

# Civic Council Year in Review and Getting Involved

## 2015-Civic Council in Review; 2016-What's Next?

The Civic Council had a busy 2015, here are the highlights. The Council worked with the County to install a 4-way stop on Narrow Canyon at the Godard School, a left hand turn from the Waterpark to easy traffic at Oso Grande Elementary, and a crosswalk with warning signs on Benjamin at the Bluff Top Trail. The Council took public comment and supported land use issues including The Ladera Ranch Sports Complex, the SDG&E Electrical Reliability Project, and the proposed housing development at the Stoneybrook School site. We formed a new Ad-hoc Committee with CUSD and LARMAC to address school facilities issues. Also, formed LRCC committees to better address community issues (see below). Speakers this year included Supervisor Bartlett (who will be our guest again at the January 2016 LRCC meeting), LAFCO, SMWD, The Gas Co., Kristen Vital, Superintendent of CUSD, and Dan Kelly with RMVC.

The Council completed our Community Survey addressing County services which were shared with the County, LAFCO, LARCS, and LARMAC. The Survey highlighted issues of street maintenance, public safety, taxes, and governance. Over the past two years, the Council has represented Ladera Ranch on the LAFCO South County Stakeholders Group to discuss governance options for unincorporated areas of south Orange County. The draft of the results was presented to the LRCC, and packed room of community representatives, in October. The Council provided its vision of the community to the LAFCO Board in conjunction with the Report to be considered at their January 2016 Board meeting before going to the Board of Supervisors. Although Cityhood maybe a ways off, there are other short term options.

With all that was accomplished in 2015, what is next for 2016? The Board will be discussing and establishing goals for 2016 at the January 18 Council meeting. Interested and want input? We invite you to attend the meeting.

## Why Volunteer and Doing what is Right

Have you made a New Year's resolutions? One suggestion is to get involved in the community. You may have heard the term of the "5 percenters". This reference is to 5% of the people do 95% of the volunteering. Even if you don't go all out and run for a Board, become President of an organization, Scout Leader, etc., there are many opportunities to give a few hours of your time. Volunteer in the community for an event, a committee, in a class room, or a worthy organization. Giving of your time will give you a sense of accomplishment, you will meet new people, and experience new things. It is easy to find opportunities, I challenge all to volunteer at least 5 hours in 2016. It is worth your effort.

If you are looking for opportunities where you can make a difference, the Council is looking for volunteers for various committees. These include Traffic and Public Safety, Governance, Public Works and Land Use, Community Outreach and Economic Development, and Communications. If any of these areas are something you may be interested in, please volunteer at [LRCivicCouncil.org](http://LRCivicCouncil.org)

*As a longtime volunteer, I have a few suggestions. Start small, volunteer a few hours first to know your passions, interests, and limitations. Volunteer for the right reasons, you want to make a positive contribution and not just because you have an "issue"; involve others and encourage participation. If you are on a Board, Committee, or group, be open to others opinions, views, suggestions, and understand that you will not always agree. Debate and discussion are good. Realize that you are all volunteers; each with their own passions. Enjoy what you are doing, consider those you are helping first, and have a good time doing it.*

**The next LRCC's next meeting will be at 7:00PM on January 18, 2015 at the Santa Margarita Water District building.**