

*Ladera Rancho Times &*  
**LADERA TIMES**

News Monthly

[www.LaderaTimes.com](http://www.LaderaTimes.com)

September 2014



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Dad, Conquer  
Mt. Rainier**

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Comes to Ladera**

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER



Fellow Laderians,

We have a serious traffic problem in Ladera Ranch. Actually, we have a number of them such as speeding on 25- and 35-mph roads, cars stacking up and overflowing onto Sienna Parkway dropping off and picking up students at OSO Grande and Ladera Ranch Elementary Schools, woefully inadequate parking for events, and so on. Some have been addressed by the Ladera Ranch Civic Council and the County traffic administrators, but they still all remain in need of solutions.

But the traffic problem I am referring to in this editorial is speeding on Narrow Canyon Road past Aura Lane. We did a feature on this three years and, after applying much pressure, the county traffic engineers agreed to put up more signs warning drivers to slow down. This lame measure hasn't solved the problem . . . not one bit, as drivers whiz through his intersection at breakneck speeds.

Why this intersection? After all, drivers speed up and down Sienna Parkway and O'Neal Road and anywhere else they can get up a head of steam. Because the Goddard School is located on one side of Narrow Canyon and a playground and swimming pool on the other and people crossing this road, usually with a child in tow, cannot see cars that are roaring around the bend in time to avoid being hit.

Ladera Times feature writer Amy Spurgeon-Hoffmann was almost run over herself while at the intersection taking photos and videos of the speeding cars for a story she was writing on the subject (see page 10). She shot a video – which can be seen at [www.LaderaTimes.com](http://www.LaderaTimes.com) – showing cars ripping through this intersection. While she was videotaping, one driver gave her the one-finger salute, and two women drivers actually turned around and came back to ask her what she was doing. I could be wrong, but it sounds like they knew they were speeding and were afraid they were going to be issued a ticket.

Mike Smithers, owner of the Goddard School, and parents in the area want the county to install a four-way stop sign at this intersection and paint stripes indicating a crosswalk, going back three years ago. But the county traffic engineers have a book of rules that say this intersection doesn't warrant these drastic measures. So three years ago, they installed the warning signs but nothing else and the public safety has not improved one bit.

Well, "rules is rules," but when it comes to choosing what looks good on paper over what makes common sense, it has been my experience that the bureaucrats always err on the side of the rule book. What concerns me and others is someone, possibly a child, will be struck by a speeding vehicle and seriously injured or worse before anything is done to make this intersection safer for pedestrians.

Jim Schmitt, Editor and Publisher



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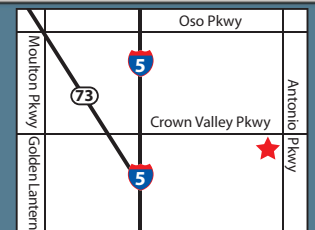
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# Labor Day – Don't Forget the Safety

by Fire Chief Sam DiGiovanna

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers.

It is a yearly national tribute to the contributions of those who have worked to and for the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Many of us will turn the time into an extended weekend by hosting barbecues, going on a mini vacation or spending time outdoors.

Make it an even greater day by following a few



Fire Chief Sam DiGiovanna

safety reminders says Fire Chief Sam DiGiovanna. Keep a close eye on the

grill to ensure there are not fires. Keep barbecues away from the dry vegetation and flammable material. Never leave the grill unattended.

When outside, use sun screen, sunglasses and hats. Keep kids within your sight and arms reach when in the water and never swim alone.

Remember, the ocean has very strong currents and surf lately!

Whatever your water plan, advise a trusted friend or family member when you head out and expected to return. Make sure your boat is equipped with all necessary safety equipment, including enough gas, life vests and a first-aid kit.

When driving you'll want to take your time to ensure you and your family arrive safely. No texting! Remember to not drink and drive, always wear your seat belt and give a little Grace to others.

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# 'Ice Bucket Challenge' Sweeps Ladera

Many readers of the Ladera Times may recall a cover feature story last year about Kathy Scholze, wife of Jim Schmitt, Editor and Publisher of the community paper, who was diagnosed with the Bulbar form of ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Motor neurons reach from the brain to the spinal cord and from the spinal cord to the muscles throughout the body, eventually leading to the victim's death.

The degeneration of the muscles usually begins in the legs and progresses upward. However, 30 percent of victims, including Kathy, suffer from Bulbar ALS,

which progresses from the head down.

Most people with ALS die within two to five years of diagnosis, although world renowned physicist Stephen Hawking has lived with it for over 50 years.

Kathy was a senior executive at American Career College where, among other responsibilities, she taught classes for nursing students. She loved her job, and her students loved her, and she had planned on working at least another five years.

However, one of the first things to go with a Bulbar ALS victim is the ability to speak and so she retired a year ago this past August.

Most recently, with the ALS "Ice Bucket Challenge" sweeping the world, Laura Garcia-Jennings, one of Kathy's former students,



volunteered for the Challenge.

Kathy Scholze, 66, of Ladera Ranch, was diagnosed in May 2013. She first noticed problems with her speech and swallowing six months earlier and saw

**Ice Bucket Challenge** – Kathy Scholze (above) gives former nursing student Laura Garcia-Jennings a hug after completing the challenge (cover). Below are photos of AYSO 1455 Coach Bruce Cordovas taking the challenge. Left are l-r: Kenna Maguire, Isabella Hiero, Skylie Willis, and Chase Willis. Skylie, who made the challenge, is assisted by his mother Alyssa in dumping the water.



several doctors. After ruling out everything else, she was finally told she had the dreaded disease.

Immediately upon diagnoses, she began taking supplements and nutrients under a regimen called "Deanna's Protocol," created by a doctor to help his 32-year-old daughter, Deanna, who came down with ALS.

Deanna says it has stopped the progression of the disease for her but there's no way of knowing if it is having any impact on Kathy.

Eight months ago, Kathy also began taking a dropper full of marijuana tincture, made by distilling the steam from boiling the buds of a marijuana plant, every night at bedtime.

The use of marijuana for

medical purposes is legal in California.

When she started taking the tincture, the progression of the disease seemed to slow down and even her doctors at the Cedar-Sinai Medical Complex' ALS Clinic were amazed the disease had not progressed from one three-month checkup to the next, but they gave no credence to the treatment. "It can't hurt you," is the response from every doctor she has told.

Most recently, following her latest three-month checkup, the progression of her disease seemed to take a spurt forward, but after 10 days of this, she snapped out of it and seems to be doing as well as before, even able to do some minor finger maneuvers she was

unable to do previously.

Kathy is now using a feeding tube to eat since she can no longer swallow without the risk of it going down the wrong pipe and into her lungs, causing pneumonia.

She also has two breathing machines, one to stimulate her lungs during the day, and one to expand her lung during the night. She also has a device for sucking mucus from her throat since she can no longer swallow.

Longtime readers of the Ladera Times will remember the ongoing series in the paper did on Ladera Ranch resident Danielle Camacho, who died of ALS a few years ago. And Patricia Martini, Jim Schmitt's sister also died four years ago from ALS less than a year

after diagnoses.

Up until then, the only person Kathy's husband had heard of who suffered from ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, was, believe it or not . . . Lou Gehrig, from a movie he watched 50 years ago entitled "The Pride of the Yankees," which was produced in 1942, six years before Kathy was even born.

It's been 72 years since the public learned of ALS through the movie and still there's no cure or even a treatment. It was considered an orphan disease for many years because of the relatively small number of people affected by it, but medical research has spiked in the past 20 years, and a much higher percentage

(continued on next page)

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# No Cure or Treatment In More than 72 Years

(continued from previous page) than usual of American soldiers are coming home from the war in Afghanistan with ALS.

"I have been a Registered Nurse for many years with a very health conscious attitude," said Kathy. "I never called in sick because I was never ill. Now I face one of the toughest diseases ever and I am going to fight it with all I have for as long as I have."

There are about 60,000 ALS patients in the U.S., and 5,000 new cases diagnosed each year.

Kathy's extended fam-

ily and myriad friends have been conducting extensive research on both the Internet and by talking with experts who are seeking legitimate, certified treatments all over the world.

One of her champions is Dr. Babak Takeb, a medical scientist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Complex in LA, is one of the world's leading experts on brain mapping.

Dr. Babak, as he prefers to be called, has written the medical school textbook on brain mapping and is a member of the President's Brain Mapping

Committee.

Ladera Times Editor Jim Schmitt is also waging a campaign to get the Federal Food and Drug Administration to clear the way for what is termed as "compassionate treatment" whereby ALS victims can volunteer for treatment under trial studies given that, barring the discovery of a cure or treatment, 100-percent of the ALS patients, and untold thousands more who are as yet undiagnosed, are likely to die before these studies are completed and approved for use.

"This will give ALS patients hope for the future and may even speed up the research findings," said Jim who is encouraging people to write to their



NY Yankee Lou Gehrig

Congressman or Congresswoman and U.S. Senators, and to Dr. Margaret A. Hamburg, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002.

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# Recent Accident Focuses Attention on Narrow Canyon Traffic Safety ... Again

By Amy R. Spurgeon-Hoffman

All elements of a perfect storm collided here on July 30 when a driver plowed into an unaware motorist at the doomed intersection of Narrow Canyon



Amy Spurgeon-Hoffman

and Aura Lane, hurling a vehicle into a home – while severing a natural gas line, causing gas to saturate the surrounding air and requiring a blast zone be designated by first responders.

Meanwhile, 50-60 yards away at The Goddard School for early childhood development, approximately 24 infants and toddlers and 20 two-year-olds played unsuspectingly outdoors simultaneously while natural gas drifted their way.

“I heard the unmistakable sound of metal crashing and went to the staircase to see what happened,” said alarmed Director of Goddard School Tim Bishop.

“I saw one car in the back of a house and a woman stumbling out of a car. The saving grace was that she was able to turn off the car.

“I could smell the gas immediately,” said Tim, who sprang into action



**Danger Ahead** – The photo above is an overhead shot approaching the intersection of Canyon Road and Aura Lane. The orange arrow shows where speeders whiz around the blind corner going so fast that pedestrians who try to cross safely don't see the cars before it's too late. The photo on the right shows the same scene from the pedestrian's point of view. Orange County traffic engineers say they don't have the funds to study the intersection for "unincorporated Ladera Ranch," as if 100% of the real estate taxes Ladera homeowners pay go directly to the county.



having employees bring the children inside and close all windows. “When authorities told us we were outside the blast zone my hair stood up on the back of my neck. The first thing they told us was to account for everyone.”

OC Fire Authority Captain Steve Concialdi said 20-firefighters and additional personnel responded to the call. He said that Southern California Gas had the line

secure within an hour. He noted the designated ‘blast zone’ and subsequent evacuation of residents was routine in that type of situation. “As long as the children were inside, they were safe,” said Capt. Steve. “Any major explosion is something that you see on TV.”

Goddard School officials prepared for this day but hoped it would never come.

“We were on lockdown and the neighborhood was on edge,” said Tim.

“We followed all safety procedures. But this could have happened already 100 times. This time it did,” he said.

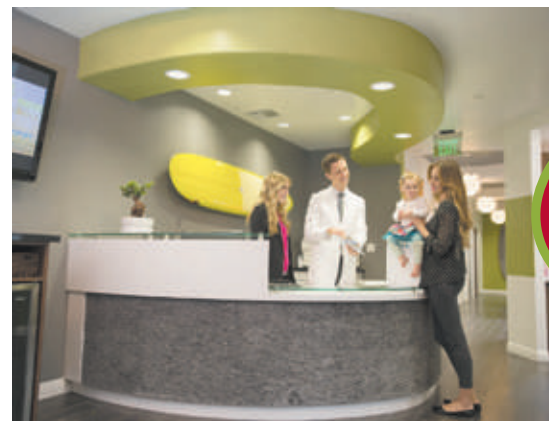
The “this” Tim is referring to is an accident of serious magnitude along the heavily traveled thoroughfare of Narrow Canyon at Aura Lane.

Goddard School owner (continued on page 12)

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\*Laura's House in Ladera Ranch provide a multitude of programs and services for battered women and children.







## Will It Take a Child's Death to Get Action?

(continued from page 10)

Mike Smithers has been begging County officials, engineers and local leaders for years to do something along this stretch of road.

“**Slow Down!**” said Mike, whose passion for road safety in his school’s area is evident.

“There is nothing that is **that** important!”

He spoke about the plight that he, his staff, parents and children live with day in and day out along Narrow Canyon.

“I killed myself trying to get a 4-way stop at Narrow Canyon an Aura Lane last time,” he confessed.

“OC Traffic engineering said we would have to change the traffic code in order to allow for a 4-way

stop here.”

Mike doesn’t care what it takes, he wants safety.

“Give us school zoning, 25 mph, crosswalks!” he implored. “You start handing out tickets and people will **slow down!**”

The early childhood development center is licensed for 182 students ranging from infants to kindergartners. Most schools are governed by the Department of Education and receive the 25-mph designated zone and crosswalks.

Not Goddard!

Back in the day, developers, engineers and planners hadn’t determined what would be at the site where Goddard stands now – as apartments were

even a possibility.

Ultimately, it was agreed to sell the land to Mike in 2004 and the preschool was designed, built and opened its doors by 2007.

But Laderians, eager to avoid traffic at the notoriously backlogged Oso Grande Elementary roundabout at Sienna, hustle along Narrow Canyon to get to work or home each day with almost total disregard for the actual environment they are driving thru.

They enter Narrow Canyon at O’Neill before the Water Park and zip along the overgrown blind curve into what they think is a stretch of road where they can make up some lost time.

**Entitled Speeders** – Many drivers in Ladera Ranch act as if they’re entitled to speed up and down community streets with no regard for the fact that the Ladera Ranch is packed with children. Here a woman takes her life into her hands as she tries to cross Narrow Canyon Road at Aura Lane. Despite ‘Yield to Pedestrians’ signs all over, this driver whizzes past the pedestrian. (photo by Amy Spurgeon-Hoffmann.)

But, in fact, this is a pedestrian hot spot at Aura Lane with a preschool on one side and park and pool on the other.

Self-entitled drivers don’t seem to pay any attention to the large yellow yield sign, yield markings or additional yield sign at the intersection that even shows a little stick figure man crossing the street.

Not this street.

I tried to cross, was in

the road and, according to OC Traffic Engineer Rick Diaz, I should have had the right of way...instead, I was motioned at by one passenger to get out of the road, while the three cars trailing behind made zero attempt to stop – or “yield.”

In fact, the day I was out taking a look at the intersection for myself, two hurried soccer Moms (one yakking on a handheld cell phone), made U-turns and trailed back to roll down their windows to ask me what I was doing.

One said my camera was distracting her; yet she didn’t have time to elaborate or be interviewed for the story since her quiet children in the back were at their wits end.

And if adults have a hard time navigating that intersection, what about the children? What about those with disabilities?

Questions remain as to how a preschool and park were even zoned for that area to begin with.

Supervisor Bates’ office – which acknowledged that no one from her team had actually been to the site themselves, suggested maybe the school would have to move.

They did state they would await any comment on public policy until the ‘pros’ deliver their findings in a report the second week of September.

OC Traffic Engineer Isaac Rice stood before the Ladera Ranch Civic

Council (LRCC) in August and urged residents and children of Ladera – the vulnerable traffic users – to use greater responsibility when crossing Narrow Canyon and that parents need to teach children about the dangers of crossing the street.

He told the gathering there was no funding for unincorporated Ladera

Ranch to have a survey performed to gather facts from residents in the area about life along Narrow Canyon, even though all of the hefty real estate taxes Ladera Ranch residents pay go 100% to the county.

Supervisor Bates’ office said it will wait to see if statistical findings of accidents, traffic flow

at that intersection necessitate government action and policy.

However, just because there wasn’t an explosion or fatality (heaven forbid) on July 30 to be checked off in a quantitative box doesn’t mean that day was any less scary for the innocent men, women and children of that neighborhood.



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### Heartstrings Drive a Legacy by David Matthies of Ladera Ranch

10 years ago we lost a most loved member of our family to an IED in Mosul, Iraq returning from a meeting to rebuild a hospital. A great son, loved husband, trusted friend and my cherished brother, [Rob Soltes](#), decided to do one last tour to help those in need in the fight against terrorism.

"We lost Rob" still rings in my head in my mother's shaky voice on the saddest day of my life, October 13, 2004. Rob was the first military optometrist to be killed in action while on active duty in the United States Army. He was serving as a Public Health Commander with the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion in Mosul, Iraq, assisting in the restoration of the medical infrastructure.



Since that time, family and friends have found ways to move forward, carrying him with them, many finding various ways to emulate Rob's continuous efforts of being in service to the community. Efforts include:

- Contributing to the development of the [Robert Soltes Jr. OD Blind Rehabilitation Center](#) at the Long Beach VA, opened in 2010.
- Heavy involvement in charitable initiatives driven by the 86 year old organization, the [Gold Star Mothers](#)
- Orchestration of the Annual [Major Rob Soltes Memorial Golf Tournament](#) raising money for such causes as providing glasses and eye care for local children that otherwise could not afford it. [Register today](#) for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Tournament taking place on the 10<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day of losing Rob, Monday, 10/13/14, at the Oak Creek Golf Club, Irvine.
- Leadership participation in the efforts for the fund-raising for the development of a new [SoCal Fisher House](#) to serve and support the survival and recovery of our critically wounded hero's. A pivotal and exciting fund-raiser is quickly approaching, on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, *Late Night Catechism Las Vegas, Sister Rolls the Dice*. [Get your tickets today!](#)



#### Related Communities:

- Fisher House: **Long Beach**
- Rob's wife & children, Fisher House Event: **Irvine**
- Rob's mother and retired Colonel father: **Mission Viejo**
- Rob's sister: **Ladera Ranch**

Abstract: Upcoming Community Fund-Raising initiatives  
*Sister Rolls the Dice* fund-raiser benefit - Fisher House, Long Beach

Contact - Call/Text, email:  
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# LRCC Seeks Resident Feedback

by Carlo Tomaino, Vice Chairman  
Ladera Ranch Civic Council

The Civic Council has been working to address questions regarding the potential future of Lad-



era Ranch. For that purpose, the Civic Council formed the Local Governance Task Force, a group comprised of dedicated local volunteers.

Running parallel to the Civic Council's efforts, a South Orange County Visioning Process is being undertaken by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), a public agency tasked by the State of California to evaluate and recommend policies concerning local governance, including the creation and expansion of cities.

Over the next few years, LAFCO will study the areas of Ladera Ranch and Rancho Mission Viejo to explore short and long term governance options.

LAFCO invited the Civic Council and representatives from Rancho Mission Viejo, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano to participate in a series of stakeholder meetings.

To help residents understand this process, LAFCO developed a South Orange County Governance page, which can be found at

[www.oclafco.org](http://www.oclafco.org).

The webpage includes helpful maps, presentations, and information about the stakeholder meetings.

Working with the Task Force, the Civic Council also developed the Ladera Ranch Community Survey to ask questions regarding a variety of areas of service delivery by the County.

The Survey also touches upon other aspects relating to the quality of life in Ladera Ranch that may be important to residents.

The Survey, along with the other efforts described above, is part of larger local governance effort called "Imagine Ladera", which will help form the basis of what our community may look like in 5, 10, or 20 years.

The Survey is designed to help key decision-makers at the County consider important decisions about the future of Ladera Ranch.

Specifically, the survey results will provide information that the County may use to benefit the residents of our community. This may include, for example, enhanced traffic improvements, police enforcement, fire safety, efforts to help the business community, or providing opportunities for enhanced local services.

Given the increased focus on local governance, the survey offers an opportunity for Ladera Ranch residents to have their opinions heard about important questions in our commu-

nity.

In addition, the Civic Council will ultimately incorporate the Survey into the Ladera Ranch Visioning Strategy, a long-term strategic planning document, which will be presented to the County and the community at a later date.

While a single community survey cannot capture all potential outcomes and desires of the community, the Civic Council and Task Force have worked diligently to design a survey that captures many perspectives, ideas, and needs.

Depending on the response to the community from the initial Survey, the Civic Council may release additional surveys in the future to ask more specific questions to further inform the efforts of the County and LAFCO.

As residents of Ladera Ranch, you have a vested stake in the outcome of the events that are taking place and the Civic Council wishes to offer an opportunity to voice your opinion.

## Email Your News Stories to [LaderaTimes@hotmail.com](mailto:LaderaTimes@hotmail.com)

Individuals or organizations with a story to tell should email the story to [LaderaTimes@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

The more people that take the survey, the more our voices can be heard.

The Survey is now live on the Civic Council's new website: [www.lrciviccouncil.org](http://www.lrciviccouncil.org).

Please visit the website and take the survey today! If you have any questions about the Survey or the Civic Council's local governance efforts, please contact us at [imagineLadera@gmail.com](mailto:imagineLadera@gmail.com).

### Next Meeting

The LRCC's next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on September 15 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.lrciviccouncil.org](http://www.lrciviccouncil.org). Membership is **FREE**. The Civic Council is over 1,000 members strong and growing.

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# Transparency & Accountability

After 10 years of fighting for credible documentation on the environmental impacts of the proposed El Toro International Airport from County government, ensuring government accountability and transparency has always been a high priority of mine.

To that end as your 5th District Supervisor I am able to enact policy and vote to approve Orange County sponsored ballot measures that advance government transparency and accountability.

I recently joined my Board colleagues and voted to place on the November General Election ballot an ordinance that, if approved, will allow the County to contract out to the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), for enforcement and oversight of the County's campaign contribution law (TINCUP ordinance).

By contracting out to the FPPC for campaign enforcement and oversight the County will have access to their fully trained, full-time

investigative and enforcement staff. Utilizing FPPC staff will provide very cost effective and timely oversight.

I believe this approach will be much more effective in the enforcement of our County's TINCUP ordinance.

A new commission, such as an Ethics Commission suggested in a recent Grand Jury Report, will create more bureaucracy using undertrained and possibly inexperienced and impartial appointed commissioners.

The FPPC is an independent, nonpartisan State agency that was approved by the voters in 1974.

I am confident the FPPC will provide the best impartial oversight that will meet the standards Orange County requires.

Also last month, the Board voted to approve the Civic Openness in Negotiations (COIN) ordinance.

This ordinance will establish procedures and practices that will allow the public to view employment contracts negotiated between the Board of Supervisors and the County's labor unions.

Currently, these negotiations are confidential until an agreement is reached, and then published on public record.

I voted in favor of COIN because I support an open and transparent negotiations process. The implementation of COIN will allow

the public to be engaged in the negotiations process with employee organizations that represent over 17,000 County employees from the onset.

Although my time representing the 5th District on the Board of Supervisors is quickly coming to an end, I continue to support and work with my colleagues to ensure government transparency and accountability.

An advertisement for INSPIRE Chiropractic Health &amp; Wellness. The top section features the logo and contact information: "INSPIRE Chiropractic Health &amp; Wellness Functioning At A Higher Level", phone number "949.347.6938", and "Health Center Hours: Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm, Saturday 8am - 2pm". Below this are two large price tags: "CHIROPRACTIC \$19" and "ONE HOUR MASSAGE \$39", both including consultation and treatment for initial visits. A green banner states "FREE CONSULTATION WITH THE DOCTOR No Appointment Needed." The bottom section shows photos of the clinic's exterior and a map of the location at 25662 Crown Valley Pkwy, Suite H-2, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694. The website "www.inspirechw.com" is also listed.

An advertisement for THE DERMATOLOGY CENTER at Ladera. The header reads "Dedicated to Skin Health and Quality Patient Care". Below is the center's logo and four portraits of dermatologists: Elizabeth V. Lener, M.D.; Amy H. Litchfield, M.D.; Stephanie K. Fogelson, M.D.; and Catherine H. Lee, M.D. A list of services includes skin, hair, and nail diseases; skin cancer detection and treatment; advanced acne treatments; and fillers, Botox, Dysport, lasers, and peels. Contact information includes phone number "949.364.8411", address "600 Corporate Drive, Suite 240, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694", and website "www.LaderaDerm.com".





## Get Your Free Wristband Support the Campaign

To support the "Ladera Ranch No Bullying" Facebook campaign, started by Dave Matthies, following the local bullying video that went viral, the Ladera Times has made up "Stop the Bullying" wristbands to be made available to students as well as adults who would be willing to wear them to make a visible statement against this de-



structive behavior. The Ladera Times needs help distributing them, making them available to students and adults that would like to pass them out as well as locations where they can

be picked up for free.

If you'd like to help this effort, as well as providing locations for distribution, respond by emailing your name and phone number to [LaderaTimes@LaderaTimes.com](mailto:LaderaTimes@LaderaTimes.com)

Right now, the free wristbands are available at the Ladera Ranch Library at 29551 Sienna Parkway, and at the Ladera Times office at 29851 Sienna Parkway.

Bowls of the wristbands are being distributed to retail stores in Ladera Ranch and a list of locations will be published in the next issue of the Ladera Times.

**Working Together** – Proudly showing off their "Stop the Bullying" wrist bands above are members of Ladera Ranch Girl Scout Troop 2008, l-r: Isabella Vecchione, Hannah Pendleton, Jennifer Rana, Allison Li, Megan Haydon, Julia Rizkallah, and Jessica Luna. The Scouts meet at Chaparral Elementary and their Scout Leader is Sarah Rizkallah.

The Ladera Times will make as many available as are necessary.

"We'll fill the demand," said Ladera Times Editor and Publisher Jim Schmitt. "With school back in session, now's the perfect time to wear these bands."

"We should all work together to make our community 'bullying free.'"

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I believe everything happens for a reason.

The people we meet, the experiences we have and the lessons we learn are all for our benefit and, just as importantly, they are meant for us to share with others along the way.

We are better together.

When I was 14 years old, I had the opportunity to interview Governor George Dukmeijan, the creator of the California Women's Conference.

The Governor saw that women were beginning to step into their rightful roles as community leaders, business owners along with being wives, mothers and the builders of the foundation of society.

And they needed help as they learned to balance their lives with these new roles.

It's been three years now since I stepped into my

role at California Women's Conference and it's not been without obstacles.

I've learned so many lessons from this experience and so many others throughout my life.

Each has confirmed that *We Are, indeed, Better Together.*

After putting on the 29th California Women's Conference in Long Beach this year, I found myself sacrificing things I promised I would never sacrifice; my family and my health.

Recently, I was at the beach with my 14-year-old son, Chase.

I was journalizing my thoughts for the week while watching him play in the water.

I realized I could not remember the last time I had spent uninterrupted time with him. I was so busy putting on the Conference

that I had forgotten what was most important to me!

Sacrificing my family and months of feeling out of balance and out of energy, I knew it was time to practice what I preach, find balance in my life and truly thrive in all areas of my life.

My mission and the mission of Women Network, producers of The California Women's Conference, is to bring together women as experts and build a strong community where we can learn and grow together.

Every one of us has a story and I am here to help you bring richness to your own. We are Better Together so I am bringing together five, handpicked individuals to help you find that balance, community and bring wellness to your life, not just for one day, but on an on-going basis.

**My Five to Thrive** mastermind program, October 17-19 (location to be announced) will consist of industry experts to give you the tools you need: Passion and Purpose, Connection, Financial, Community and Wellness

After reaching out to the experts curated specifically for the Conference on the **Five to Thrive**, I feel more

effective, passionate and, most of all, I feel a need to share these lessons and these brilliant minds with others.

**What do you get?**

A live, three-day mastermind (limited to 40 attendees) taught by myself and guest experts who will share their experiences and take questions directly from **you** in order to deliver personal, effective information that will help you **thrive**.

For more information and to register, email us at [info@womennetwork.com](mailto:info@womennetwork.com).

*(Visionary and lauded business accelerator Michelle Patterson is President of the Global Women Foundation and The California Women's Conference (www.californiawomensconference.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.)*

**Email Your News Stories to LaderaTimes@hotmail.com**

Individuals or organizations with a story to tell should email the story to [LaderaTimes@hotmail.com](mailto: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.



**MICHELLE PATTERSON | MARGO & MATT GUNDERSON | ERIN BARMETTLER  
ELIZABETH HALL | ERIC WERSCHING | BILL O'HAIR | JIM SCHMITT  
RYAN MILLER | JOHN ALVAREZ | LINCOLN PARKER  
JAMIE FISCHER | CAROL & JETT MCCORMICK | TODD STEARNS**

**AT AN END OF SUMMER SOIRÉE**



**IN SUPPORT OF  
ORANGE COUNTY SUPERVISOR CANDIDATE  
MAYOR LISA BARTLETT**

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**With current supervisor Pat Bates leaving office this year, electing a new Supervisor who will continue to work to protect our quality of life is essential to our community. Learn why Ladera Ranch community and business leaders support Lisa Bartlett for Orange County Supervisor!**



# Christian Lybarger, Dad, Conquer Mt. Rainier

Christian Lybarger, 17, accomplished something most people can only dream about.

Christian, a San Juan Hills High School Senior and 10-year Ladera Ranch resident, successfully climbed and summited Mt. Rainier in Washington State this past May with his dad, Scott.

Mt. Rainier, at 14,411 feet, contains the only year-round glaciers in the contiguous U.S., classifying it as a Class 4 climb, requiring climbers to rope together in teams and climb with ice axes and cramp-ons.

This level of mountain climbing requires rigorous physical training to prepare for the steep climb, intense core strength requirements and high aerobic capacity.

The combination of high altitude, climbing 10-14 hour days with a 45 lb. backpack, and unpredictable Northwest weather, makes climbing Mt. Rainier a challenging and daunting experience.

However, Christian loves the physical and mental challenge of mountain climbing.

As he was preparing to climb on the Camp Muir/Ingraham Glacier route on May 31, word came in that six climbers died in an avalanche on the Liberty Ridge Route. The fear of death hung in the air in the mountaineering community and those preparing to make the ascent were understandably apprehensive.



"I decided I had to do what I came to do," Christian said. So, armed with his ice axe, cramp-ons and roped in groups of three, his group left the base camp for the long, steep 10,000 foot, two-day climb.

On the mountain, your ice ax, cramp-ons and the rope are all that is standing between you and a 4,000 foot fall.

On parts of the climb the crevasses are very deep and wide with ladders stretched across the opening to create a makeshift bridge. Crossing these crevasses is a tense experience that requires total focus. One false move and it's a slip into a crevasse with a harness and rope as the only thing keeping you from serious injury or death.

Prior to climbing Mt. Rainier, Christian had climbed Mt. San Geronimo twice, Mt. Langley, Mt. San Jacinto, Mt. Baldy and sev-

eral peaks around the Big Bear area.

He attempted Longs Peak in Colorado but had to turn back 200 feet from the summit due to 60-mph winds. So, this was Christian's first time on a world class challenging climb.

The success rate of summiting Rainier is about 66% with a guide; five of the 18 climbers on Christian's ascent had to turn back at 10,000 feet. He and his Dad were among the 13 climbers that made it to the top.

Not ready to stop at one summit this summer, Christian took the Mountaineers Route up Mt. Whitney in mid-August. Mt. Whitney is 14,508 ft. making it the tallest mountain in the contiguous U.S. Every year, 11,000 permit applications are received for a lottery for 4,400 permits to climb Mt. Whitney on the Mt. Whitney Trail.

Christian and his dad did

**Conquerors** – Christian Lybarger (inset and left), 17, of Ladera Ranch, is shown with his father, Scott, at the summit of the 14,441-ft. high Mt. Rainier this past May, an accomplishment very few people achieve..

not receive permits for the second year in a row so they decided to take the difficult Mountaineer's Route.

They were able to reach just 300 feet short of the summit after climbing steep and loose rock, but had to turn back due to steep sheets of black ice. Not expecting serious snow or ice in August, they were not carrying gear for an icy ascent.

Although climbing that far and not making the summit is disappointing, he sees it as an opportunity to test himself and gain experience he can utilize on future climbs. They will apply again for permits for next summer and either way plan to attempt the mountaineer's route again.

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Airfare, taxes, surcharges, gratuities, transfers, and excursions are additional unless otherwise indicated. Fuel surcharges, government taxes, other surcharges and deposit, payment and cancellation terms/conditions are subject to change without notice at any time. Rates, terms, conditions, availability and itinerary are subject to change without notice. Other airline restrictions, including, but not limited to baggage limitations and fees, standby policies and fees, non-refundable tickets and change fees with pre-flight notification deadlines may apply. Fees and policies vary among airlines without notice. Please contact the airline directly for details and answers to specific question you may have. Certain restrictions may apply. AAA members must make advance reservations through AAA Travel to obtain Member Benefits and savings. Member Benefits may vary based on departure date. Rates are accurate at time of printing and are subject to availability and change. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Automobile Club of Southern California acts as an agent for Pleasant Holidays®. CTR #1016202-80.

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# CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

BY RAM MUKHERJI



Summer 2014 is winding down fast. The 2014-15 Capou Unified school year will begin on September 4. The last day for students is June 19, 2015. Fall season is almost upon us.

On August 4, Kirsten Vital joined the District as the Superintendent and this is the first in almost 12 years that all employee contracts are in place and the teaching days are restored to 180 days. We hope Superintendent Vital has a flying start.

The Chaparral Principle Mr. Joe McGann was appointed as the Principle of Arroyo Vista K-8 school. The CUSD Board appointed Ms. Melissa Schaefer as the interim Principle of Chaparral Elementary School.

All school sites are gearing up for the new school year.

Student registration will be completed by the end of August.

The Parent Portal will be activated from September

4, the first day of the school year.

Parents need to re-register for their account with their student's id.

All 7th graders need a Whooping Cough shot, known as Tdap Immunization. Beginning this school year and for all future school years, all students entering seventh grade will need the proof of whooping cough booster immunization certificate.

The CUSD has adopted a District wide dress code for middle school students.

All parents have been advised of the code and requested to review the code with the students.

No gang attire is permitted in schools.

The High Schools have encouraged the parents of Freshman students to attend the Freshman Parent Boot Camp where the parents will obtain information on graduation requirements, student life, and other information as drop off and pick up locations for students etc..

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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PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Issue	News and Advertising Deadline	Date Delivered
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
March 2015	Wednesday, February 18	Thursday, February 26
April 2015	Wednesday, March 25	Thursday, March 2

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# Monthly Real Estate Report by Cathie Berlin

## LADERA RANCH RECENT SALES ACTIVITY - 30 DAYS ENDING AUGUST 26, 2014\*

Address	Beds	Baths	Sq Ft	Date Closed	Days On Market	List Price	Sold Price	Price Per Sq Foot
34 Martino	2	3	1228	7/28/2014	90	\$379,900	\$368,000	\$300
59 Three Vines	2	2	1178	8/6/2014	28	\$388,000	\$384,000	\$326
17 Palladium	2	3	1475	8/6/2014	86	\$396,900	\$393,000	\$266
17 Granville	2	3	1557	8/8/2014	107	\$415,000	\$410,000	\$263
27 Wildflower	2	2	1250	8/25/2014	79	\$419,500	\$412,000	\$330
18 Notchbrook	3	3	1600	7/28/2014	495	\$431,700	\$427,000	\$267
14 Norfolk	3	3	1635	8/18/2014	34	\$450,000	\$435,000	\$266
37 Chadron	3	3	1471	8/5/2014	37	\$459,900	\$445,000	\$303
17 Shelburne	3	3	1600	8/15/2014	66	\$475,000	\$464,000	\$290
50 Harwick	3	3	1373	8/11/2014	53	\$479,900	\$475,000	\$346
11 Shelburne	3	3	1575	8/19/2014	52	\$509,900	\$510,000	\$324
1 Leffington	3	3	1800	8/19/2014	30	\$525,000	\$516,500	\$287
14 Sablewood	3	3	2106	7/28/2014	93	\$549,000	\$520,000	\$247
24 Orange Blossom	3	3	2035	8/4/2014	73	\$544,786	\$540,000	\$265
26 Wood Barn	3	3	1500	7/31/2014	64	\$554,900	\$551,000	\$367
14 Glicina	3	3	1845	8/15/2014	63	\$570,000	\$580,000	\$314
48 Amy	3	3	1800	8/7/2014	42	\$635,000	\$611,000	\$339
16 Clematis	3	3	2000	8/15/2014	110	\$635,000	\$625,000	\$313
5 Cayton	3	3	1855	8/6/2014	38	\$659,000	\$650,000	\$350
15 Bancroft	4	3	2050	8/5/2014	83	\$699,000	\$665,000	\$324
3 Hempstead	4	3	2400	8/11/2014	95	\$699,500	\$680,000	\$283
1 Creighton	3	3	2100	8/22/2014	34	\$725,000	\$717,000	\$341
19 Bahari	2	3	1770	8/18/2014	51	\$718,680	\$746,666	\$422
34 Kempton	4	3	2400	8/22/2014	48	\$815,000	\$806,000	\$336
8 Waverly	4	3	2600	8/12/2014	84	\$874,900	\$845,000	\$325
6 Tango	5	4	3000	8/7/2014	41	\$899,900	\$875,000	\$292
19 Sea Grape	4	4	3300	8/4/2014	213	\$999,000	\$965,000	\$292
6 Main	4	4	3200	8/11/2014	38	\$1,049,000	\$1,035,000	\$323
28 Falabella	4	5	3200	7/31/2014	90	\$1,099,000	\$1,065,000	\$333
4 Eric	5	5	3846	8/5/2014	362	\$1,219,000	\$1,210,000	\$315
3 Shepherd	5	5	3850	8/19/2014	103	\$1,249,000	\$1,225,000	\$318
2 Drackert	5	5	3817	8/20/2014	32	\$1,174,000	\$1,235,000	\$324
12 Calliandra	5	5	3730	8/16/2014	7	\$1,265,000	\$1,265,000	\$339
16 Brittle Star	5	5	4195	8/1/2014	25	\$1,585,000	\$1,500,000	\$358
15 Crespi	5	7	5110	8/4/2014	45	\$3,150,000	\$2,900,000	\$568

\*Based on information from the Association of Realtors/Multiple listing as of 8/26/2014 and / or other sources. MLS data is deemed reliable but not guaranteed accurate by the MLS. The Broker/Agent providing the information contained herein may or may not have been the listing agent.

# What is Private Mortgage Insurance or PMI?

by Cathie Berlin,  
Real Estate Editor

In general there are two types of mortgage insurance, mortgage insurance bought from the government for FHA or VA loans or mortgage insurance for conventional loans which is bought from the private sector (PMI also known as, private mortgage insurance).

In general, the type of mortgage insurance required will depend on the type of mortgage loan you obtain.

Typically on a conventional loan, if your down payment is less than 20% of the value of the home, lenders will require you to

carry mortgage insurance. On government loans, mortgage insurance is normally required regardless of the loan to value.

Check with your lender, as there may be some loan programs that don't have PMI. Also, many lenders now are offering an 80/10/10 type loan where you can put down 10%, have a first loan amount of 80% and have a 2nd loan for 10%, which would avoid you paying PMI.

PMI conventional mortgage insurance rates vary, usually, the lower your down payment and/or the lower your credit score, the higher the PMI premiums may be. Contact your lender

for more specific details.

Mortgage insurance premiums are usually paid along with your mortgage payment, and the reason the lender requires you to have mortgage insurance, is that if you can no longer make the mortgage payments on your home, the lender will still get paid through the PMI insurance policy.

Mortgage insurance protects the lender if the borrower defaults on the loan.

The best way to avoid paying PMI insurance is to have a 20% down payment or more on a house. If you are short on the down payment, see what other loan programs your lender may

have.

Want to get rid of your PMI insurance? Contact your lender and see if you have enough equity in your home or what the guidelines are on your mortgage to have your PMI cancelled.

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

feel free to contact me at 949-291-1959, or email me at: [cathieberlin@cox.net](mailto:cathieberlin@cox.net), or contact any Realtor® of your choosing, including one of the several advertising their services in Ladera Times. You can also find me on Facebook at: [Ladera Ranch Homes-Cathie Berlin](#).

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CaIBRE#01159745





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

August 24

11:48 am, woman says she didn't see who stole U.S. Postal Service mail but she may have an idea who did it, Clematis Road.

8:28 am, woman says an unknown person is knocking on her door looking for her 4-y-o son, Platinum Circle.

12:44 am, man says his son returned from a party beaten up by known subjects but OC Fire Department refused assistance, Eaton Place.

August 23

10:29 pm, traffic stop and search of the vehicle led to the arrest of a 27-y-o white male, Antonio Parkway & Ortega Highway.

9:32 pm, informant says a couple in the area can be heard talking loudly and it sounds like they are speaking in a foreign language, Kyle Court.

9:19 pm, juveniles are reportedly setting off fireworks, Thornhill Street.

5:16 pm, man says his neighbors, who are at a base-

ball game, asked his 10-y-o nephew to take their dog out but he returned stating that someone was in the house running upstairs although he says he only said the intruder's shoes run across the floor, Scarlett Maple Drive.

12:22 pm, store manager said he caught an uncooperative female shoplifter, Antonio Parkway.

August 22

11:47 pm, informant said he former neighbor showed up at this house wanting to stay, saying he no longer existed and to call him a new name. The informant told subject he could not stay anymore and the subject said he would stay at another friends house and left his wallet and credit cards with the informant because he no longer needs them. Informant is not sure if the man is suicidal, Laurelhurst Drive.

9:00 pm, a man called to say a customer who overpaid him is now wanting the change after an employee closed the drawer and customer is refusing to leave without his change, 27700 block of Crown Valley Parkway.

8:42 pm, informant says subjects drinking at his house are being loud and are trying to leave in their souped-up Hondas, Sellas S.

August 21

10:07 pm, informant says a woman, who appears to be on drugs, hit his parked Toyota Prius with her Mercedes, Hydrangea Street.

10:07 pm, female driver detained for DUI, Hydrangea Street.

9:38 pm, man reports his wallet is missing but can't say whether he's the victim of a crime or just lost it, Strawberry Street.

6:18 pm, a woman says her 18yo son is being verbally abusive and is refusing to leave the residence, Half Moon Trail.

4:41 pm, a man wants to speak with a deputy about an ex-friend who he believes is harassing his daughter, Old Spire Drive.

August 20

10:16 pm, an off-duty fireman says he is locked in the Smart Stop Storage facility, Terrace Road.

August 19

9:04 pm, woman says she overheard three teen boys on school property saying "call the police," possibly in response to her thinking they were involved in her being "ding-dong-ditched" twice this week, 29500 Sienna Parkway.

6:03 pm, a man across from the fire station says two males ran past him carrying what he thinks are bottles of urine, Antonio Parkway.

4:34 am, woman says something knocked over her planter and she possibly saw a shadow but saw or heard nothing else, Garrison Loop.

# 'Go Live a Good Life, Mom' - Tyler

By Amy R. Spurgeon-Hoffman

Ladera Ranch pioneer family and mother and daughter duo, Lisa Williams and Hunter Scheurenbrand, are connected even more so now after losing a beloved member of their trio last year - Tyler Scheurenbrand, 18.

Tyler passed a year ago after he missed a turn and drove his 2011 Scion car 1,000 feet off a narrow dirt road atop Mt. Baldy in the Angeles National Forest after midnight last August 16.

He spent his last moments alive doing what he loved most: being present and taking in breathtaking views.

Though his friend, Madison Spangenthal, now 20, of San Juan Capistrano and passenger was heavily injured, she was able to crawl out of the wreckage - but could not rescue Tyler.

As the 1-year anniversary passed, good friends planned a meet-up in his honor at McDonalds and caravan up PCH to the Balboa Peninsula. Once there, around 40-50 friends had a bonfire, lit Chinese lanterns and remembered their beloved friend.

"Part of me doesn't want time to move on without him," said his still heart-broken mom. "But it's important to me that people that knew him share their stories of him.

"The kids all remember Tyler," Lisa continued. "These kids have been so



Tyler Scheurenbrand

supportive. They aren't afraid to approach me. I think adults are afraid they'll make me cry, but I am happy to talk about Tyler."

The family plans to soon scatter Tyler's ashes at two sites, an off-road area he loved near Trabuco Canyon called "Holy Jim's," and Mt. Baldy, where Tyler didn't just lose his life...he lived it. He went there often to watch the sunrise and sunset.

The close-knit mother and daughter both echo the same sentiments of being grateful for all they have, and are determined to "Live Like Ty" - an ode to staying present and enjoying the moment, in an effort to make their son and brother proud of them for living like him.

"I am so proud of the son I raised," Lisa said sweetly. "Tyler would say, "Go live a good life Mom."



Honoring Tyler's Memory - Friends and family gather on the first anniversary of Tyler Scheurenbrand's passing at the Balboa Peninsula with a bonfire and Chinese Lanterns in the Ladera youth's honor. Tyler accidentally missed a turn and drove off Mt. Baldy last year and passed after his car crashed 1,000 feet below. Photos by Lisa Williams.

## LADERA TIMES

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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](mailto:LaderaTimes@cox.net). For a more extensive list of events, go to [www.LaderaTimes.com](http://www.LaderaTimes.com).

**Monday, September 1** – Labor Day

Bartlett, who's running for the OC County 5th District Supervisor seat, from 5:30 to 7:30PM at the home of Margo & Matt Gunderson at 15 Starlight Isle, Ladera Ranch 92694

**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).

Knoll Clubhouse, 28192 O'Neill Drive (details to be announced closer to the event).

**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.

**Monday, October 13** – Columbus Day.

**Friday, October 31** – Halloween.

**Sunday, November 2** – Daylight Savings Time ends, move clocks one hour back at 12:00 midnight,

**Tuesday, September 23** – Reception for Dana Point Mayor Lisa

A LARCS Partnership event. Go to [www.LaderaLife.com](http://www.LaderaLife.com)

**Saturday, October 25** – Teen Event, 7:30 to 10:00 pm, Oak

**Tuesday, November 11** – Veterans Day.



## Bartlett Campaigns In Ladera Ranch for OC 5th District Supervisor Seat

On August 19, Dana Point Mayor Lisa Bartlett, candidate for Orange County 5th District Supervisor, held a Ladera Ranch community reception at BLK Burgrz hosted by Michelle Patterson, Founder and CEO, Women Network; Jamie Fischer, Owner, BLK Burgrz; Elizabeth Hall; Eric Wersching; Bill O'Hair; Jim Schmitt, Ladera Times Publisher; Ryan Miller; and

John Alvarez, President, Ladera Chamber of Commerce.

The event attracted many Ladera Ranch residents who enjoyed delicious food generously supplied by BLK Burgrz.

Michelle Patterson introduced Mayor Bartlett, stressing the importance of electing strong, female candidates that will fulfill a necessary leadership gap for Orange County.

Mayor Bartlett spoke to the attendees highlighting her qualifications and vision for the 5th District. She addressed the most pressing issues to the Ladera Ranch community, which focused mainly on busi-



ness development, transportation needs and preserving our quality of life.

As a transportation leader, Mayor Bartlett discussed the future of traffic and mobility and how upcoming projects are will provide relief to Ladera Ranch.

"I want to thank Michelle Patterson and the entire committee of community leaders who hosted my event in Ladera Ranch," said Lisa. "I had the opportunity to get to know a number of residents, answer

questions, and address topics of regional importance," Lisa continued.

"I look forward to meeting many more Ladera Ranch residents at my next reception on Tuesday, September 23 from 5:30 to 7:30PM at the home of Margo & Matt Gunderson."

Margo & Matt Gunderson live at 15 Starlight Isle, Ladera Ranch 92694.

For more visit [www.LisaforSupervisor.com](http://www.LisaforSupervisor.com) or call (949) 472-5414.



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- Chocolate (all forms)
- Coffee (all forms)
- Fatty foods
- Macadamia nuts
- Moldy & spoiled foods
- Onions, onion powder
- Raisins and grapes
- Salt
- Yeast dough
- Garlic



- Products sweetened with xylitol
- Cocoa mulch
- Compost piles
- Fertilizers
- Flea products
- Outdoor plants & bulbs
- Swimming-pool supplies
- Fly baits containing methomyl

**Warm Weather Hazards**

- Animal toxins – toads, insects, spiders, snakes and scorpions
- Blue-green pond alga
- Citronella candles

- Slug and snail baits containing metaldehyde

**Medications**

Common examples of human medications that can be potentially lethal to pets, even in small doses, include:

- Pain killers
- Cold medicines
- Anti-cancer drugs
- Antidepressants
- Vitamins
- Diet Pills

**Common Household Hazards**

- Fabric softener sheets
- Mothballs
- Post-1982 pennies (high concentration of zinc)
- Antifreeze
- Liquid potpourri
- Ice melting products
- Rat and mouse bait

**Holiday Hazards**

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# SMWD to Discuss Pool Ordinance at Sept. 19 Meeting

After hearing from a half dozen pool builders and residents, the Santa Margarita Water District Board of Directors will consider potential amendments to a drought ordinance prohibiting filling new swimming pools at its meeting on September 19,

The prohibition, part of the District's drought response ordinance since 2009, was enacted on August 6, along with regulations directing customers of Orange County's second-largest water District to irrigate

their lawns no more than three times a week and other water conservation measures.

Directors approved the Stage 2 declaration on Au-

gust 6, without hearing any opposition.

Following this decision, representatives from the pool industry and residents told directors a pool and the surrounding deck and patio can actually use less water than a grass lawn of equal size. Industry representatives suggested requiring covers and other steps that could make pools more water efficient.

District officials said that is the goal, as California is in the third year of a historic drought, and setting records for hot temperatures, too.

Dr. Betty Olson, a

SMWD Director, thanked those who attended the meeting for their positive spirit and participation, noting that many had discussed the issue with District staff earlier. District staff also held a conference call with the Sacramento-based California Pool & Spa Association.

District staff will also meet with those who attended Friday's meeting before drafting potential changes for the five-member Board of Directors to consider.

"Our overall goal is to reduce water use," General Manager Dan Ferons said. "We're certainly open to looking at a holistic approach that accomplishes that and allows the construction of new pools."



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