

# Rancho Living

## Connecting the Community



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WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS  
HOME BEAUTIFICATION  
SUMMER SEASON  
EVENTS & PROGRAMS

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## SAMLARC 101

### BEACH CLUB OFFICE

*Gate Access Cards, Facility Reservations,  
Pool & Lagoon Maintenance,  
Park & Field Operations*

21472 Avenida de Los Fundadores  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
949-858-1390

Open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Extended to 7:00 p.m. during the  
summer season (May 24 - September 1)

### BUSINESS OFFICE

*Assessments, Home Improvements,  
Capital & Reserve Projects,  
Executive Administration*

22342A Avenida Empresa Suite 102A  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
949-709-0010

Open Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For billing, home improvement, or landscape inquiries after hours, please  
contact the FirstService Residential 24/7 Customer Care Line at 800-428-5588.



@samlarc



@samlarc



samlarc.org



# NEW SEASON, NEW BEGINNINGS

Spring at SAMLARC is full of vibrant colors and exciting opportunities. As the days grow longer, keep an eye out for bright new foliage and wildlife throughout the parks, trails, and the Lake. This is a season of contemplation and new beginnings, and we look forward to deepening our connections with you — as your neighbors, and as your Board of Directors.

In February, SAMLARC welcomed the 2025 slate of Board Directors, including Jeff Halbreich (President), Greg Schnieders (Vice President), Greg Wieckert (Chief Financial Officer), Deborah Christensen (Secretary), and Jeff Beardsley and Kyle Wolack (Directors at Large). We are committed to fostering SAMLARC's value, and hope to meet you soon at a SAMLARC event! We are also thankful for the vision of departing Directors Nate Farnsworth and Paul Persiani, whose passion for the community leaves a lasting legacy.

SAMLARC's Committees work hard throughout the year to assist the Board in promoting and achieving the Board's goals. Some of SAMLARC's 2025 key initiatives include turf conversion projects, the return of the July 4th Star Spangled Spectacular, neighborhood painting projects, and more. We look forward to sharing more about SAMLARC's visionary Committees in our July edition — stay tuned!

While spring signals new beginnings, we also extend our condolences to the families who are facing daunting new beginnings due to wildfires. The lessons of the Palisades, Eaton, and Hurst fires are also close to home — in this edition of Rancho Living, we'll explore the ways that SAMLARC supports wildfire safety and how individual families can prepare for potential disasters in our area (page 4). Together, we can build a resilient community.

We hope you'll kick off the summer with us at Beach Club Opening Day, in addition to the first Screen on the Green and Music at the Lake events. We're thrilled to announce that the Star Spangled Spectacular will once again be held on July 4th — bringing a cherished Independence Day tradition back to its roots. There are plenty of events and programs in store this season — head to pages 8-9 to learn more!

We look forward to a new season of fresh starts, community connection, and sunny days ahead.

SAMLARC Board of Directors

Jeff Halbreich | Greg Schnieders | Greg Wieckert  
Deborah Christensen | Jeff Beardsley | Kyle Wolack





# BUILDING RESILIENCE

## COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS IN ACTION

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The 2025 Palisades, Eaton, and Hurst fires stripped thousands of families of their homes and community memories. The cascading tolls on both natural and metropolitan environments will be felt for years to come. As these communities navigate the rebuilding process, we face a sobering reminder that SAMLARC's position in the foothills of the Saddleback Mountains requires extra caution in our community.

Unfortunately, Southern California's history and anticipated future with wildfires has created volatility in the insurance market: many homeowners are facing exponential increases in insurance premiums. While the Rancho Santa Margarita area is a high-risk zone, SAMLARC's community is ranked one risk tier lower than the surrounding areas. This is specifically due to SAMLARC's innovative implementation of defensible space — perimeter landscapes cleared of dry brush and replanted with low-growth and fire-resistant plants. SAMLARC's efforts have minimized the increases to our insurance rates, and other master-planned communities are following suit.

Protecting our community against wildfires is more than just a top-down effort. Homeowners should evaluate their homes' susceptibility to threats like ember intrusion (often through eaves or attic vents) or crown fires (fires that spread from tree to tree due to proximity). The Community Associations of Rancho, a common interest group for Rancho Santa Margarita's master-planned communities, has created a website with practical knowledge and strategies for homeowners. Orange County Fire Authority's safety resources include a free home assessment and helpful tips for every area of your home. You can also opt in for phone calls, text messages, or email notifications from Orange County's emergency notification system, AlertOC.

Wildfire preparedness isn't just an individual effort — it's a community-wide commitment. Through proactive planning, we can protect our homes, our loved ones, and our neighborhoods. To explore resources on emergency preparedness, visit the sites below!

► [OCFA.ORG/RSG](https://ocfa.org/rsg)

► [ALERTOC.GOV](https://alertoc.gov)

► [BEFIRESAFE.ORG](https://befiresafe.org)

## SAMLARC ON SITE

### TURF CONVERSION PROJECTS

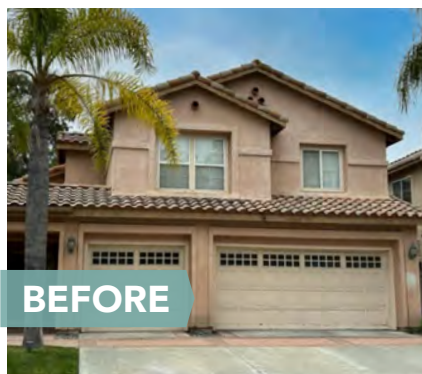
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California's changing environmental conditions also affect SAMLARC's landscaping. New legislation requires that HOAs renovate "nonfunctional turf" areas to reduce water usage. SAMLARC is replacing certain mow curb grass strips with drip irrigation and water-wise plants. These areas will use up to 50% less water than traditional turf, and the renovation projects are currently fully funded through grants from the Municipal Water District of Orange County!



# BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITIES BEGIN AT HOME

Your home is so much more than four walls — it is an investment in your family, your community, and your lifelong memories. Maintaining and enhancing your home not only increases community property values, but also creates a space where you and your loved ones can grow together. SAMLARC's community design incorporates the Spanish Mediterranean's colors, textures, and indoor/outdoor practicality. Establishing a community-wide aesthetic ensures that homes are cohesive across neighborhoods, while offering homeowners the opportunity to create a home they love!



BEFORE



AFTER

## PAINT PERSPECTIVES

Sometimes a simple coat of paint can make an incredible difference! The De Alday home, built in SAMLARC's early days, followed the community's original pink and terracotta Paint Village option. Over time, the paint began to fade, and the trim around the windows showed signs of wear and tear. The De Aldays worked with SAMLARC's

Community Services team to identify improvements that make a big impact on a small-scale budget — and paint was an easy solution! The cream stucco, contrasted against the weathered brown garage doors and trim, highlights the architectural details of the structure while providing a backdrop for the bright palm trees.



BEFORE



AFTER

## TOP TO BOTTOM TRANSFORMATION

Like many original SAMLARC homes, Craig and Shirley Sherreitt's house featured several shades of salmon, pink, and white. The Sherreitts reviewed their Paint Village and traded in the salmon for a palette of creams and earth tones. Stacked stone veneer adds elegance and texture to the front of the home,

balanced by the neutral garage doors. A small lawn with artificial turf is edged with lavender, adding a colorful accent to the front yard. The front of the home is now distinctive, serene, and easy to maintain.

In 2024, two specific neighborhoods made a commitment to creating a "sunny side of the street." More than 80 homes in Las Rosas and California Tesoro neighborhoods are sporting fresh paint, landscaping, trim, and more! The homeowners reviewed their areas' Paint Villages, then worked with the Community Services team to submit their proposals and begin their projects. The results emphasize the beauty of SAMLARC's architectural design, and the warmth of the families who call SAMLARC home.

Are you ready to start your own home improvement journey? Head to [SAMLARC.org/home-improvements!](https://www.samlarc.org/home-improvements) We look forward to working alongside you in creating a beautiful home in a high-value community.

# SUMMER AT THE BEACH CLUB

Summer is on its way and there's no better place to cool off than the Beach Club & Lagoon! Surrounded by the breathtaking views of Saddleback Mountain and Lago Santa Margarita, this hidden gem brings the beach vibe right to the heart of the community. Gather your family and friends for a day of fun in the sun!

The summer season starts on May 10 with lots of activities to enjoy! Take a refreshing swim in the Lagoon, challenge your friends to a **volleyball** game, and when it's time to refuel, head to the **Beach Club Bistro** for a snack or sweet treat! You're also welcome to fire up one of the charcoal **grills** for an effortless summer picnic. Just remember to leave all glass containers at home. The SAMLARC **Little Library** is full of great new stories to trade and read. On Friday afternoons, the **Fiesta Room** offers foosball, table tennis, Connect4, and more family games. **Pedal boats, kayaks, water trikes, and a surrey bike** are available for rent, giving you even more ways to explore and enjoy the Lago Santa Margarita!

The Beach Club's rules support a safe experience for all. Pets are not permitted inside the Beach Club. Children under three must remain within arm's reach of a guardian, and water safety breaks are held each hour to give families a chance to properly apply sunscreen and relax while the Lagoon sand settles in the water.

The Beach Club is more than just a summer spot — it's also the main hub for gate access cards, amenity reservations, and community information. We're excited to celebrate a sunny season with you this summer!



## MEET SONYA WINDER

*Sonya Winder joined the Community Lifestyle Committee in 2023. She and her family have lived in the SAMLARC community for more than 13 years. Sonya's professional background in healthcare information technology gives her a detailed eye for improving SAMLARC's events!*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

**Q: What is your favorite part about living in the SAMLARC community?**

The beauty, the people, strong family values, and thriving community.

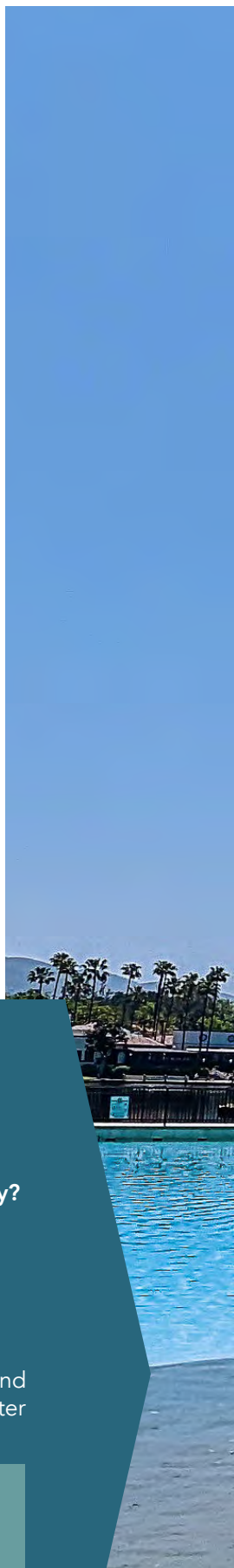
**Q: What's one thing that surprised you about serving on the Lifestyle Committee?**

That I would love it this much!

**Q: What is your favorite SAMLARC event and why?**

4th of July — our family has come to enjoy this private celebration around this beautiful and well-kept lake and beach club! There isn't anything better and we don't have to drive!

Are you a long-time SAMLARC resident? Do you have a SAMLARC story to share? Reach out to us at [info@samlarc.org](mailto:info@samlarc.org) for a chance to be featured in a future edition of Rancho Living!





# SUMMER SEASON: MAY 10 - AUGUST 14

## GENERAL FACILITY HOURS

» Open daily 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

## OFFICE HOURS

» Open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Extended to 7:00 p.m. from May 24 - September 1

## LAGOON HOURS (MAY 10 - AUGUST 14)

» Daily\* 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
\*Mondays & Thursdays 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
for maintenance



# SCAN ME!

Scan the code above or visit  
**SAMLARC.org/beach-club-lagoon**  
for more info!





# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS



### WINE AND CHEESE

May 3 | 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Beach Club

Cheers to a beautiful evening at the Lago Santa Margarita Beach Club! Adults 21+ are invited to enjoy decadent wines and gourmet cheeses while enjoying breathtaking waterfront views. The Smokin' 60s Band will keep the dance floor grooving! Win great prizes by joining in the opportunity drawing, with all proceeds donated to RSM Cares' local philanthropy! Capture the evening with a group photo in the photo booth. Tickets are \$60 per person. Mark your calendars — ticket sales begin online on April 7 at 10:00 a.m.!

### BEACH CLUB OPENING DAY

May 10 | 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Beach Club

Splash into summer at Beach Club Opening Day! Groove along with DJ music and games, get to know community partners, and soak up the sun. Purchase treats and delicious dishes from the Beach Club Bistro or fire up the charcoal grill! Kick off the summer with a sunny Saturday at the Lago Santa Margarita Beach Club! Free for SAMLARC Members (up to five additional guests permitted per household). Want to get an early start to the day? The Lagoon will be open from 6:00 a.m. until sunset!

### FISHING DERBY

May 31 | 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Lakeshore Amphitheater

Hook, line, and fun! Cast your line at Lago Santa Margarita and put your fishing skills to the test. Compete for prizes in multiple categories — big or small, every catch counts! Don't miss this friendly competition by the Lake.

### NEW & NOW WELCOME RECEPTION

May 15 | 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Beach Club

Whether you're new to the neighborhood or simply looking to connect with new friends, SAMLARC's New & Now Member Welcome is a great way to learn more about the SAMLARC community! Meet members of the SAMLARC team, ask questions, and mix and mingle with your new neighbors while enjoying drinks and light snacks. Free for SAMLARC Members.



## PARTNERS MAKE THE PARTY!

Special thanks to this year's Lifestyle Partners, who make each event special! From photo booths to sweet treats, these local businesses dedicate time and passion to enhancing SAMLARC's community!

- » Diamond Partner: Hurd Homes Orange County Real Estate, Andre Landscape Service, Inc., Mosaic Consulting, Inc.
- » Emerald Partner: Shannon Miller, Real Estate Specialist

Interested in joining this year's Partners Program? Connect with us at [SAMLARC.org/partners](https://SAMLARC.org/partners).

### VOICE OF SAMLARC SINGING COMPETITION

June 6 | 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Are you a singer? Compete for your chance to perform at the July 4th Star Spangled Spectacular! Winners will sing Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America a capella before the fireworks show begins! Open to SAMLARC residents ages 10+.

### SCREEN ON THE GREEN: MOANA 2 & SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3

June 6 & July 25 | 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. | Central Park

Bring a picnic blanket and head to Central Park for movies under the stars. The Screen on the Green will be Moana 2, including photo opportunities with special guests Moana and Maui, along with a Hawaiian food truck and Kona Ice! The second movie will be Sonic the Hedgehog 3. Meet with special guests, Sonic & Amy Rose, at Central Park for fun and photos!

### MUSIC AT THE LAKE

June 13, July 18, August 15 | 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy live music by the Lake this summer! Three special evenings will feature talented local musicians at the Lakeshore Amphitheater. Dance, relax, and enjoy delicious meals from local food trucks for the perfect summer evening. Follow SAMLARC on social media to learn more about the lineup. Free for Members and the broader community.

### STAR SPANGLED SPECTACULAR

July 4 | 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. | Beach Club & Lago Santa Margarita

For more details, skip ahead to page 10!

### GREAT RANCHO CAMPOUT

August 1-2 | 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Trabuco Mesa Park

Bring your favorite tent, camping chairs, and best friends for the ultimate summer carnival! From Lava Falls, slip-n-slides, and carnival games (including a daring dunk tank), to afternoon crafts and an outdoor movie and popcorn, there's something for everyone. Campout is also bringing a delicious BBQ dinner, s'mores for dessert, and pancakes for breakfast so you'll have lots of energy for a summer sleepover!





# STAR SPANGLED SPECTACULAR

## A JULY 4TH CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER

Celebrate Independence Day with a Star Spangled Spectacular! This year's July 4th party is packed with activities for the whole family — starting with a red, white, and blue Lakeshore parade, then games and fun at the Beach Club Lagoon, live music at the Lakeshore Amphitheatre, and a fantastic fireworks finale!

Kick off the day with the Bike & Trike Parade at 10:00 a.m., starting at the Beach Club and making its way to the Lakeshore Amphitheatre. Decorate your bikes, scooters, and pets in patriotic flair and join Uncle Sam for this festive tradition! Ice-cold popsicles will be ready and waiting for you at the finish line! The Lakeshore will also have exciting evening activities for families to enjoy beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Beach Club activities on July 4th are a patriotic party! Ticketed Members and their guests will enjoy the refreshing Beach Club Lagoon, community BBQ grills, DJ music and games, watercraft rentals, and more! Tickets are complimentary and distributed via lottery — register online from June 2-6. Winners will be contacted in mid-June with more information!

When the sun sets, winners from this year's Voice of SAMLARC will serenade the crowd with a capella performances of patriotic ballads. The sky above the Lago Santa Margarita will flash with a breathtaking fireworks show! If you'd like to watch this beautiful SAMLARC tradition from the Lakeshore, you're welcome to secure your viewing spot with a picnic blanket or low chairs beginning at 6:00 a.m. on July 3.

The Board of Directors is thrilled to host this year's Independence Day celebration on Friday, July 4. Thank you to all who joined us for last year's two-day festival, and we look forward to returning to our full-day extravaganza! Help us spread the word by sharing your favorite Star Spangled Spectacular memories on social media — just tag **@SAMLARC** for a chance to be featured!

Learn all about this year's Star Spangled Spectacular by heading to **[SAMLARC.org/July-4th!](https://SAMLARC.org/July-4th!)**





# SPRING & SUMMER PROGRAMS



SCAN  
ME!



SKYHAWKS VOLLEYBALL



MISSION VIEJO NADADORES



SWEET SPOT TENNIS

Volume 2: Spring 2025

## ► SOCCER SHOTS

Soccer Shots offers fun, high-energy soccer programs that teach skills, teamwork, and character. Each program is tailored to specific age groups for kids ages 2-8, with an emphasis on fun.

## ► MISSION VIEJO NADADORES

The Mission Viejo Nadadores Swim School teaches the skills necessary for a lifetime of safety, fun, and love for the water. Classes instill crucial skills, with a loving and specific approach to the development of each swimmer.

## ► SKYHAWKS BASKETBALL & VOLLEYBALL CAMPS

Take your game to the next level with Skyhawks Summer Camps! Hit the courts at Altisima Park to sharpen your basketball skills or bump, set, and spike at Arroyo Vista Park. Both camps feature expert coaching, drills, and plenty of game time.

## ► SWEET SPOT TENNIS

Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your game, Sweet Spot Tennis offers fast-paced classes for both youth and adults. Focus on footwork, fitness, and stroke improvement with drills led by certified coaches.

## ► EVOLVE PICKLEBALL

Join our Pickleball classes and clinics for all ages and skill levels! Enjoy this fun, fast-paced sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. Learn the game, improve your skills, and have a blast.

## ► JUST DANCE IN THE PARK

Dance is for everyone! Join our beginner-friendly classes that focus on fitness and choreography in multiple genres. Get ready to move, learn, and have fun while improving your fitness.

## ► GENTLE YOGA

From gentle stretches to calming breathwork, Gentle Yoga's sessions are designed to help participants release tension and find deep relaxation. All fitness levels are invited and welcome.



**SAMLARC**  
22342 Avenida Empresa Suite 102A,  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

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# STAY IN TOUCH



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Don't miss updates from SAMLARC! Per Civil Code, SAMLARC sends out important notices regarding your assessments, SAMLARC's budget, policies, organizational efforts, and more. SAMLARC sends this information to the most recent address on file. Homeowners are required by Civil Code to update their address annually. If you have recently moved, or have a preferred mailing address, you must update your profile through the Resident Portal or in writing to SAMLARC. Want to go paperless? You can update your preferences in the Resident Portal! Help us make a connected community and stay in touch! Visit **[samlarc.connectresident.com](https://samlarc.connectresident.com)** for more information.

