

Rancho Living

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY



IN THIS ISSUE:

YOUTH SPORTS
MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS
BEACH CLUB SEASON
EVENTS & PROGRAMS

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STAY IN TOUCH

Don't miss out on updates from SAMLARC! Per Civil Code, SAMLARC sends out important notices regarding assessments, budgets, policies, and more. This information is sent to the most recent address on file with SAMLARC. Homeowners are required by Civil Code to update their address every year. If you have recently moved or have a preferred mailing address, please visit samlarc.connectresident.com to update your address on file (or make the request in writing to SAMLARC). Thank you for helping us support a connected community!



@samlarc



@samlarc



samlarc.org

SAMLARC 101

BUSINESS OFFICE

Assessments, common area maintenance, lifestyle events, and home improvement applications

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

949-709-0010

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

BEACH CLUB OFFICE

Access cards, common area maintenance, and amenity reservations

21472 Avenida de Los Fundadores
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

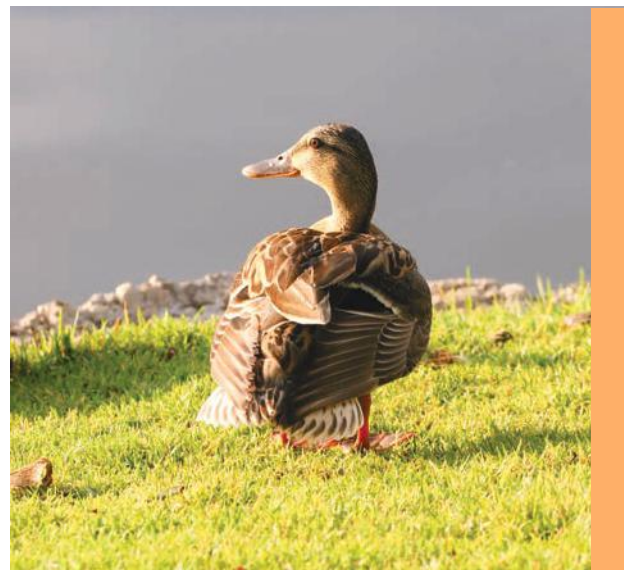
949-858-1390

Open Daily
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., extended to 7:00 p.m.
during the summer (June 7 - August 16)

MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT

SAMLARC is professionally managed by FirstService Residential.

For questions or assistance, call 949-858-1390, or for after-hours needs, contact the FirstService Residential 24/7 Customer Care Line at 800-428-5588.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD

REMEMBERING OUR ROOTS

As SAMLARC celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, we proudly reflect on the vision that first shaped Rancho Santa Margarita: a refreshing place where nature, connection, and a vibrant cultural fabric would enrich everyday life. SAMLARC's master planner Richard Reese envisioned a modern community with the rhythms of city life, balanced with the sense of belonging and companionability of a village. Forty years later, his dream for a big-hearted town still runs strong.

In this edition of Rancho Living, we'll explore just a few of the ways that SAMLARC makes that dream a reality. We invite you to learn about SAMLARC's 2026 Board of Directors and how their perspectives continue driving SAMLARC forward (p. 6). Our feature on youth sports celebrates the energy, teamwork, and pride found on our fields each season (p. 4). You'll also find an update on SAMLARC's community-wide, sustainable turf conversion projects — a large-scale initiative to create waterwise landscapes. Keep an eye out for SAMLARC On Site social media posts that showcase the ways proactive stewardship maintains a safe and beautiful community!

We're looking forward to another memorable summer at the Beach Club and pools, where families gather to enjoy sunshine, water, and shared traditions (p. 9). Finally, we can't wait to celebrate both 40 years of SAMLARC and 250 years of American spirit at this year's July 4th Star Spangled Spectacular!

As we honor four decades of connection, recreation, and friendships, SAMLARC remains committed to the vision that started it all: a community with deep roots, engaged residents, and a dynamic culture. Thank you for being part of SAMLARC's story — past, present, and future!

SAMLARC Board of Directors

Jeff Halbreich, Deborah Christensen, Greg Wieckert, Jeff Beardsley,
Edie Carpenter, Greg Schnieders, Madona Shaheen

READY, SET, SPORTS!

SAMLARC is proud to partner with local sports leagues by providing high-quality facilities where teams can grow. This is part of SAMLARC's mission and vision, and a key part of a rich community culture. SAMLARC hosts 15 sports organizations in town and celebrates athletes' accomplishments throughout the year. Here are just a few highlights from our local teams!

01

SANTA MARGARITA POP WARNER FOOTBALL

Rooted in the heart of Rancho Santa Margarita, SMPW Football offers local youth a place to grow through teamwork, discipline, and pride. As SMPW celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, it stands as one of the largest Pop Warner programs in the nation, with more than 650 athletes. The 2024–2025 season showcased the program's depth and competitiveness, with 11 teams advancing to the playoffs, five competing for championships, and three earning Orange Bowl titles. The 10U Cowboys delivered a historic and flawless 2025–2026 season, capturing the Orange Bowl title, the 10U D-1 Wescon Championship, and ultimately the 10U D-1 National Championship.





02

SANTA MARGARITA POP WARNER CHEER

The SMPW Cheer Program is a cornerstone of youth athletics. The organization that started with just 35 cheerleaders has grown into a nationally-recognized program of 120 athletes across seven teams. In recent years, hardworking SMPW Cheer athletes have earned three national titles, multiple regional and state championships, and a clean sweep at the 2025 Orange Empire Conference competition with 1st place in every division. The Pee Wee Cowboys Cheer Team fought their way to Nationals for the first time in 2025, and they didn't just participate in it: they brought home a National Championship and second place in Show Cheer. The JV Cowboys Cheer Team also secured a National Championship against top Junior Varsity teams from across the country. These incredible accomplishments reflect months of dedication, teamwork, and perseverance.

03

SANTA MARGARITA LITTLE LEAGUE

SMLL has offered Rancho Santa Margarita families a vibrant youth sports culture for more than 20 years. In 2025, the 11U All-Star Team demonstrated exceptional skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout their season. After going undefeated in District play and securing the District 68 Championship, the team advanced to the Sectional Championship, where they continued to display resilience and determination. The 2025 10U All-Star Team modeled outstanding teamwork and a true love for the game. After a hardworking summer, the team went undefeated in District play to earn the District 68 Championship title. They continued their impressive run into the Section 10 Tournament, finishing strong with a well-earned third place. Beyond their athletic achievements, both teams represented their friends and families with integrity, respect, and character — on and off the field.



As any athlete knows, a team's success isn't solely built on one person's skill. It takes many hands to make sports happen, and SAMLARC's 2,800 athletes are supported by a village of nearly 700 volunteer coaches, administrators, field techs, referees, and assistants. Their love for sports, friendly competition, and today's athletes is reflected in their investment in tomorrow's leaders. SAMLARC is proud to partner with the leagues above as well as local soccer, softball, swim, tennis, basketball, lacrosse, field hockey, and other sports organizations! Explore the wide variety of sports in our community through SAMLARC.org/lifestyle.

2026 SAMLARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHERE VISION MEETS LEADERSHIP

From the drafting boards of the 1980s to today's Board of Directors meetings, SAMLARC's leaders have always served with vision, heart, and purpose. The seven-person, volunteer Board of Directors steers SAMLARC's initiatives in a manner that preserves the community's value, viability, and attractiveness over time. Meet your 2026 Board of Directors below!

Each Director's skillset supports SAMLARC's excellence, now and in the future. The Directors look forward to meeting SAMLARC members throughout the year at events, amenities, and through local activities!

JEFF HALBREICH | PRESIDENT

Jeff Halbreich has served RSM since 2006 and brings over 25 years of financial expertise to his role as SAMLARC President. A seasoned financial advisor and franchise owner, he emphasizes transparency, long-term planning, and thoughtful stewardship of SAMLARC resources. With more than nine years on the Board, Jeff focuses on enhancing amenities, supporting resident engagement, and building strong partnerships through the City and Chamber of Commerce. He proudly serves the community where he lives and raises his family.

DEBORAH CHRISTENSEN | VICE PRESIDENT

A resident of RSM for 27 years, Deborah Christensen brings an eye for long-term community living and volunteer leadership to her role as SAMLARC Vice President. She manages residential properties across multiple states and has experience in bookkeeping, supervision, and small-business ownership. Her service includes several SAMLARC committees, RSM's Community Emergency Response Team, and leadership in the National Charity League. Deborah is committed to preserving community values while supporting innovation, sustainability, and an exceptional quality of life for residents.



GREG WIECKERT | CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

For more than 36 years, Greg Wieckert has contributed to RSM's growth and stability, particularly through the lens of SAMLARC CFO. A commercial insurance executive, he also brings deep expertise in risk management, budgeting, and financial oversight. Greg has served in HOA leadership since 1995 and is committed to maintaining strong reserve funds and high community standards. Known for his collaborative style, he prioritizes responsible stewardship and amenities that enhance RSM's family-focused quality of life.

GREG SCHNIEDERS | DIRECTOR

Greg Schnieders has lived in RSM since 1990 and brings more than 30 years of marketing, sales, and client-relations experience to his role as SAMLARC Director. Co-leader of Schnieders Real Estate Group, he has held senior roles in national marketing and publishing firms. Greg emphasizes transparent communication, fiscal responsibility, and strong community connections. His civic service includes HOA leadership, Chamber of Commerce involvement, and youth programs. He is dedicated to ensuring every resident feels heard and supported.

JEFF BEARDSLEY | SECRETARY

Jeff Beardsley has been a Rancho Santa Margarita resident for more than 30 years and is committed to sustaining the community's natural beauty. With decades of experience in landscape and environmental management, he consults on turf, water conservation, and sustainable practices. His background includes leadership roles such as Director of Agronomy at Big Canyon Country Club. A dedicated community volunteer and Chamber of Commerce member, Jeff strives to keep RSM vibrant, well-maintained, and future-focused.

MADONA SHAHEEN | DIRECTOR

Madona Shaheen, an RSM resident since 1996, brings a design-focused, detail-oriented perspective to the SAMLARC Board. With a background in advertising, marketing, interior design, and event programming, she excels in communication and project coordination. Her extensive volunteer work spans SAMLARC's Architectural Review Committee, Habitat for Humanity, Furnishing Hope, Salvation Army programs, and local schools and churches. Madona is passionate about preserving SAMLARC's beauty and strengthening resident engagement as the community celebrates its 40-year milestone.

EDIE CARPENTER | DIRECTOR

Edie Carpenter is a dedicated 28-year SAMLARC homeowner and longtime Rancho Santa Margarita resident who has poured more than a decade into serving her community through roles on SAMLARC's Architectural Review, Covenant, Election Committees, as well as the Delegate for the Santa Fe neighborhood. A licensed esthetician, business owner, and real estate representative, she brings thoughtful leadership and a genuine love for RSM. Her deep roots and warm commitment inspire her desire to support engagement, local resources, and the community's long-term wellbeing.



RESTORE THE SHORE

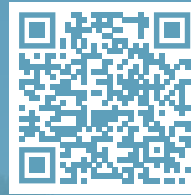
The Lago Santa Margarita welcomes countless walkers, picnickers, and families throughout the seasons, and it is important to look after the shoreline and the wildlife that call it home. SAMLARC's Restore the Shore initiative brings neighbors together with a shared goal: taking care of the Lake we all love.

Since the program began in October 2025, three community cleanup events have helped brighten the Lakeshore, reduce litter, and support a healthier environment for fish, birds, and visitors alike. SAMLARC's partnership with Canyon Wildlife Initiative has created great community momentum: volunteers of all ages have joined in, including students, Scouts, and long-time residents. The litter collected at each event demonstrates that small efforts add up to meaningful change.

TURF CONVERSION

SAMLARC's sustainability journey continues with a wide range of Turf Conversion Projects. This initiative optimizes SAMLARC's landscapes and complies with California's AB 1572 mandate, which prohibits using potable water to irrigate nonfunctional turf. To preserve both beauty and sustainability, SAMLARC is transforming these spaces into waterwise, efficiently irrigated landscapes that complement the community's existing aesthetic.

The 2026 projects target three areas: sections of Santa Margarita Parkway, Antonio Parkway, and Melinda Road. Look out for plants like star jasmine, carissa, and elephant bush in the renovated areas. These plants have flourished in the completed project areas — even yielding as much as 80% reduction in water usage in the 2022 project zones! By the end of 2026, SAMLARC will have completed 15 of the 22 project acres, on track to meet the January 1, 2029 deadline. Though newly planted areas may look sparse at first, the plant palette is designed to mature beautifully, gradually filling in to create lush, efficient, and enduring landscapes for the whole community to enjoy.



Restore the Shore works hand-in-hand with SAMLARC's ongoing efforts to care for the Lake and encourage thoughtful recreation. Cleanup days will be held throughout the year and all are welcome! To join the next Restore the Shore day, visit SAMLARC.org/lake!



BEACH CLUB SEASON

Summer is right around the corner - and there's no better way to celebrate than at the Beach Club & Lagoon! Starting May 9, kick off the sunny season with a beach resort experience, right here in the neighborhood. Members and guests can rent kayaks, water trikes, and pedal boats, along with a surrey bike for a summer workout. Charcoal grills are ready and waiting for you, and the Beach Club Bistro will have snacks and sweet treats for purchase. Browse the Little Library for a fun beach read, or grab some friends for a few rounds of volleyball! Fun and safety are an important part of summer at the Beach Club. Be sure to review the Beach Club rules before visiting so you can enjoy a great Lagoon day!

Here are a few key reminders in addition to the full Lagoon rules:

- ▶ Children under 3 must be within arm's reach of a guardian
- ▶ Floating toys, glass containers, and pets are not permitted
- ▶ Shade tents must not interfere with lifeguards' sightlines

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



SCAN ME!

SUMMER SEASON

May 9 - September 17

General Facility Hours:

Daily 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Office Hours:

Daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(extended to 7:00 p.m. June 7 - August 16)

Lagoon Hours (May 10 - August 16):

Daily* 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

*Mondays & Thursdays noon - 7:00 p.m.
for maintenance

BEACH CLUB OPENING DAY

May 9 | 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Kick off the summer at Beach Club Opening Day! Take a dip in the Lagoon, then dance and play games with our live DJ. An airbrush tattoo artist and a balloon twister will make the day special, and both sweet and savory foods will be available for purchase. Build sand castles, borrow a pedal boat or surrey bike, and play a game of volleyball (or three). Come on down to the Beach Club — there's plenty of summer sun to share!

JULY 4TH STAR SPANGLED SPECTACULAR

Celebrate Independence Day with a Star Spangled Spectacular! Join us on Saturday, July 4th for this beloved community tradition — a day-long patriotic party, ending with a fantastic fireworks finale!

Kick off the festivities with the Bike & Trike Parade! Decorate your bikes, scooters, and pets in patriotic style (remember to leave motorized bikes, trikes, and the like at home) and meet at the Beach Club. Ice-cold popsicles will be waiting for you at the Lakeshore Amphitheater! The Lakeshore will also have exciting evening activities for families to enjoy before the fireworks show.

The Beach Club is a great place to enjoy the holiday activities. Ticketed Members and their guests will enjoy the Lagoon, BBQ grills, DJ music and games, watercraft rentals, and more! Tickets are complimentary and distributed via lottery — register online only from June 1-5.

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

Learn all about this year's Star Spangled Spectacular by heading to SAMLARC.org/events!

SUMMER

EVENTS AT SAMLARC

Whether you're angling for first place at the Fishing Derby or grooving along to Music at the Lake, we invite you to create great memories with family and friends. Mark your calendars for these events just around the corner. For more information on each event, scan the QR code!



SCAN ME!



- ▶ Wine & Cheese | May 2
- ▶ Beach Club Opening Day | May 9
- ▶ Fishing Derby | May 30
- ▶ Voice of SAMLARC | June 4
- ▶ Music at the Lake | June 5, July 17, August 14
- ▶ Screen on the Green | June 12, July 24
- ▶ Star Spangled Spectacular | July 4
- ▶ Great Rancho Campout | July 31-August 1
- ▶ End of Summer Celebration | September 19 (Adults only — stay tuned for this year's theme!)

SAMLARCONNECT TEXT PROGRAM

From events to pool projects, SAMLARC is constantly bustling. As you plan your family's activities, it's easier than ever to keep abreast of SAMLARC events and facility updates. **Sign up for our SAMLARConnect Events list!** Receive texts reminders on important event dates, pool info, and more. Visit [SAMLARC.org/sms](https://samlarc.org/sms) to get started.



PARTNERS MAKE THE PARTY

Thank you to our SAMLARC Lifestyle Partners for making SAMLARC's events special! In addition to giving back to the community, SAMLARC Partners enjoy event booth space, social media shoutouts, and more! The 2026 event calendar is open for sponsorships — for more information, contact info@samlarc.org.

- » Diamond Partner: Andre Landscape, Hoag Urgent Care
- » Emerald Partner: Shannon Miller, Spa Gregories

PROGRAMS & CLUBS

PROGRAMS

MISSION VIEJO NADADORES SWIM SCHOOL

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

SKYHAWKS BASKETBALL & VOLLEYBALL CAMPS

Skyhawks Sports Academy Basketball programs emphasize teamwork, respect, and sportsmanship. Designed for children 4.5-12, the programs introduce a lifelong love of basketball and active lifestyles. Skyhawks' knowledgeable coaches use a variety of games and activities to support fundamental skills and fun.

SWEET SPOT TENNIS

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

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 welcome and invited.



CLUBS

SAMLARC Clubs offer a great way for residents and guests to connect, learn, and have fun together. Looking to sharpen your Monopoly skills? Try your hand at Board Game Night. Discover new games, enjoy friendly competition, and connect with fellow Members in a relaxed, social setting. The Movement Club is designed to promote health and wellness for women through fun mat exercises at the Lake. Participants inspire one another through movement, mindfulness, and shared encouragement. Check out the current club offerings (and learn how to start your own) at [SAMLARC.org/clubs](https://www.samlarc.org/clubs).



SAMLARC

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