal, and believe in universal healthcare and supporting those who truly need it. Yet I also learned a long time ago that there is no such thing as a free lunch.

So I agree with most of what Paul Reid said in his letter to the editor last month; yet surely he doesn't see the incredible irony of some of his comments supporting the Obama econo-

my.

Interest rates are being artificially manipulated to remain at record lows by the Federal Reserve. The Fed has do to this because underlying economic strength is nowhere near strong enough without the Fed's support.

Ask any small business owner (small businesses employ two-thirds of the nation's workforce) why they aren't hiring and the answers are uniform. Confidence in the future is the key and there is virtually none today due to the Obama administrations fiscal, regulatory, and tax policies. Thus the Fed has to employ aggressive monetary policies.

They are buying long term bonds to keep interest rates low because the economic recovery would falter at higher rates. This is to say nothing of the government's ability to borrow at higher rates short of a massive uptick in tax revenue via a booming economy.

Now for that incredible irony I alluded to earlier.

Who owns by far the greatest percentage of financial assets like stocks and high end homes like we have in Ladera?

Who benefits the most when the stock market rises by 30% in a year?

All those rising home prices and fancy new cars (hopefully not purchased

with home equity this time around) in Ladera are great, but how is the guy with five kids and no job who is struggling to put food on the table benefiting?

And let's not get started on who suffers the most from higher gas and food prices.

Last I checked, one of President Obama's primary goals has always been to reduce the wage and wealth gap in America.

Under his watch, it has arguably gotten worse. The better off are certainly doing better but the middle class is even more behind.

If I'm a staunch supporter of President Obama, this "recovery" is not what it's cracked up to be.

Josh Taussig
Ladera Ranch



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5th District Orange County Supervisor Pat Bates Speaks



In May, the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the implementation of Assembly Bill 1421 (AB 1421), also known as Laura's Law.

Laura's Law was approved by the California State Legislature in 2003.

Since that time, funding the implementation of the program in Orange County has been a challenge.

Historically, the County was not allowed to use funding from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), or Proposition 63, to implement AOT services.

In 2013, the passage of Senate Bill 585 (SB 585)

clarified that counties are permitted to use MHSA funds for the implementation of Laura's Law, when it is included in the MHSA plan.

Per SB 585 requirements, the Health Care Agency (HCA) revised Orange County's Three Year MHSA Plan (2014-2017) to include funding (\$4,436,820) for mental health services associated with the implementation of Laura's Law.

The law creates an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program that provides court-ordered treatment for persons with severe mental illness who

meet certain criteria, including, but not limited to:

- A person must be 18 years of age or older
- The person is suffering from a mental illness
- The person is unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision
- The person has a history of lack of compliance with treatment
- The person's condition is substantially deteriorating

In addition, one of the following must be met:

- The person, within the last 36 months, has required two psychiatric hospitalizations or placement in a correctional facility due to their mental illness; or,

• The person's mental illness has resulted in one or more attempts or threats of serious and violent behavior toward himself/herself or another within the last 48 months.

Participation in AOT services provided through Laura's Law are less restrictive and do not allow for forced medication. The treatment plan does allow for coordination of and access to medication.

I supported Laura's Law during my time in the California State Assembly and I applaud my colleagues and HCA staff for their hard work and dedication in making Laura's Law a reality.

I am proud to say that Orange County will be the first large County in the State to implement AOT services.

2014 LARCS Board of Directors Selection Meeting Results!!!

The LARMAC Board of Directors congratulates Matt Cordry and Jay Rogers for being elected to the LARCS Board of Directors at it's June Selection Meeting.

An equal thanks goes to Urs Britschgi for his candidacy for the LARCS Selection!

The LARCS Selection Meeting was attended by approximately 40 Neighborhood Representatives on behalf of 2,394 homes throughout the community!

Again congratulation to the elected LARCS Directors and all participants!!!

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The Women Network is all about spotlighting the companies out there that are all about supporting women and the organizations we take care of.

We had the opportunity to visit America's First Jeweler. Black, Starr & Frost is one of those amazing companies whose reputation precedes them. They are celebrating the beginning of their third century of being in business!

After visiting their signature location which happens to be in our backyard, Newport Beach, we knew exactly why. They seem to go beyond the call of duty in everything they do.

The venue has a waterfront view with gorgeous artifacts of history hung all throughout the hallways as well as their astonishing jewelry. Being there was a huge honor.

Women Network has partnered with Black, Starr & Frost to provide an exclusive Women Network Salon at their legendary store.

Black, Starr & Frost has similar values such as "do the right thing, help one another, embrace change, and do what others are not willing to do."

We are ecstatic to have the opportunity to work with



President of the California Women's Conference, Michelle Patterson shown with Academy Award nominated actress, Rosie Perez at the 2014 California Women's Conference.

a company of commitment to making as much of a change in the world as we are.

Women Network, the producers of the California Women's Conference provides educational tools, mentoring and empowerment for women to help them achieve their full potential.

It also creates awareness and advocates on issues that are most important for women today through a global online community at [Women Network.com](http://WomenNetwork.com).

Throughout the year, Women Network will license

and produce host conferences following a model similar to TEDx events, both nationally and internationally.

Women Network strives to develop powerful partnerships with organizations and businesses in an effort to mutually support each other's mission and to share each other's vision and passion.

Black, Starr & Frost has expressed their interest in supporting women on a national and global scale so we are excited to see what the future has in store for this partnership.

Over the next year we will bring together the most influential women in each industry sector to share best practices and how we can be truly be better together by supporting one another.

Through our collaboration with Gallup, these influential women will be delivering one of five universal elements of a balanced life:

- 1. **Career life:** How do you occupy your time - or simply liking what you do everyday
- 2. **Social Life:** Having strong relationships and love in your life
- 3. **Financial Life:** Effectively managing your economic life

4. **Physical Life:** Having good health and enough energy to get things done on a daily basis

5. **Community Life:** The sense of engagement you have within the area you live in

These events are designed to benefit women from all walks of life by offering individualized resources that will bring women together to create global change that they can take back to their companies and communities.

Check online at [Women Network.com](http://WomenNetwork.com) for the next Women Network event at Black, Starr & Frost. This is an experience you will not want to miss! You can reach us at info@womennetwork.com.

(Visionary and lauded business accelerator Michelle Patterson is President of the Global Women Foundation and The California Women's Conference (www.california-womensconference.com) - the largest women's symposium in North America that has featured esteemed First Ladies, A-List Hollywood celebrities, and high caliber business influencers. Michelle is also the CEO of Women Network LLC, an online digital media platform dedicated to giving women a voice and a platform to share their message. Michelle may be reached at WomenNetwork.com.)



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'Bullying' Video that's Gone Viral Turns Out To Be a 'Mutual Combat' Exercise Gone Bad

By Amy R. Spurgeon-Hoffman

Robert Johnathan Proto reportedly spent every Saturday, Sunday, and holiday from approximately 4:00 pm to 1:00 am for nearly a year playing video games at Cabazon's "Morongo Resort

Casino & Spa" 24-hour arcade located at the west end of casino floor just next to the food court.

With just 12 physical arcade games – including a motorcycle game, Batman, Candy Cane, two car games

and a pinball machine – it was like "Cheers," where everybody knows your name . . . or stage name as was the case with Robert.

"He was always polite. He always said thank you. Always, always, always,

always," said a Southland resident who knew Robert but spoke on anonymity after learning the 18-year-old is now behind bars at OC's Theo Lacy Facility stemming from three felony charges for his role in the videotaped May 20th assault on a minor at Chaparral School – a minor significantly younger than him.

Initial reports said the horrific video was a "bullying incident," however, CUSD and the OCDA confirm it was "mutual combat" between two minors that developed into assault by Robert.

Turns out Morongo's "Robert Johnathan Proto" is Ladera's own Robert Valentine Ayala, 18, originally from Nevada.

Robert sits locked behind bars awaiting someone to post his \$50,000 bail.

According to his Facebook page, "Robert Johnathan Proto" works at "Evil Corp 666," is a fan of "Impact Wrestling," likes "WWE Music," and Michael Jackson's album "Xscape".

He likes movies such as "The Karate Kid," "21 Jump Street," "Sinister," and Jackass' latest release, "Bad Grandpa."

Robert's favorite TV shows include reality TV queen Snookie's "Jersey Shore," "Punk'd," and "South Park."

His favorite books (continued on page 14)

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Focus is on Ayala Who, at 18, Is Charged as an Adult

(continued from 12) include "Deadtime Stories" and "Hooligan Bear," and his favorite video games are "Grand Theft Auto," "Xbox One Junkie" and "WWE Smackdown vs. Raw 2011".

Robert is seen in the infamous video (see it at www.LaderaTimes.com) landing Hulk Hogan's classic Pro Wrestling move – the "leg drop" – jumping high in the air and landing firmly onto the head of a motionless, unconscious and 100% helpless minor laying face up on the freshly mowed lawns of Chaparral Elementary.

The school apparently was wide open for the public to stroll through its grounds without security or personnel on hand to break up the after-school melee.

The leg drop enticed the DA to charge Robert with the dreaded "great bodily harm" enhancement that could add years to a prison sentence.

"Everyone's to blame. Nobody was thinking straight at Chaparral," said a graduating CUSD student. This teen said he was bullied early on in high school and learned to train physically to protect himself from

a public school administration that wouldn't get involved.

"Administrators are not there to help. I went into the office 20 to 30 times for help. You have to develop your own status.

"If people mess with you, and you don't react physically – you just walk away – then you are even more of a target," he said.

Learning that the polite boy in the arcade – often in the presence of a towering friend more than 6'6" (eerily similar to the 17-year-old minor in the video), the Southland resident began to



Robert Valentine Ayala also known as Robert Johnathan Proto

cry. "I would never think it was him. He spent his holidays and weekends alone in a casino. It's so sad. It's not a childhood," cried the

resident after witnessing the video for the first time.

"It just breaks my heart. Parents would use this arcade and drop off their kids. He is dealing with a lot of stuff."

The father of the victim has his own outrage. Not only is he tending to his recovering son, but he's trying to understand how a society would profit willingly off of a video that's clearly been deemed an assault on a minor.

The victim's family is grateful to the community that has rallied behind them with a thick wall of privacy and outrage – including the now infamous Facebook page "No Bully Ladera Ranch" (<https://m.facebook.com/LaderaRanchNoBullying>), that originally posted the 24-second video.

News stations from around the world picked up the story from this site and labeled it a bullying incident.

Male teens from Tesoro hanging out after school said the word on campus was that Robert trained locally as a "fighter."

They said everyone knew Robert was a bully and was constantly looking for trouble.

"I almost fought him freshman year," said one. "When you go 'Lucho Libre' (masked pro wrestling) in public, that's not right.

"He just walked around shooting people dirty looks. He's

been in the office a lot," he continued. "It was pretty predictable. He needs to go to prison for awhile."

A female Tesoro teen agreed. "Robert is psycho," she said. "He was a weird kid who hung out with the 'emo/gothic' kids (Emo is when the world hates you. Goth is when you hate the world). It's a group beyond outcasts.

"I just knew it was going to happen with that kid," she continued. "'Robert was known to be a troublemaker, and believed to have had depression. He was always just an upset guy."

Rumored to have fathered a baby last year, Robert certainly had a lot going on.

"The deputy at the high school doesn't do anything," said the female Tesoro student. "Neither does the new principal."

But Tesoro Principal

Marc Patterson tells a different story. "We have a great group of students who are rule-abiding citizens. However, when students make inappropriate choices they receive the appropriate consequences.

"This particular incident is no exception to that practice," said Patterson. "It should be noted that the information released was inaccurate. This was a pre-planned fight, not an incident of bullying. Tesoro is a safe campus with students, staff and parents dedicated to keeping it the highest performing high school in the district," the Tesoro Principal continued.

"Our students are the best of the best. They are accepting, generous, studious and extremely involved in both the school and the community," added the 13-year administration veteran. While imprisoned, Rob-

ert (inmate #2827485) - has access "to television, outdoor recreation, local newspapers, mail, commissary purchases (minor grocery store food items and sundries), and special programs," according to the jail's website.

He also receives "medical, mental health, and dental care. Religious services, vocational, and educational programs are also offered."

Robert will appear at Harbor Justice Center for a pre-trial hearing at 8:30 am on July 15 and again at 8:30 am on August 7 for a preliminary hearing.

Robert's public defense counsel (Alternate Defenders) did not return repeated calls for comment on the case.

Also refusing to speak out on his behalf were several of Robert's "Facebook Friends" who appeared friendly with him online.

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October 2014	Wednesday, September 24	Thursday, October 2
November 2014	Wednesday, October 22	Thursday, October 30
December 2014	Wednesday, November 19	Friday, November 28
January 2015	Wednesday, December 21	Thursday, January 1
February 2015	Wednesday, January 21	Thursday, January 29

Rancho Mission Viejo Update

by Jett McCormick, Chairman
Ladera Ranch Civic Council

Dan Kelly, Senior Vice President for Rancho Mission Viejo Company, provided an update for the new community at the Council's June 16 meeting.

It has been a year since Sendero was released with 941 homes. Today home sales have been strong with 630 homes sold to date. Mr. Kelly reported the age restricted, 55-and-older, homes are doing particularly well.

The new fire station is currently under construction as well as the Cow Camp Bridge that will take you to the recently announced Phase II village, Esencia. The bridge is approximately 1400 feet long and will be built in two phases similar to the Crown Valley Bridge.

Esencia is expected to open in the third quarter of 2015.

The new apartment complex at the southeast corner of Antonio and Ortega is underway and will be coming out of the ground soon. The retail center on the northeast corner is still in the planning phase and discussions with potential anchor tenant continues.

The first school is currently under consideration by the Capistrano Valley School District. The school

will be a K-8 school similar to Ladera Ranch Elementary/Middle School.

The school is currently being planned with the first consideration being how many students will need to be accommodated.

Council members voiced concerns about traffic issues. Currently, the 241 Toll Road extension to Cow Camp Road is on hold pending state approval of a water quality control permit.

If this extension is not constructed, a road leading north from Rancho Mission Viejo would need to be constructed.

Another issue is the improvements on Ortega Highway as it enters San Juan Capistrano it narrows to two lanes. Plans have been approved with construction pending funding.

The Ranch has also taken some lessons learned from Ladera Ranch concerning circulation around the school during drop off and pick up times.

Civic Council to Launch New Website and Community Survey

In early July, the Civic Council will launch a new



New C Fire Authority Station under construction in Rancho Mission Viejo.

website and will issue a community survey.

The website will allow more information to be available on the site and will provide better navigation.

The survey, being issued by the Governance Task Force, seeks the community's opinion on services being provided by Orange County, taxes, and what Ladera Ranch should consider for the future. It is important that we get a strong response to the survey as the results will be forwarded to the County as part of the Council's efforts to help define Ladera's cityhood.

Oso Grande Traffic Task Force

The Civic Council will receive an update from the County on the status of the project to construction a left hand turn out of the waterpark on O'Neill at the July meeting.

Residents interested in this project are encouraged to attend on July 21 at 7:00

PM to learn more.

Call for Nominations

The Council will be holding elections for the Board in September.

Applications to run for a seat on the Council are due by July 18. Applications are available on the Council's website, www.lrcivic-council.org.

There are four seats up this year. Applicants must be 18 years old, a member of the LRCC, and have resided in Ladera Ranch for at least 6 months.

Next Meeting

The LRCC's next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Monday, July 21, 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.

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Ladera Performing Arts, the community's local children's theatre group, created and run by Josh and Irene Vecchione, performed the Sound of Music at Tesoro High School Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29. The photos here are from that production. If you missed it, however, they are performing again this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, July 5 and 6. Over 140 local children, ranging in age from 4-16 years old, have been rehearsing since auditioning for their roles in March. The performances include eleven different shows and four different casts, including a tots

cast for the youngest actors. Ladera Performing Arts, partners with the Ladera Ranch Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization created to raise funds for the local public schools. To date, LPA has already raised over \$50,000 for Ladera Ranch public schools through six previous musical productions. Tickets are \$12.00. For more info on the Sound of Music or LPA's summer camps go to www.laderaperformingarts.org.



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(corner of Camino Del Avion)
Dana Point, CA 92629
949.488.0933

Hours 11A-10P

Ladera Has OC's Best 4th of July Celebration



Known for one of the best fireworks displays in South Orange County, Ladera Ranch will present an incredible fun-filled day of activities at Founders Park, Avendale Boulevard and Daisy, on the 4th of July.

Culminating with a dazzling 20-minute fireworks show, which will begin at dusk (approximately 9:00 pm), the celebration of America's Birthday will include a festive community parade, the Freedom Run, live music, fun activities, BMX demos, a Teen Zone, and delicious food.

The LARCS-sponsored day begins at 7:00 am with the start of the annual Freedom Run – 5K/10K Runs and 1K Little Firecrackers Dash – and a Pancake breakfast at Avendale and Daisy.

The Freedom Run actually begins at 6:00 am with walk-up registration and warm ups.

A pancake breakfast, held from 7:45 to 11:30 am, offers pancakes, sausage, coffee and orange

ing, legal services, and a 24 hour crisis hotline to families throughout Orange County that are affected by domestic abuse.

The holiday fun continues at 10:30 am with a community parade.

Neighborhoods, Ladera Ranch clubs, community groups, families, and individuals are encouraged to participate by designing a banner, wagon or float.

The parade will start at Sienna and Sellas and will turn up Sellas N around Founders Park, then down Avendale back towards the Avendale Clubhouse. The parade route is about One mile.

Adults and kids alike can also participate a Bike Decorating Contest.

Many local restaurants and food establishments have partnered with LARCS this year offering dinner fair and other concessions, such as shaved ice, ice cream,



cotton candy, funnel cakes, caramel apples, and kettle corn.

Food and concessions open at 2:00 pm and continue until 8:00 pm when all; activities stop in preparation for the fireworks display. Other events include:

- 3pm Games and Activities
 - 4pm BMX Bike Show
 - 5pm Teen Zone
 - 5 pm - 9 pm DJ and music, photo booth, inflatable bull, game tables, inflatable joust, henna tattoo artists, air brush tattoo artists, food and beverages.
 - 5:30pm BMX Bike Show
 - 5:30pm Performance: OC Kids Choir
 - 6pm Concert: Vanity Fair (Top 40)
 - 9pm Fireworks
- Some events and games will be charging \$1 to participate. However,

LARCS is offering a \$10 "All Access" Wristband which will be good for all games, activities, face painters, caricature artists, and airbrush tattoo artists.

The all-day pass does not include food and drink booths, which will take cash for purchases. The food vendors include: BLK Burgerz, Casa Ranchero, Chick-Fil-A, Dandy Cotton Candy, Jerry's Dogs, Kool Kahuna Shave Ice, Maui Wowi, Orange Monkey Kettle Korn, Rita's Italian Ice, Smooth Operator, Tacos and Company, and TJ's Woodfire Pizza.

Residents should note that because of the Freedom Run and the fireworks, Orange County requires LARCS to close some of the roads surrounding Founders Park.

Photos on these pages and the cover are provided by LARCS volunteer photographers.



Rules for 4th Of July Gala at Founders Park

No blankets/tents or personal items are allowed on/around Founder's Park before 6:00 am on July 4th. Security will remove and place in Lost & Found at the

No use of stakes, rope, or fencing of any kind to mark personal space.

No plastic tarps are permitted on grass area of Park.

No glass containers are allowed.

No barbecue grills and no open flame of any kind.

Tents/pop-ups must come down no later than 7:00 pm per the OC Fire Authority.

No electric or motorized vehicles are allowed in Founder's Park, on school property, or on closed streets surrounding Founder's Park.

Use of personal fireworks is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

For the safety of others and your pet, please refrain



from bringing your pet.

Security will remove any person or pet at anytime if deemed a danger, threat, or hazard.

Reserving the Picnic Area is prohibited.

Please observe the "No Admittance" fencing around the Fireworks Area.

Selling products or advertising your business without permission from LARCS is prohibited and subject to a fine.

Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Ticket Booth will close promptly at 7:00 pm.

There will be no sale of alcoholic beverages at the event.

All personal items must be removed directly following the Fireworks production; any items left behind will be discarded.

Please help keep Founder's Park clean and pick-up all of your trash as you leave the park and place in the Waste Management trash boxes located throughout the Park.





TEAM NIKOS 4th GRADE TEAM WINS AAU NATIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Team Nikos' flagship basketball team, comprised of 10 South Orange County 4th graders, won the AAU Division III National Championships.

Invitations to the championship tournament were based on the win-loss record for all qualifying West Coast AAU teams.

Team Nikos was one of 12 West Coast teams competing for the National recognition. In the

first round, the boys won games against the Stockton Hoops, Team Trail, and the DEG Warriors, which advanced them to the Semi Finals.

After winning a tough fought game against SGV it propelled Team Nikos to the championship game against the Dominators out of the Inland Empire. Team Nikos won the game with a score of 53-38, clinching the championship

spot for the team.

Team Nikos 4th grade team members in the photo above are: front, l-r: Easton Cattich (San Clemente), Donovan Comestro (Las Flores), Braden Christenson (Ladera Ranch), Isaiah Tolmaire (Trabuco Canyon), and Michael Chapman (Coto De Caza). Back row, l-r, are: Assistant Coach Jameel Mahmud, Tanner Mehrens (San Clemente), Tanner Deal

(Ladera Ranch), Kellen Mitchell (Ladera Ranch), Braeden Moore (Ladera Ranch), Jake Hesse, (Ladera Ranch), and Head Coach Steve Williams.

Team Nikos Basketball Academy is the premiere basketball program in South Orange County, training athletes ages 4 to 18.

For further information, contact Steve Williams 949-315-9566.

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Happy 4th of JULY

from our Casa to yours...

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TUESDAY 3PM - CLOSE | BAR AND PATIO ONLY

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- PACIFICO OR DOS EQUIS AMBAR DRAFT...\$4.00

FOOD SPECIALS

- STREET TACOS...\$1.50
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- TACO PLATE...\$5.00
2 TACOS W/RICE & BEANS
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CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

BY RAM MUKHERJI



The 2013-14 school year ended on June 24.

The parents of kindergarten, and incoming students in middle and high schools are busy enrolling their students for the 2014-15 school year, which will begin on Thursday, September 4. The opening day generally is a Minimum day for elementary schools.



The individual school site administrators are busy collecting the library books, distributing the Yearbooks, and also preparing for the upcoming new school year.

Schools are holding Music Concerts and students with no or one day absence during the school year are being recognized. There are many summer classes being offered this year.



The Orange County Public Health Department has received reports of increasing number of Pertussis (whooping Cough) occurrences. Parents are provided with information about this illness.



Ms. Kristen M. Vital has been named the new Superintendent of the Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD). She is succeeding Dr. Joseph

Farley who is retiring on July 1 as the leader of Orange County's second largest School District. The selection was made by the Board of Trustees in the closed session on June 14 and the selection was ratified at the regular June 25 CUSD Board meeting.

The new Superintendent comes to CUSD from Alameda Unified School District in Alameda, California, where she was Superintendent.

A seasoned educator, Ms. Vital served as an administrator in some of California's largest districts, including Los Angeles Unified School District and Oakland Unified School District. She has been a teacher, an assistant principal, principal, and a college professor.

To find the ideal candidate, the Board of Trustees conducted a nationwide search.

The search was guided by a detailed list of leadership criteria, a web-based survey, community forum, and responses from focus groups representing community and district stake-



Kristen M. Vital

holders.

Board President John M. Alpay expressed his confidence in Ms. Vital, "We wanted to ensure that we had the right person for this very important role during this critical time in our District," he said. "Because of her demonstrated track record of success, the Board of Trustees is certain that Kirsten Vital is the right leader who will take our District to new heights of student achievement."

Retiring Superintendent Dr. Joseph M. Farley has been widely praised for his leadership of the District over the last four years. Capistrano Unified schools have consistently ranked

in the top one percent of California's public schools. Successfully weathering the most recent economic recession, the District's fiscal position was certified as "positive" by the Orange County Department of Education.

With over 4,000 employees, the new Superintendent will take the helm of the largest employer in South Orange County.

Ladera Times wishes her success in leading this big District.

It also wishes all students, staff and administrators a safe and enjoyable summer.



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

Email News Stories to the Ladera Times

Individuals or organizations with a story to tell should email the story to LaderaTimes@hotmail.com. The story should answer the questions "who, what, when, where, why, and how." Photos submitted should be 200 pixels or dots per inch or at least 6 inches wide.

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Monthly Real Estate Report by Cathie Berlin

LADERA RANCH RECENT SALES ACTIVITY - 30 DAYS ENDING JUNE 27, 2014*

Address	Beds	Baths	Sq Ft	Date Closed	Days On Market	List Price	Sold Price	Price Per Sq Foot
85 Sansovino	1	2	1000	5/28/2014	43	\$315,000	\$315,000	\$315
25 Abarrota	1	2	1006	5/28/2014	10	\$352,321	\$352,921	\$351
73 Sansovino	2	3	1200	6/6/2014	30	\$385,000	\$359,000	\$299
60 Strawflower	2	2	1250	5/29/2014	74	\$373,000	\$373,000	\$298
24 Vinca	2	2	1294	5/30/2014	38	\$395,000	\$392,000	\$303
42 Hinterland	2	3	1300	5/29/2014	78	\$414,900	\$395,750	\$304
145 Strawflower	2	3	1373	5/30/2014	38	\$425,000	\$415,000	\$302
20 Hoya	2	2	1308	6/13/2014	20	\$424,176	\$424,176	\$324
24 Wildflower	2	3	1400	6/3/2014	50	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$304
32 Amesbury	3	3	1373	6/17/2014	48	\$435,000	\$435,000	\$317
9 Daley	3	3	1635	6/10/2014	62	\$449,880	\$440,000	\$269
9 Queensberry	2	3	1617	6/9/2014	29	\$449,000	\$445,000	\$275
76 Garrison	3	3	1500	6/20/2014	59	\$455,000	\$445,000	\$297
37 Hoya	2	3	1637	6/6/2014	22	\$445,715	\$445,715	\$272
31 Platinum	3	3	1592	6/20/2014	88	\$448,000	\$455,000	\$286
49 Harwick	3	3	1373	6/3/2014	70	\$459,988	\$455,000	\$331
25 Hlgo	2	3	1421	6/2/2014	69	\$458,900	\$458,900	\$323
4 Sheridan	2	3	1617	6/23/2014	32	\$465,000	\$460,000	\$284
43 Walbert	3	3	1600	6/11/2014	59	\$485,000	\$466,500	\$292
31 Harwick	3	3	1530	5/29/2014	97	\$488,888	\$472,000	\$308
53 Palladium	3	3	1686	5/29/2014	95	\$479,000	\$475,000	\$282
6 Leffington	3	3	1700	6/12/2014	99	\$489,900	\$485,000	\$285
49 Passaflora	3	3	1783	5/30/2014	86	\$515,000	\$490,000	\$275
1 Platinum	3	3	1700	6/24/2014	75	\$518,000	\$492,500	\$290
2 Digby	3	3	1640	6/9/2014	33	\$484,900	\$496,000	\$302
5 Clifton	3	3	1700	6/26/2014	36	\$499,000	\$499,000	\$294
35 Aryshire	3	3	1760	6/13/2014	69	\$515,000	\$500,000	\$284
11 Strawflower	3	3	1626	5/31/2014	51	\$505,000	\$505,000	\$311
21 Reese Creek	3	4	1700	6/6/2014	193	\$539,900	\$505,000	\$297
2 Thorp Spring	3	4	1750	5/28/2014	80	\$545,000	\$545,000	\$311
3 Oatfield Farm	3	3	1500	6/9/2014	148	\$569,000	\$565,000	\$377
16 First	3	3	1825	6/6/2014	58	\$599,990	\$581,900	\$319
10 Flowerdale	3	3	1680	6/9/2014	80	\$630,000	\$608,000	\$362
23 Tuscany	3	2	2350	6/12/2014	128	\$629,999	\$621,000	\$264
93 Mercantile	4	3	1900	5/29/2014	0	\$635,000	\$635,000	\$334
9 Laurelhurst	4	3	2500	6/13/2014	102	\$739,000	\$710,000	\$284
57 University	3	3	2100	6/11/2014	42	\$715,900	\$715,000	\$340
2 Salvatore	3	3	2084	6/12/2014	8	\$717,000	\$725,000	\$348
6 Reston	4	3	2228	5/27/2014	51	\$755,000	\$750,000	\$337
37 Kempton	4	3	2500	6/4/2014	34	\$750,000	\$752,500	\$301
31 Capricorn	4	3	2156	6/4/2014	4	\$755,100	\$755,100	\$350
12 Laurelhurst	4	3	2374	6/18/2014	76	\$779,000	\$762,500	\$321
9 Chianti	4	3	2567	6/11/2014	104	\$799,000	\$775,000	\$302
22 Allbrook	4	3	2526	6/12/2014	59	\$832,500	\$805,000	\$319
10 Bower	5	4	2800	6/11/2014	71	\$819,900	\$810,000	\$289
11 St Giles	4	3	2577	6/18/2014	48	\$824,990	\$815,000	\$316
15 St. Giles	5	3	2900	6/19/2014	52	\$800,000	\$840,000	\$290
15 Tango	4	4	2935	6/26/2014	106	\$865,900	\$850,000	\$290
25 Vivido	4	4	2834	6/25/2014	13	\$856,990	\$864,258	\$305

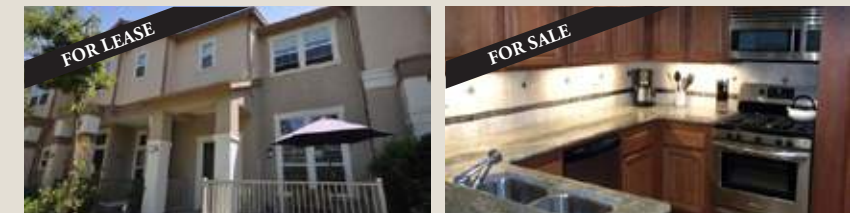
Address	Beds	Baths	Sq Ft	Date Closed	Days On Market	List Price	Sold Price	Price Per Sq Foot
22 Brynwood	4	3	2600	6/12/2014	49	\$875,000	\$875,000	\$337
5 Lullaby	4	4	3000	6/20/2014	164	\$895,000	\$875,000	\$292
45 Vivido	3	4	2678	6/23/2014	44	\$853,575	\$876,524	\$327
18 Tango	5	5	3300	6/20/2014	71	\$929,000	\$920,000	\$279
12 Main	4	4	3222	6/25/2014	124	\$999,700	\$980,000	\$304
16 Blue Spruce	5	4	3100	5/28/2014	90	\$999,900	\$985,000	\$318
2 Winfield	5	3	3300	6/19/2014	173	\$1,050,000	\$987,500	\$299
24 Scarlet Maple	4	3	3000	6/4/2014	61	\$1,049,000	\$1,029,000	\$343
5 Adele	4	5	3515	6/16/2014	23	\$1,099,900	\$1,067,000	\$304
2 Bryant	4		3883	6/11/2014	93	\$1,135,000	\$1,115,000	\$287
6 Bennington	4	4	3426	6/4/2014	17	\$1,099,000	\$1,150,000	\$336
9 Emmy	5	5	3846	6/5/2014	303	\$1,249,000	\$1,215,000	\$316
38 Hallcrest	5	5	3800	5/28/2014	124	\$1,235,000	\$1,220,000	\$321
23 Julia	4	5	3536	6/27/2014	86	\$1,265,000	\$1,235,000	\$349
23 Becker	5	6	4200	6/13/2014	2	\$1,340,000	\$1,340,000	\$319
23 Christopher	5	5	3950	6/11/2014	68	\$1,375,000	\$1,359,500	\$344
28 Roshelle	5	5	4108	6/23/2014	25	\$1,425,000	\$1,400,000	\$341
9 Roshelle	5	5	4050	6/18/2014	5	\$1,450,000	\$1,440,000	\$356
5 Cambridge	5	6	3900	6/26/2014	117	\$1,475,000	\$1,440,000	\$369
1 Connor	4	5	4700	6/10/2014	64	\$1,549,000	\$1,460,000	\$311
3 Kathryn	5	7	4901	6/24/2014	24	\$1,750,000	\$1,805,000	\$368
7 Bell Pasture	6	6	5100	6/10/2014	64	\$1,9		

*This sales information is gathered from Socal CRMLS as of 6/27/14. We cannot guarantee that this data is accurate and it may not reflect all sales activity. The accuracy of all information, regardless of source should be personally verified through personal inspection by and/or with the appropriate professionals.

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

June 30

11:54 am, 50-y-o woman pedestrian was hit by a car and was injured, Crown Valley & Antonio Parkways.

8:28 pm, woman asks deputies to check on the mother in the apartment below where a 10-y-o female yelling for her mother, Sklar.

Valley Parkway.

11:39 am, woman says her female neighbor is harassing her since the informant's gardener trimmed back her plants and she is accusing the informant's autistic son of urinating in her bush, Goose Pond Road.

June 29

11:44 pm, woman called police about a prowler in the backyard but it turned out to be a 12-y-o boy wearing pajamas who jumped over the fence with a flashlight and told the informant's husband that he was looking for a toy in the backyard, Markam Lane.

7:08 pm, a woman reports that an older male keeps trying to lure children away from their parents, Palladium Lane.

5:02 pm, woman says her on and of again boyfriend, who may be on drugs, grabbed her and she possible has bruises, leading to his arrest, 25500 Crown

11:37 am, juveniles reported to setting off fireworks under the bridge that leads in to ladera, Crown Valley Parkway.

June 28

6:48 pm, Kohl's calls for assistance with a shoplifter who boosted a fragrance, Mercantile East Shopping Center.

11:29 am, transient seen going through trash bags and was last seen on a 10-speed bike going down the road with two trash bags, Wood Barn Road.

1:11 am, deputies assisted the OC fire fighters with a 19-y-o male possibly suffering from alcohol poisoning, Mercantile Way.

June 27

7:42 pm, woman was arrested for stealing jewelry from a shop in Mercantile East.

June 26

11:23 am, woman on Sienna Parkway next to an orange cone with a large handgun perched on it.

Ladera Man, Is Shot and Arrested

Sunday night on June 29, Shaun Bradley Paquette, 29, of Ladera Ranch, was shot by County Sheriff's Deputy and arrested.

He was charged two days later with one felony count each of assault with a semiautomatic firearm and child abuse and endangerment, and one misdemeanor count of domestic violence battery. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 11 years and four months in state prison.

At approximately 10:30 pm, Orange County Sheriff's deputies responded to the 100 block of Sansovino regarding a domestic disturbance call.

Deputies arrived and encountered Mr. Paquette inside the residence, during which time a deputy-involved shooting occurred.

Paquette was transported to a local hospital by Orange County Fire Authority paramedics with non-life threatening injuries suffered as a result of the shooting.

The deputy was not injured during the incident.

Mr. Paquette was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon, battery against a spouse and child endangerment charges.

He was booked into Orange County Jail and is currently being held on \$100,000 bail.

As standard practice, the shooting is being investigated by the DA's office.

Advertisement for John E. Taylor D.D.S. featuring a 'Summer Special' offer, a QR code, and contact information. The ad includes the text 'AMERICA land of the free because of the brave' and 'Wishing everyone a safe & fun summer!'.

LADERA TIMES

The Ladera Times is published monthly by Scholze Communications, 29851 Sienna Parkway, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694, and 12,000 copies are delivered to every home, business, corporate offices, and apartment complex in Ladera Ranch the Thursday on or about the first of every month.

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Kathy L. Scholze, Chairman/CEO Scholze Communications, Ladera Ranch

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.

Friday, July 4 – Freedom Run & Pancake Breakfast and Fourth of July Celebration and Fireworks in Founders Park, Avendale Boulevard.

■ Freedom Run & Pancake Breakfast: 5K, and 1K Little Firecracker Dash, a LARCS Partnership event with Ladera Legs, from 6:00 to 10:00 am, Founders Park, Avendale Boulevard.

■ Fourth of July Celebration and Fireworks neighborhood, group, family and bike entry contests for parade, carnival games, delicious food, and live concert before the fireworks at dusk, 10:30 am to dusk at approximately 9:00 pm, Founders Park, Avendale Boulevard. (see stories and photos on pages 20-22)

Saturday & Sunday, July 5-6 – Sound of Music performance by Ladera Performing Art at Tesoro High School Saturday & Sunday, July 5 & 6. For more info go to www.laderaperformings.org.

Friday, July 11 – Concert in the Park, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Town Green, corner of Sienna Parkway & Mercantile Way (details to be announced closer to the event).

Friday, July 18 – Concert in the Park, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Town Green, corner of Sienna Parkway & Mercantile Way (details to be announced closer to the event).

Friday, July 25 – Concert in the Park, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Town Green, corner of Sienna Parkway & Mercantile Way (details to be announced closer to the event).

Friday, August 1 – Concert in the Park, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Town Green, corner of Sienna Parkway & Mercantile Way (details to be announced closer to the event).

Saturday & Sunday, August 2 & 3 – Relay for Life offers a 24-hour round-the-clock inspiring event to honor cancer survivors and cancer victims, promote how individuals can reduce their cancer risk, and raise money to help end cancer at Cox Sports Park from 10:00 am Saturday thru 10:00 am Sunday.

Friday, August 8 – Concert in the Park, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Town Green, corner of Sienna Parkway & Mercantile Way (details to be announced closer to the event).

closer to the event).

Saturday & Sunday, August 9 & 10 – Family Campout: games, campfire, movie, and continental breakfast, 3:00 pm Saturday thru 9:00 am Sunday at Chaparral Park, 29075 Sienna Parkway (Registration to be held in July).

Friday, August 15 – Concert in the Park and Food, 5:00 to 8:30 pm, Town Green, corner of Sienna Parkway & Mercantile Way. The final concert of the summer will also feature an array of food vendors (details to be announced closer to the event).

Saturday, August 23 – Movie Night on the Green, bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy a family movie from 8:00 to 10:30 pm, Town Green, corner of Sienna Parkway & Mercantile Way (details to be announced closer to the event).

Monday, September 1 – Labor Day

Sunday, September 7 – Heroes Run, 5K Run and 1K Race through the streets of Ladera Ranch from 6:00 to 11:00 am, starting at Founders Park,

Avendale Boulevard. A LARCS Partnership event.

Saturday, September 27 – Charity Event, 6:00 to 10:00 pm at Flintridge Clubhouse, 28112 Roanoke Drive. A LARCS Partnership event (details to be announced closer to the event).

Saturday, October 4 – Oktoberfest, a LARCS Partnership event with the Ladera Rancho Chamber of Commerce, 4:00 to 8:00 pm, Oak Knoll Clubhouse, 28192 O'Neill Drive (details to be announced closer to the event).

Monday, October 13 – Columbus Day.

Saturday, October 25 – Teen Event, 7:30 to 10:00 pm, Oak Knoll Clubhouse, 28192 O'Neill Drive (details to be announced closer to the event).

Friday, October 31 – Halloween.

Sunday, November 2 – Daylight Savings Time ends, move clocks one hour back at 12:00 midnight, Saturday, March 8.

Tuesday, November 11 – Veterans Day.

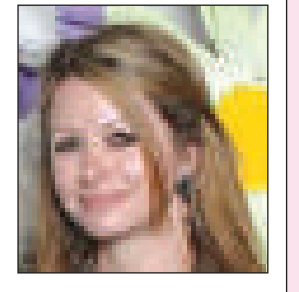
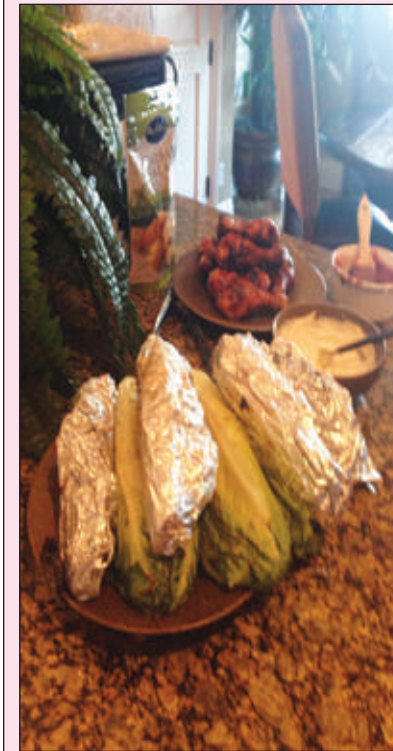
Recipe of the Month by Michelle Dieckhoff

Mom's Famous Barbecue Sauce

Ingredients
 1/3 cup white vinegar
 1/3 cup brown sugar
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1 tsp. paprika
 1 cup catsup
 3 . Worcestershire sauce
 1 tsp. dry mustard
 1/2 tsp. chili powder

Optional
 1 cup of beer

Directions
 Put all ingredients together in a small sauce pan on medium heat and bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Simmer 5 minute while stirring. For a thinner sauce add a cup of beer.



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For many people, nothing beats lounging in the backyard on the Fourth of July with good friends and family – including the four-legged members of the household.

While it may seem like a great idea to reward Rover with scraps from the grill and bring him along to watch fireworks, in reality some festive foods and products can be potentially hazardous to your pets. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center offers the following tips:

- ❑ Never leave alcoholic drinks unattended where pets can reach them. Alcoholic beverages have the potential to poison pets. If ingested, the animal could become very intoxicated and weak, severely

depressed or could go into a coma. Death from respiratory failure is also a possibility in severe cases.

- ❑ Do not apply any sunscreen or insect repellent product to your pet that is not labeled specifically for use on animals. Ingestion of sunscreen products can result in drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst and lethargy. The misuse of insect repellent that contains DEET can lead to neurological problems.

- ❑ Always keep matches and lighter fluid out of your pets' reach. Certain types of matches contain chlorates,



which could potentially damage blood cells and result in difficulty breathing, or even kidney disease in severe cases. Lighter fluid can be irritating to skin, and if ingested can produce gastrointestinal irritation and central nervous system depression. If lighter fluid is inhaled, aspiration pneumonia and breathing problems could develop.

- ❑ Keep your pets

on their normal diet. Any change, even for one meal, can give your pets severe indigestion and diarrhea. This is particularly true for older animals who have more delicate digestive systems and nutritional requirements. And keep in mind that foods such as onions, chocolate, coffee, avocado, grapes & raisins, salt and yeast dough can all be potentially toxic to companion animals.

- ❑ Do not put glow jewelry on your pets, or allow them to play with them. While the luminescent substance contained in these products is not highly toxic, excessive drooling and gastrointestinal irritation could still result from ingestions, and intestinal blockage could occur from swallowing large pieces of the plastic containers.

- ❑ Keep citronella candles, insect coils and oil products out of reach. Ingestions can produce stomach irritation and possibly even central nervous system depression. If inhaled, the oils could cause aspiration pneumonia in pets.

- ❑ Never use fireworks around pets! While exposure to lit fireworks can potentially result in severe burns and/or trauma to the face and paws of curious pets, even unused fireworks can pose a danger. Many types contain potentially toxic substances, including potassium nitrate, arsenic and other heavy metals.

- ❑ Loud, crowded fireworks displays are no fun for pets, so please resist the urge to take them to Independence Day festivities. Instead, keep your little guys safe from the noise in a quiet, sheltered and escape-proof area at home.

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1/4 Page (9.5 col. inches)	\$ 450	\$ 300 (per issue)	\$ 250 (per issue)
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Cloudy with a Chance of a Bond

In November Voters May Be Asked To Take First Big Step To Rebuild California's Water Infrastructure For The 21st Century

by Charles Gibson, Board Member, Santa Margarita Water Authority

Orange County, June 2014: The drought, shrinking snow pack in the Sierras, and dwindling reservoirs remind us that Californians must do more to maintain and refurbish our aging water system. In January, the Governor declared a drought state of emergency.

Today reservoirs, rainfall totals and the snow pack remain critically low. Current readings show the snowpack's statewide water content at just 3 percent of average.

In South Orange County, most of the drinking water is from just two sources, the Colorado River and the less saline State Water Project (SWP) fed by rivers that must circulate through the Sac-



Chuck Gibson

ramento-San Joaquin Delta about 400 miles to the north.

Not only do we need the SWP water to blend with the more saline Colorado River water, we also need it to ensure we do not become overly dependent on one source of supply that could be cut due to a natural disaster.

On January 31 due to the drought, allocations from the State Water Project were shut off completely for the first time in the 54 history of SWP.

The weather is not the only cause of reduced water supplies. Another cause is inadequate infrastructure to manage water efficiently.

The State Water Project was built in the 1960's and elements of the system were built in the 1930's.

There is also an urgent need to upgrade facilities in Northern and Central California for more storage of water in wet years.

Development of surface water and groundwater facilities must be coordinated and better managed too.

Even with adequate stor-

age and better management practices, the state's conveyance system from the Delta can no longer reliably accommodate the dual demands of water supply and protection of the ecology.

The Delta is the hub of SWP serving more than 25 million people and millions of acres of farmland that are critical to the economy of the state and the nation. Existing pumping plants drawing water only from the south end of the Delta need to be supplemented with new intakes to the north.

This would improve the flow of water and allow water to be diverted reliably while better protecting the ecology of the Bay Delta.

The Delta and San Francisco Bay comprise the larg-

est estuary on the west coast. This estuary is habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife including the Salmon that migrate through the Delta.

Many in Southern Californians do not see the urgency of the situation. Perhaps this is because we have been insulated from the drought with two years' of water supply in reserve thanks to Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET).

Also, Southern California water authorities have developed unrivaled recycling facilities along with groundwater management and reuse systems.

We have made progress toward the goal set in 2009 of reducing per capita water consumption 20% by 2020.

But if we have another year of dry weather, we face the prospect of water shortages and possible rationing, similar to the situation in

parts of Northern and Central California today.

Even with an abundance of rain next season, we are on the brink of a water supply shortage with unprecedented economic and ecological damage.

Relying on standard practice and political dicker, infrastructure will not be built fast enough to compensate for years of drought and increasing water demand fueled by population growth.

The real question is whether California voters are willing to pay for expediting construction of facilities to mitigate effects of drought and improve management of scarce water resources.

To help ensure a reliable supply of imported water we need a balanced approach to improving water delivery facilities and protecting the ecology.

As we approach the November 2014 election, we

are going to hear more about these issues. There are several different versions of a water bond under consideration in the California Legislature.

Leading versions would start improving things in the Bay Delta by providing over \$2 billion to protect the Bay's ecology and improve watershed management.

But the water bond is also about building or improving reservoirs and groundwater storage, and it is about improving water quality and using water more efficiently in virtually every part of the state.

It is likely the 2014 bond will include billions of dollars more for these types of projects.

Bond funds should sup-

port conservation programs as well as local efforts to build recycling facilities coordinated with improved groundwater management systems.

As I write this article, I cannot be certain that a bond will be on the November ballot. The Governor and the Legislature have not arrived at a consensus.

I do know that it is time to expedite construction of worthwhile projects for more reliable supply of water and protection of the ecology.

A water bond of substantial size, if approved by the voters in 2014, would go a long way to recovering from previous years of insufficient investment in the water system, and it would help in recovery from the drought.

LARMAC Makes Changes to ARC

The LARMAC Board recently made a change to the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) charter to enable a homeowner whose written architectural submittal had been denied, to meet with the ARC in person to explore a potentially acceptable resolution. On review of this charter revision, the ARC elected to resign their positions as ARC members. While the LARMAC board regrets the committee member's decision, they accept it and remain grateful for the community service they have so consistently rendered. As a result the LARMAC board is soliciting members to serve on the ARC. Details on this volunteer opportunity and an ARC interest form can be found on LaderaLife.com. In regards to those homeowners who have applications before the ARC, an AD HOC ARC has been formed so there is no disruption or delay to the review process. Any additional questions, please call the Avendale Village Clubhouse at 949-218-0900.

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