



# THE Leaflet



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## A Message From City Manager **DEBRA ROSE**

As the holidays approach, Lake Forest has even more to be thankful for this year and even more to celebrate: the opening of the Civic Center, the City's first permanent home. The four-building campus includes a Senior Center, Community Center, Performing Arts Center/Council Chambers and City Hall/Community Policing Center.

We can all be thankful for a vision and effort that goes back almost two decades, when the Marine Corps Air Station El Toro closed. Just as the Marine base helped shape the early years of our community, the base closure in 2002 helped shape the City's future. City leaders and staff negotiated with property owners who requested to change the zoning of their land, which had been locked as commercial/industrial because of military aircraft noise. As the owners gained permission to build homes, City leaders set aside fees generated by the projects to build City facilities residents said they wanted: a world-class Sports Park and Recreation Center and a Civic Center.

The process was complex and slow-moving. The first application for a housing tract under the plan came in 2008. Planning of the Sports Park started in 2009, and the Civic Center in 2012. The Sports Park opened in 2014, and now, 17 years after the base closed, we're preparing to open the Civic Center.

**All of Lake Forest can celebrate the completion of this community milestone!**

The campus will truly have something for all residents, from classes and programs to banquet space to a beautiful setting for weddings. The Civic Center is intended to be a gathering place for everyone – that's why we call it "The Community's 100-Year Home."

The Civic Center will open in late November; a ribbon cutting will be held in early December and a larger community celebration will be hosted later in December, so please watch [www.lakeforestca.gov](http://www.lakeforestca.gov) and our social media for more details on those events.

# Happy holidays!

*Debra Rose*



## MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**November 5 | November 19 | December 3\***

**December 17**

**General Plan Workshop December 19**

### COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETINGS

**November 21 | December 19**

### PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

**November 14**

**Special Meetings December 5 & 18**

### TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSION MEETINGS

**Special Meeting on December 12**

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

**City Hall will be closed on the following dates:**

- November 11 in observance of Veterans Day
- November 24 and 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday
- December 25 for Christmas Day

All meetings will start at 6:30 pm

\*Subject to change; see calendar and listings at [www.LakeForestCA.gov](http://www.LakeForestCA.gov)

The Leaflet is an official publication of the City of Lake Forest and is distributed as a public service to Lake Forest homes and businesses. The City welcomes your comments and questions regarding The Leaflet.

Photo Credit: City of Lake Forest



# PERFECTING THE PARKS: COMMUNITY PARK UPDATE



## A new shade structure is protecting picnickers and others at Peachwood Park,

marking the first completed project in the 10-park Neighborhood Improvement Plan approved by the City Council.

In addition to the new shade structures – which replaced 25-year-old shade canopies – Peachwood received new benches, picnic tables, an ADA-compliant picnic table and drinking fountains. Peachwood Park is on Peachwood, east of Trabuco Road.



The Neighborhood Improvement Project was approved in 2018 and includes 10 parks: Borrego Overlook Park, Cherry Park, Darrin Park, Montbury Park, Pebble Creek Park, Rancho Serrano Park, Regency Park, Sundowner Park, and Vintage Park. Decisions about the improvements at each park were made after online surveys, workshops, and public meetings.

Construction is also underway on Portola Park at Glenn Ranch and Saddleback Ranch Roads, although Portola is not part of



the park-renovation project. Portola will include a youth soccer field, pickleball court, volleyball court, tot lot, restrooms, and a dog park.

In the Neighborhood Improvement Project, Cherry, Darrin, Montbury, and Pebble Creek parks will be the next to undergo improvements. See <https://lakeforestca.gov/925/Neighborhood-Park-Improvements-2018> for details.



## PUBLIC HEARINGS SET FOR NAKASE PROPOSAL



Public hearings are scheduled for November and December to consider a proposal by Toll Brothers to develop a Planned Community at the 122-acre Nakase Nursery site on the southeast corner of Bake and Rancho Parkways. A maximum of 776 units, including a maximum of 675 single-family homes and 101 affordable senior apartments are proposed along with a school site, seven parks, trails, and open space.

The Nakase family intends to sell its 122 acres to Toll Brothers, and Toll Brothers have submitted several development applications including a General Plan Amendment (GPA), Zone Change (ZC), Development Agreement (DA), Area Plan and Vesting Tentative Tract Map (VTTM). In addition, an environmental impact report (EIR) which analyzes the proposed uses has also been prepared.

The first public hearing is scheduled for 6:30 pm on November 14 before the Planning Commission. Two more public hearings are scheduled before the City Council on December 3 and December 17. The meetings are scheduled in City Hall at 25550 Commercentre Dr., but the location may change when the Civic Center opens. For more information about the project, including environmental studies and meeting updates, visit <https://www.lakeforestca.gov/924/Nakase-Property>.

## OC VOTE CENTERS CASTING A BALLOT DIFFERENTLY

Goodbye neighborhood polling places, hello Vote Centers.

More than 180 Vote Centers are coming to Orange County in March 2020, in hopes of streamlining the voting experience. Instead of having one day to vote at a specific location, any voter can go to any Vote Center in Orange County to cast his or her ballot. The change comes under the California Voter's Choice Act, which was signed into law on Sept. 29, 2016.

At Vote Centers, officials say casting a ballot in Orange County will be easier and more convenient:

- Every voter will receive a vote-by-mail ballot
- Every voter will be able to vote at any location in Orange County
- The option to vote in-person for an 11-day period, including weekends

The move to Vote Centers will end the traditional polling-place program, as the new voting model focuses on large community-based city-owned sites. The Orange County Registrar of Voters (ROV) office will host various Community Workshops to discuss the transition to Vote Centers.

For more information, see <https://www.ocvote.com/votecenter>.

## CITY ADDS SECOND OUTREACH NON-PROFIT

*Lake Forest continues to address the issue of homelessness on several fronts.*

The City has added the non-profit City Net to its efforts of working with individuals experiencing homelessness. City Net joins the non-profit Mercy House Living Centers as the City's primary outreach to homeless individuals.

City Net and Mercy House work to meet homeless individuals and develop a path to help the individuals move into programs or shelters. The work is slow, requiring trust between the outreach workers and those experiencing homelessness. Adding the second non-profit agency means outreach workers will be in Lake Forest seven days a week and during evenings.

Additionally, the City has retained a landscape architect, who is working with City leaders and residents to redesign The Arbors at El Toro Road and Rockfield. The City intends to renovate The Arbors to return them to their intended purpose of serving as welcoming monuments to the El Toro Road corridor.

Lake Forest was also one of seven South Orange County cities that joined to file a friend of the court brief asking the US Supreme Court to review a ruling that prohibits cities from enforcing anti-camping ordinances unless shelter beds are available. The brief, written by the Jones Day law firm, points out several ambiguities and inconsistencies in the earlier ruling, which came in the *Martin v. Boise* case.

For more about the City's efforts, visit: [www.lakeforestca.gov/homelessness](https://www.lakeforestca.gov/homelessness)

# POWER SHUTOFFS DESIGNED TO KEEP THE PUBLIC SAFE CAN TURNING OFF THE POWER HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES?



Southern California Edison, the electricity supplier to Lake Forest and 14 million residents throughout Southern California, has introduced "Public Safety Power Shutoffs" (PSPS) in hopes of reducing the chances of fire in high-risk areas and potentially dangerous weather conditions. SCE decides whether a PSPS is necessary after considering National Weather Service Red Flag Warnings, ongoing monitoring from SCE in-house resources and tools, real-time information from fire management experts and agencies, and awareness of mandatory or voluntary evacuation orders. De-energizing the circuits can prevent winds from pushing lines together, causing arcs, or downed lines causing fires.

If SCE decides to shut off power, they will inform customers approximately 48 hours in advance and again 24 hours before the shutoff. When planning a PSPS, SCE intends to communicate and coordinate in advance with local government agencies such as the City of Lake Forest, first responders and emergency officials. However, in a rapid onset of extreme fire conditions and other circumstances, giving advanced notice may become more difficult.

## SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**Does SCE have the legal authority to shut off my power when deemed necessary?**

California Public Utilities Code § 399.2 and § 451 give SCE the authority to shut-off power in emergency situations when necessary to protect public safety.

**What other steps is SCE taking to reduce fire risk?**

SCE minimizes fire risk through design and construction standards, aggressive tree trimming and other management activities, various operational practices and collaborative partnerships with fire agencies to maintain public safety. In addition, SCE is evaluating additional tools such as drones, weather stations and cameras to supplement their current capabilities and situational awareness.

**What if I or someone I know relies on electrical-powered medical equipment?**

If you're a Medical Baseline customer and depend on powered medical equipment, you should plan to have a backup power source, such as an uninterruptible power supply, or a backup location in case of a power outage.

**Where can I get more information?**

See <https://prepareforpowerdown.com>

SCE recommends customers update their contact information with the utility so they can receive these notifications. Customers wishing to do so should log into their [www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com) account and click on **My Account > Profile > Outage Alert Preferences**.

Additionally, while the City will use social media to notify residents of possible shutdowns, official notifications during emergencies such as fire will come through Alert OC. Ensure you and your family are signed up to receive the notifications at [www.alertoc.org](http://www.alertoc.org).

## NOVEMBER OPENING SET FOR COMMUNITY'S 100-YEAR HOME



**The Lake Forest Civic Center - a Senior Center, Community Center, 200-seat Performing Arts Center and City Hall - will open in late November.**

The \$72 million campus, built primarily with developer fees, is known as the community's "100-Year Home" because it is designed to become a gathering place for residents of all ages and interests. The campus is located at 100 Civic Center Dr.

A community open house and holiday celebration is set for December 14. Details on this event and the opening, will be shared on the City's website, [www.lakeforestca.gov](http://www.lakeforestca.gov), and Lake Forest social-media channels.



# LAKE FOREST LIGHTS: BRIGHTEN UP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



Do you or a neighbor like to decorate for the holidays? Show us for a chance to be a part of the third annual Lake Forest Lights tour!

All you need to do is simply:

1. Snap a photo of your home or your neighbor's home
2. Visit the City's Facebook page online @lakeforestca
3. Look for the tab that says Lake Forest Lights in left hand corner of the page
4. Upload your photo and tag it #LakeForestLights

Then let your friends and family know to vote on your photo. All submissions will be included in a Lake Forest Lights tour, where residents can visit, see and share in the holiday cheer!

The photo with the most votes will be featured on the City's social media pages and be recognized by the City Council. For more information, visit [lakeforestca.gov/communitycontests](http://lakeforestca.gov/communitycontests)

## Christmas Tree Recycling

CR&R will recycle your Christmas trees from December 26 through January 7. Leave your undecorated tree at the curb near your trash cans on your regular pick-up day. Be sure to remove all decorations such as ornaments, tinsel, lights, and the tree stand. Trees taller than six feet must be cut in half.

Residents can also cut their trees and place them in the green waste bin during or after holiday tree collection. Flocked trees will be collected but cannot be recycled. For more information, visit [crrwasteservices.com](http://crrwasteservices.com) or contact Public Works at 461-3571.

# DON'T MAKE IT EASY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season can be the busy season for thieves.

Amid the hustle and bustle of shopping and decorating and gatherings, amateur and professional thieves feed on the opportunities that come along with this busy season.

Here are a few tips to keep from becoming a victim:

- **Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Con-artists may distract you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.**
- **Park in well-lit spaces, lock the car and close the windows. Place shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.**
- **Carry minimal amounts of cash. Pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.**
- **Keep purses and wallets close to your body. Don't burden yourself with packages.**

The Don't Make It Easy campaign is a City and Orange County Sheriff's Department effort to encourage community members to take simple steps to protect themselves from crimes of opportunity. Read more at [lakeforestca.gov/dontmakeiteasy](http://lakeforestca.gov/dontmakeiteasy) or contact Brittney Oldham, Crime Prevention Specialist, at 461-3546.

## Holiday Tips

Celebrate Safely to Keep the Holiday Cheer Bright!

**GOING AWAY?**

Lock all doors and windows. Activate your home security system. Keep your travel plans offline including social media platforms.

**BEFORE YOU TRAVEL**

Ask a close neighbor or friend to watch your home and grab your mail and newspaper. Call us at (949) 461-3546 for a free vacation home check to give you a little peace of mind.

**SHOP SMART**

Keep purses and personal belongings close. Make sure they are zipped up and secured. Use Apple Pay or Google Wallet instead of cash or credit card to reduce chances of theft.

**BRIGHT LIGHTS, SAFE NIGHTS**

Turn off Christmas lights and decorations when you go to bed or out for the evening. Never leave burning candles unattended and keep them away from flammable items.

Visit [Lakeforestca.gov/DontMakeItEasy](http://Lakeforestca.gov/DontMakeItEasy) for more tips. Read about our safety contest too!

## LOW COST HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS AVAILABLE

Does your home need new stucco, windows, roofs or other improvements? You might qualify for a zero-percent, deferred-interest home-improvement loan or a 3 percent interest loan through the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program.

The City Council funds the program with federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds to ensure residents can live in safe, efficient homes. Most home improvement items are eligible for assistance; these include: plumbing, electrical, energy and weatherization items, garage doors, fumigation, flooring and other items necessary for the health and safety of occupants.

Mobile home owners can receive up to \$15,000 and single-family homeowners can receive up to \$30,000. The zero percent interest deferred loan has no monthly payments. Total payment is due if the resident is no longer residing in the home, at the time of sale, refinance or transfer of title. The 3 percent interest loan requires monthly payments and is fully amortized over 15 years.

In addition to income requirements in the 'Program Eligibility Requirements' chart below, applicants must also:

- Live on the property
- May not have received assistance previously
- Meet the asset limitation
- Have sufficient equity in the home

Homeowners interested in participating in the Housing Rehabilitation Program should pick up an application at City Hall or download an application at [www.lakeforestca.gov/325/Housing-Rehabilitation-Loan-Program](http://www.lakeforestca.gov/325/Housing-Rehabilitation-Loan-Program). Return completed applications to Theresa Dobbs, 25550 Commercentre Dr., Lake Forest, 92630.

For more information contact Theresa Dobbs at 461-3473 or by email at: [tdobbs@LakeForestCA.gov](mailto:tdobbs@LakeForestCA.gov)

### PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME MAXIMUM
1 person	\$66,500
2 person	\$76,000
3 person	\$85,500
4 person	\$94,950
5 person	\$102,550
6 person	\$110,150
7 person	\$117,750

## COMMIT TO REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE AND BUY RECYCLED

Lake Forest residents and businesses collected more than 7, 200 tons of mixed recycling and CRV materials in 2018. The now-closed Lake Forest rePlanet contributed 295 tons, the Knights of Columbus Recycling Center contributed 45.33 tons, Serrano Middle School contributed 1.46 tons, and residents placed 6,913 tons in their blue curbside bins.

Continue to do your part by attending El Toro High School's Household Hazardous Waste event on November 9 and 10 to recycle household hazardous waste such as paint, cleaning products and aerosol cans that have built up around your home and office. Electronics, batteries and fluorescent tubes and bulbs will be accepted.

Commit to recycling for the remainder of 2019 and the duration of 2020.

And take the #BERECYCLED Pledge at [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**NOVEMBER 15, 2019**

ONE DAY TO **EDUCATE**. ONE DAY TO **MOTIVATE**.  
ONE DAY TO MAKE RECYCLING  
**BIGGER AND BETTER.**

**#BERECYCLED PLEDGE**

## COMMUNITY CALENDARS COMING SOON

The 2020 community calendar is a compilation of photos that best represent this year's theme of **"Flourish Lake Forest."**

The calendar showcases how Lake Forest residents captured the City's hidden beauty in wonderful photos. The City would like to thank all of those who participated in the contest.

Calendars will be available at City Hall and at the Sports Park and Recreation Center in late December.



City of Lake Forest  
25550 Commercentre Drive  
Lake Forest, CA 92630

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# RECREATION AND EVENTS CALENDAR

## WINTER 2019

### NOT SO SILENT NIGHT SPECIAL NEEDS DANCE



**Saturday, December 7**  
**6 pm**  
Lake Forest Sports Park & Recreation  
Center, 28000 Rancho Parkway  
Free to attend / Pre-Registration Required

### 33RD ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT WALK



**Friday, Saturday & Sunday, | Dec 6, 7, 8**  
**5:30-8:30 pm**  
Heritage Hill Historical Park  
25151 Serrano Rd  
\$5 per person / Under 3 Free

### BREAKFAST AND BRUNCH WITH SANTA



**Saturday, December 14**  
**Seating 1: 8:30 am | Seating 2: 11:30 am**  
Lake Forest Sports Park & Recreation  
Center, 28000 Rancho Parkway  
\$8 per person / Pre-Registration Required

### VETERAN'S DAY SKATE CAMP

**Monday, November 11 | 10 am - 2pm**  
Etnies Skatepark of Lake Forest  
20028 Lake Forest Drive  
\$40 per person

### RESIDENT REGISTRATION FOR 2019/20 WINTER RECREATION PROGRAMS

**Tuesday, November 12 | 8 am**  
Lake Forest Sports Park & Recreation Center  
28000 Rancho Parkway  
REGISTRATION FEES / Varies per program

### SPECIAL NEEDS NETWORKING GROUP

**Monday, November 18 | 6-7 pm**  
Lake Forest Sports Park & Recreation Center  
28000 Rancho Parkway  
FREE / Pre-registration required

### WINTER MOVIE IN THE PARK

**Saturday, December 7 | 6 pm**  
Lake Forest Sports Park & Recreation Center  
28000 Rancho Parkway  
FREE

## CITY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Building Division . . . . .	461-3470	Graffiti Hotline . . . . .	461-3583
Building Inspection . . . . .	461-3468	Housing . . . . .	461-3569
City Clerk . . . . .	461-3420	OC Animal Care . . . . .	249-5160
City Council . . . . .	461-3420	Passport & Notary . . . . .	461-3420
City Manager's Office . . . . .	461-3410	Planning . . . . .	461-3491
Community Policing Center . . . . .	461-3530	Public Works . . . . .	461-3480
Community Preservation . . . . .	461-3474	Recreation . . . . .	461-3450
Economic Development . . . . .	461-3567	Sports Park & Recreation Center . . . . .	273-6960
Etnies Skatepark . . . . .	916-5870		

## FIND US ONLINE

- City . . . . . [LakeForestCA.gov](http://LakeForestCA.gov)
- Economic Development . . . . . [lakeforestbusiness.com](http://lakeforestbusiness.com)  
[facebook.com/LakeForestBusiness](https://facebook.com/LakeForestBusiness)
- Etnies Skatepark of Lake Forest . . . . . [etnies skatepark.com](http://etnies skatepark.com)
- LinkedIn . . . . . [linkedin.com/company/city-of-lake-forest-ca](https://linkedin.com/company/city-of-lake-forest-ca)
- Sports Park & Recreation Center . . . . . [lfsportspark.com](http://lfsportspark.com)

For more info call 461-3450, 273-6960 or visit our website at [www.lakeforestca.gov](http://www.lakeforestca.gov). For up-to-date info on City special events, check out [facebook.com/LakeForestEvents](https://facebook.com/LakeForestEvents) and follow us on Twitter [@LakeForestCA](https://twitter.com/LakeForestCA).

