

LAKE FOREST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Economic Development e-Newsletter

August 2025

Upcoming Events

START YOUR DAY WITH THE
LAKE FOREST CHAMBER
COFFEE CHAT

August 13th & 27th 2025
8:00AM - 9:15AM

Arrive at 7:45AM
to check-in
before the
meeting!

MAMÓN

26676 Portola Pkwy # D
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610

Members & Prospective Members:
\$15 (pre-registered) OR \$20 at the Door

Registration includes coffee & breakfast item

Register at www.lakeforestCAchamber.com

LAKE FOREST
Chamber of Commerce

2ND & 4TH
WEDNESDAY OF
THE MONTH

Coffee Chats with the Lake Forest Chamber

August 13th and August 27th 2025 | 8:00 - 9:15 AM |
Mamon | 26672 Portola Pkwy #D
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610

Join the Chamber of Commerce at their Breakfast Networking event, held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. It's the perfect chance to connect with fellow business owners, expand your network and boost your businesses' visibility. Don't miss out!

To register, [click here](http://www.lakeforestCAchamber.com).

CONCERT IN
THE PARK

Join us at the Chamber Cantina at
this month's Concert in the Park!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23
5:30 PM | Lake Forest Sports Park
featuring Family Style!

LAKE FOREST
Chamber of Commerce

Summer Concert in the Park

August 23rd, 2025 | 4:00 - 8:00 PM |
Lake Forest Sports Park | 28000 Rancho Parkway
Lake Forest, CA 92630

Join the Chamber of Commerce for the final Summer Concert in the Park Event of the year. The event will be hosted at the Lake Forest Sports Park and will feature live music and a beer garden!

For more information, [click here](http://www.lakeforestCAchamber.com).

Taste of Lake Forest

August 15th 2025 | 4:00 - 7:30 PM |

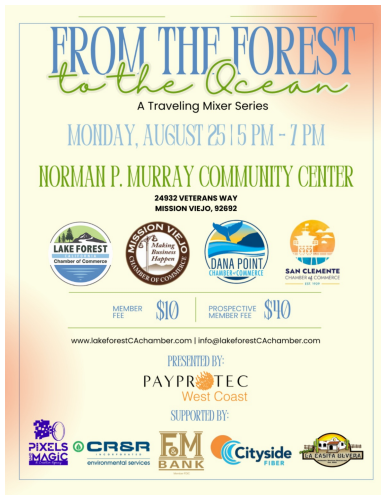


Heritage Hill Historical Park | 25151 Serrano Road
Lake Forest, CA 92630

The City of Lake Forest and the Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce present the Taste of Lake Forest on Friday, August 15th, at Heritage Hill Historical Park from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The event will feature samples from a variety of Lake Forest vendors, sponsor booths, live music by The Trip, and a beer and wine garden. The event has limited availability and is restricted to individuals aged 18 and older.

To purchase tickets, [click here](#).



Forest to the Ocean-Traveling Mixer

August 25th 2025 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM |

Norman P. Murray Community Center | 24932 Veterans Way
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Join the Chamber of Commerce for the next event in their series of Monday Mega Mixers.

Join to connect with professionals from Mission Viejo, Lake Forest, San Clemente and Dana Point Chamber of Commerce. The event will allow you to expand your network and grow business reach.

To purchase tickets, [click here](#).

The following events are hosted by the city's resource partners.



Finding Profit: Practical Ways to Improve Your Bottom Line

August 6th | 12:00 AM -1:30 PM | Webinar

If your business isn't profitable, it's more than just a setback- it can quickly become an expensive hobby. This 4-part online course is designed to help business owners take a close look at their financial health and uncover clear, actionable ways to improve their bottom line. Whether

you're just getting started or have been in business for years, this session will guide you through the core drivers of profitability and show you how to make smarter financial decisions that lead to long-term success.

Each 90-minute session dives into a specific focus area:

- Class 1: Fundamentals of Financial Health
- Class 2: Managing Expenses
- Class 3: Organizing Your Top Line
- Class 4: Boosting Operational Efficiency

To register, [click here](#).

E-Commerce 101: How to Start Selling Online for Marketplace Sellers

August 12th | 10:00 AM -12:00 PM | Greater Riverside

Ready to turn your products into profit?

Whether you're dreaming of launching an online store or growing your side hustle, this beginner friendly workshop will guide you through the essentials of selling on top marketplaces like Etsy, CA Shop Small, and SHopify.



Learn how to get online, list products that sell, manage inventory, and attract your ideal customers. Walk away with a clear action plan to start and grow your online business with confidence.

To register, [click here](#).



Understanding Your Financials

August 19th | 10:00 AM -12:00 PM | Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce

Gain control of your business finances with this engaging workshop designed to help you understand and manage your financials with confidence.

This session offers a practical overview of key accounting and finance principles, equipping

you with the knowledge to make smarter, faster, and more precise decisions to drive your business success.

In this workshop, you will learn:

- Financial statements
- Ratio analysis
- Horizontal and vertical analysis
- Cash flow management

To register, [click here](#).

Unleash Your Holiday Sales: A Marketing Webinar for the Beauty Industry

August 26th | 5:00 PM -6:30 PM | Webinar

Are you in the beauty industry? Get ready to make this holiday season your most profitable yet! This exclusive two-part webinar series is designed specifically for beauty industry professionals like you - aestheticians, hair professionals, nail salon owners, and more- who are looking to supercharge their sales through strategic marketing. In just two 90-minute sessions, you'll gain the actionable insights and practical tools needed to craft compelling holiday campaigns, attract new clients, and boost your revenue.



Session 1: August 26th, 2025

In this foundational session, we'll dive deep into understanding the unique opportunities and challenges of holiday marketing in the beauty industry. You'll learn how to analyze your target audience's holiday spending habits, identify key seasonal trends, and set realistic yet ambitious sales goals. We'll cover the essential elements of a successful holiday marketing plan.

Session 2: September 2, 2025

Building on the foundation laid in Session 1, this session focuses on executing and amplifying your holiday marketing efforts. We'll explore various digital and traditional marketing channels, providing you with practical tips and techniques to reach a wider audience and convert interest into sales.

To register, [click here](#).

Keep Informed

New Commercial and Multi-Family Bins and Carts

Starting March through June 2025, CR&R will be rolling out new color-coded containers for businesses and multi-family properties to help streamline recycling efforts. The new container colors are in compliance with Senate Bill 1383, helping to standardize the separation of your landfill, recyclable, and organic materials. Your current containers will be exchanged with the new solid color containers, pictured on the right.

CR&R will exchange your existing containers on-site, ensuring a hassle-free transition. This change aims to improve waste sorting and participation in responsible waste disposal.

In addition, CR&R will be utilizing new trucks equipped with technological advancements. The new trucks are enhanced with collision avoidance, leak detection, and fire suppression to ensure safety for the drivers as well as our community.

New Agreement, New Containers

LANDFILL <ul style="list-style-type: none">BonesBroken GlassCandy WrappersCeramicsChip BagsCoffee Pods/K CupsHangersMirrorsMixed Products (i.e. Plastic/Metal Combination)Non-Numbered PlasticsPalm FrondsPet Waste/LitterPlastic FilmPlates, Cups, Towels, and NapkinsPolystyrene		
RECYCLING <ul style="list-style-type: none">Aluminum FoilAluminum & Tin CansCardboard (Flattened)Detergent ContainersEmpty Aerosol CansGlassMagazines & Junk MailMetalMilk ContainersPaper (Computer, White, Colored, Shredded, Newspaper)Plastics (Numbers 1 through 7) <p><i>Plastic bags are not recyclable. These items should be placed in the landfill cart.</i></p>		
ORGANICS <p>From The Kitchen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bread/Grains/PastaCoffee GrindsDairy/EggshellsFats, Oils, and GreaseFood Scraps/LeftoversFood-Soiled NapkinsBPI-Certified Compostable FoodwareFruitsMeat/PoultrySeafood/ShellfishVegetables <p>From The Yard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">FlowersGrassLeavesPruningsWeeds		

Hazardous waste is NOT to be disposed of in any of the carts.

For more information about the new solid waste agreement and Senate Bill 1383, visit the City website at www.lakeforestca.gov/en/trashandrecycling

Visit our Website

Business Resources



OC Workforce Solutions is focused on connecting community members and businesses to the services and resources they need to thrive.

OC Workforce Solutions provides job seekers, employers, and youth with convenient access to a full range of reliable, responsive solutions.



With a team of more than 100 business owners and industry experts, the Orange County Inland Empire Small Business Development Center Network is the consulting firm you need for your business.

From planning and marketing to lease negotiations and government contracting, the SBDC can offer your business the support it needs.



California's Manufacturing Network (CMTC) aims to efficiently serve small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) statewide. This Network delivers services that address the regional challenges driven by a diverse manufacturing community.

The Network is a collaboration of 23 partners focused on serving SMMs in rural and urban areas statewide.

Business Spotlight



Spark Lab Robotics and Coding Academy

25431 Trabuco Road
Lake Forest, CA 92630

**August 2025
BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**



Spark Lab Robotics Academy: Where Curiosity Becomes Innovation

Step inside Spark Lab Robotics Academy in Lake Forest and you'll find students exploring robotics, coding, and hands-on technology projects in a space designed to spark creativity and problem-solving. From building robots to writing simple code, Spark Lab offers practical, engaging programs for children aged five to fifteen.



At the heart of Spark Lab is founder Mohamed, whose nearly two decades of experience in software engineering at companies like Microsoft and Google gave him a deep understanding of the tech industry-but left him wanting more. Despite a successful career, Mohamed felt unfulfilled, which led him to pursue an MBA and explore a new path: teaching. He began by volunteering to teach a remote programming course in Kentucky, and later spent time as an AP Computer Science teacher in Costa Mesa. Through those experiences, he discovered a new passion: introducing young students to the world of programming and robotics in ways that are accessible, exciting, and fun.

That passion led to the opening of Spark Lab Robotics Academy, located in Lake Forest. Mohamed chose the city deliberately, recognizing it as a community where families value education and where opportunities for early STEM exploration were limited. Spark Lab now fills that niche with programs that make technology approachable for even the youngest learners.



At Spark Lab, students can choose between two educational tracks: robotics or programming. In the robotics track, kids build, code, and refine their own robots, learning mechanical design and problem-solving along the way. In the programming track, students explore coding languages like Python and Java, developing their own games and applications. Programs are offered year-round, with after-school classes, weekend workshops, and summer camps available.

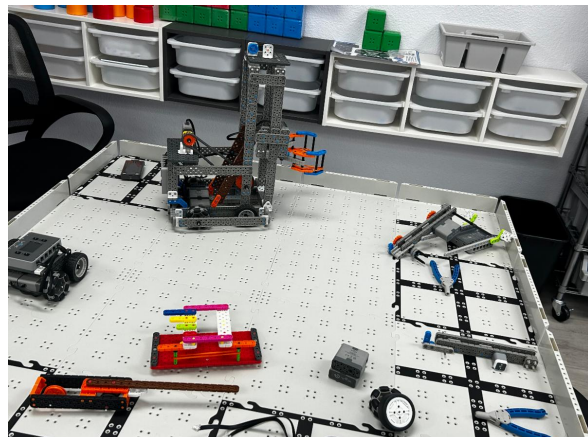
What sets Spark Lab apart is not just its curriculum, but its people. Mohamed is proud to emphasize that every instructor combines technical expertise with real experience working with children. The result is a team that knows how to teach complex ideas in simple, engaging ways—something Mohamed sees as critical to helping students not just learn, but thrive.

The academy space itself reflects this same attention to detail. Inside Spark Lab, students work at stations designed to encourage collaboration and creativity, whether they're programming a game or wiring up a robot. Every corner of the space is built to support hands-on learning.

Looking ahead, Spark Lab hopes to grow its offerings, including building a competitive robotics team and partnering with local school districts to expand robotics and programming education in the area.

Families curious to explore what Spark Lab has to offer can sign up for a \$35 trial class, where students are introduced to coding or robotics in a supportive, small-group environment. As a special thank-you to the community, those who mention this spotlight can receive a free introductory class.

Spark Lab Robotics Academy is more than a place to learn coding or build robots. It's a space where curiosity leads to innovation and where kids discover what they're capable of creating.



Check out their socials below!:



Business in the News

Utility Spin-Off Buys Foothill Ranch Industrial for \$51M

FOOTHILL RANCH —

A Houston-based company recently paid \$51 million for a 102,299-square-foot distribution building in Foothill Ranch, near Oakley's headquarters. The property, located at 20 Icon, was sold by Los Angeles-based Rexford Industrial Realty Inc. to Lake Forest Reliability Project LLC for \$497.32 per square foot. This makes it one of the most expensive industrial deals in Orange County for 2025.

The two-level building, built in 1999 and renovated in 2015, sits on 2.81 acres. Rexford Industrial had acquired it in 2016 and earned \$1.7 million annually from the property. Lake Forest Reliability Project LLC, potentially linked to Engie Resources, a company focused on energy transition, purchased the building. Documents show both entities share the same Houston address, but it's unclear if they are directly connected.



Rexford Industrial reported the sale in its Q1 2025 results, noting an expected return of 13.3% on the transaction without financing. The company, which has a large industrial portfolio in Southern California, continues to make significant property sales, including a \$42.5 million deal in Carson.

Courtesy of Orange County Business Journal

[Read More](#)

Newport Beach Firm Scoops Lake Forest Business Park

LAKE FOREST —

Newport Beach-based Buchanan Street Partners has acquired the Spectrum Center

Business Park in Lake Forest, marking the latest addition to their Orange County portfolio. The 16-building, 227,757-square-foot industrial park, located at 20902-21098 Bake Pkwy, was purchased from a Los Angeles-based fund manager. The nearly 17-acre property is strategically located near major highways, making it appealing to businesses and part of a growing residential community in South Orange County.



Buchanan Street Partners sees the business park's location as a key factor in its appeal, as South Orange County continues to see increasing demand for well-located, infill industrial properties, particularly in areas with expanding housing developments. The business park is 80% leased, offering a mix of small-bay industrial spaces.

Courtesy of Orange County Business Journal

[Read More](#)

Available Commercial Space

Are you a Lake Forest commercial broker or property manager and have office, industrial, or retail space to advertise?

Submit a request to [Economic Development staff](#) to feature your listing on our newsletter, social media, and website today!

[Read More](#)

Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce



The Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce began its service to the business community in 2010. Since its founding, the Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce has been committed to promoting and supporting its member businesses and the surrounding community. The chamber strives to bring information and resources to the business community in order to build visibility and sustainability!

Connect with the Chamber of Commerce on their socials below:



Stay Up-To-Date



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Lake Forest
Economic Development



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City of Lake Forest Economic Development | (949) 461 - 3567
Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Stay Connected

Contact Us



City of Lake Forest | 100 Civic Center Drive | Lake Forest, CA 92630 US

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