

# LAKE FOREST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## *Economic Development e-Newsletter*

March 2025

### Upcoming Events

START YOUR DAY WITH THE  
LAKE FOREST CHAMBER  
COFFEE CHAT

March 12th & 26th, 2025  
8:00AM-9:15AM

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

26676 Portola Pkwy # E  
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](http://www.lakeforestCAchamber.com)

#### Coffee Chat with the Chamber

March 12th and 26th 2025 | 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM |  
Cuca's Mexican Food | 26676 Portola Parkway #E  
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 business's visibility. Don't miss out!

To register, [click here](#).

LAKE FOREST  
Chamber of Commerce

Register at [lakeforestCAchamber.com](http://lakeforestCAchamber.com)

Anniversary  
RIBBON CUTTING

FUSION  
OF IDEAS

FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH  
11:00 AM  
40 EMPIRE  
LAKE FOREST, CA 92630

GOING BEYOND INNOVATION  
By expanding the limits of technology with  
custom software development and  
high-tech branded devices!

Celebrating 18 Years of Ideas

#### Fusion of Ideas Anniversary Ribbon Cutting

April 4th 2025 | 11:00 AM |  
Fusion of Ideas | 40 Empire  
Lake Forest, CA 92630

Join the Chamber of Commerce and City of Lake Forest on Friday, April 4th to celebrate Fusion of Ideas's 18-year anniversary with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Fusion of Ideas works to expand the limits of technology with custom software development and high-tech branded devices.

To register, [click here](#).

*Save the Date!*

The Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce and City of Lake Forest are proud to present their annual signature event

*Meet the Mayor*

Wednesday, April 16  
 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM - Meet the Mayor  
 Lake Forest Civic Center  
 100 Civic Center Drive  
 Lake Forest, CA 92630

*Featuring Mayor Scott Voigts*

Members: \$50/Guests & Prospective Members: \$75  
 lakeforestCAchamber.com  
 Sponsorship Opportunities Available  
 email: info@lakeforestCAchamber.com  
 for more information

Please Join us for the State of the City  
 in the Performing Arts Center, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 FREE TO ATTEND



## Meet the Mayor Event

April 16th, 2025 | 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM |  
 Lake Forest Civic Center | 100 Civic Center Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630

Join the City of Lake Forest and Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce for the annual Meet the Mayor event on April 16th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Lake Forest Civic Center. The event will feature a cocktail hour and networking. Tickets can be purchased [here](#). Following Meet the Mayor, please join us in the Performing Arts Center for the State of the City from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. This portion of the event is free and open to the public!

To register, [click here](#).

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

### Identify the Right Overseas Market for Your Business

March 5th | 12:00 PM - 1:00PM  
 PST | Webinar

Using research to select the right international market(s) for your business and product/service is an important first step in the export process. This step is important, because it provides a systematic, long-term approach to leveraging the opportunities in the global market and being prepared for potential risks. Learn how to select the right market(s) through basic global market research so that you can begin the export process correctly from day one.



Join this session to:

- Conduct basic research on international markets
- Assess market conditions
- Select the most appropriate market for your good/service

To register, [click here](#).



### Writing an Effective Business Plan: Leveraging AI and Other Tools

March 12th | 10:00 AM -11:30 AM |  
 Webinar

Join our interactive workshop on writing an effective business plan and discover how to leverage the power of AI and other cutting-edge tools to drive business success. Gain

valuable insights and practical knowledge to create a business plan that brings tangible value to your small business

You will learn:

- When and when not to use AI tools
- The capabilities of AI tools in generating written content for your business plan
- About a wide range of tools and resources that facilitate the creation of an effective business plan
- The key components of a business plan that drive success

To register, [click here](#).

## **SBDC Eats**

March 14th | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Webinar

Are you interested in starting your own food business? SBDC Eats is a program that helps you learn what it takes to do so. Through this program, you will be guided through the necessary steps to plan, build and launch your food business and products in the marketplace. SBDC Eats will be taught in a hybrid format with two sessions taking place in person. The SBDC Eats program is six weeks long with sessions occurring on Fridays beginning on March 14th.

During the program, you will learn about:

- Going from Idea to Concept
- Setting Up Your Business
- Honing in on your Offerings
- Starting to Sell
- Managing Your Business
- Getting the Word Out



To register, [click here](#).



## **Export Compliance 101: Your Key to Global Trade**

March 20th | 6:00 -7:00 PM | Webinar

Expanding your products and services into intentional markets is an exciting opportunity to grow your business. However, many small business owners may not realize that engaging in global trade brings them under the scope of U.S.

export control regulations. The U.S. government requires exporters to understand their legal obligations and ensure their operations comply with these rules. Violations of export regulations can result in significant penalties.

This webinar is designed to raise awareness about export compliance. Key topics include:

- Common pitfalls to avoid when exporting globally
- U.S. export compliance essentials: EAR and ITAR
- Other export control regimes: OFAC, Antiboycott, and FCPA
- Key takeaways

To register, [click here](#).

## **Keep Informed**

### **Sorting Out Food Waste Laws**

If your business handles food, you've probably heard the alphabet soup of laws regarding food waste: AB 1826, AB 827, SB 1383. It can leave the average person scratching their head, wondering what it all means for their business.

Here's a short guide to help sort it all out:

#### **AB 1826 Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling**

Requires businesses and multi-family properties to separate food



scraps and landscape waste from trash.

### AB 827 Mandatory Organics Recycling Bins

Requires food-generating establishments where customers consume food on premise and bus their own tables, to provide separate food scraps, recyclables, and trash containers in front-of-house.

### SB 1383 Mandatory Food Waste Reduction

Commercial and multi-family properties are required to set up a food scrap program, similar to AB 1826. In addition, certain edible food generators are required to donate edible food to food recovery organizations.

You may set up a food scrap recycling program by contacting the City's waste hauler, CR&R, at [LakeForest-Recycles@crrmail.com](mailto:LakeForest-Recycles@crrmail.com). CR&R can assist with implementation and training. And, food scrap recycling containers are offered at half the cost of trash service, so you may be able to comply with state law at no additional cost!

For more information, visit the City's website at [www.lakeforestca.gov/en/trashandrecycling/commercial-services](http://www.lakeforestca.gov/en/trashandrecycling/commercial-services).

**RECYCLABLES**

- Glass
- Plastics (Numbers 1 through 7)
- Metal
- Empty Aerosol cans
- Aluminum & Tin Cans
- Aluminum Foil
- Detergent Containers
- Milk Containers
- Cardboard (flattened)
- Paper (Computer, White, Colored, Shredded, Newspaper)

**FOOD WASTE**

- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Meat/Poultry
- Dairy/Eggshells
- Seafood/Shellfish
- Bread/Grains/Pasta
- Coffee Grinds
- Food-Soiled Paper
- Food Scraps/Leftovers

**LANDFILL**

- Mixed Products (i.e. Plastic/Metal Combination)
- Styrofoam
- Plates, Cups, Towels, and Napkins
- Non-Numbered plastics
- Candy Wrapper
- Chip Bag
- Plastic Film
- Pet waste/litter
- Mirrors
- Palm fronds

**DO NOT PLACE HAZARDOUS WASTE OR BATTERIES IN ANY OF YOUR WASTE CARTS**  
 Hazardous wastes are products that are flammable, corrosive, reactive or toxic. This includes batteries of all types. Please DO NOT dispose of hazardous waste in any CR&R containers.  
 Examples of Hazardous Waste include:

- Fluorescent light tubes
- Household batteries
- Latex or water based paint
- Non empty aerosol cans
- Thermostats
- High intensity discharge lamps

Customer Service: 800.826.9677 • [www.crrinc.com](http://www.crrinc.com)

Visit our Website

## Business Resources



The Small Business Administration provides funding programs, counseling, federal contracting certifications, and disaster recovery.

The SBA can connect your business to partner organizations, lenders, and other community groups that help small businesses succeed.



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.



The Orange County Inland Empire Small Business Development Center Network is the consulting firm you need for your business.

The OCIE SBDC offers confidential one-on-one expert business consulting. From planning and marketing to lease negotiations and government contracting, the SBDC can offer your business the support it needs.

SBA

OC Workforce

SBDC

## February Recap



### **Cityside Fiber Ribbon Cutting**

The City of Lake Forest and Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce celebrated the Grand Opening of Cityside Fiber with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, January 31. Cityside Fiber is a fiber connectivity company expanding into Lake Forest. Celebrations took place at the Lake Forest Sports Park. Certificates were presented to the business by the City, Chamber,

### **Rockmond Group Ribbon Cutting**

The City of Lake Forest and Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce celebrated the Grand Opening of the Rockmond Group with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, February 7. The Rockmond Group is a boutique, luxury real estate group. Certificates were presented to the Rockmond Group by the City, Chamber and other elected officials.



### **Mamon Ribbon Cutting**

The City of Lake Forest and Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce celebrated Mamon's 7th anniversary with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, February 14. Certificates were presented to Mamon by the City, Chamber and other elected officials.



### **Career Fair**

The City of Lake Forest, in partnership with Third District Supervisor Donald P. Wagner, OC Workforce Solutions, and the Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce, hosted a Career Fair on Thursday, February 20th.

The event provided an opportunity for students and job seekers to connect with local employers seeking to expand their workforce. Attendees were able to connect with a diverse range of top local employers, submitted their resumes, and gained insights into different industries.



# Business Spotlight



## Skyline Displays Orange County

25151 Arctic Ocean Dr.  
Lake Forest, CA 92630

March 2025  
BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

# Skyline®

### Skyline Displays of Orange County: Where Customized Trade Show Solutions Come to Life

Located in Lake Forest, Skyline Displays of Orange County has earned a reputation as a leader in the design and specification of custom/modular trade show exhibits. Since its founding in 1986, the company has focused on delivering tailored solutions for clients in need of high-quality, innovative exhibit designs.

In the very beginning, the company operated out of a small apartment in Long Beach. Its growth has been driven by the leadership of John Funk, who acquired the company in 1995 after having served as a sales representative since its founding. Under Funk's guidance, Skyline Displays of Orange County has transitioned into a well-established player in the trade show industry. The company now occupies 45,000 square feet of space in Lake Forest, which provides ample space for its showroom and extensive warehouse operations.



In 2005, Skyline OC moved to its Lake Forest location. After selling its previous building, Funk found that the area offered ideal conditions for the company's next chapter. The business-friendly environment, along with high-quality





business spaces that hadn't yet been built out into office space, allowed Funk to design exactly what the company needed. The space was developed to include a showroom for showcasing the company's extensive product offerings, including high-impact graphics and modular structures that serve a variety of business needs.

Skyline Displays of Orange County sets itself apart by creating trade show exhibits that are accessible to businesses of all sizes. Whether working with a startup or a Fortune 500 company, they deliver solutions that elevate each client's trade show presence. By focusing on

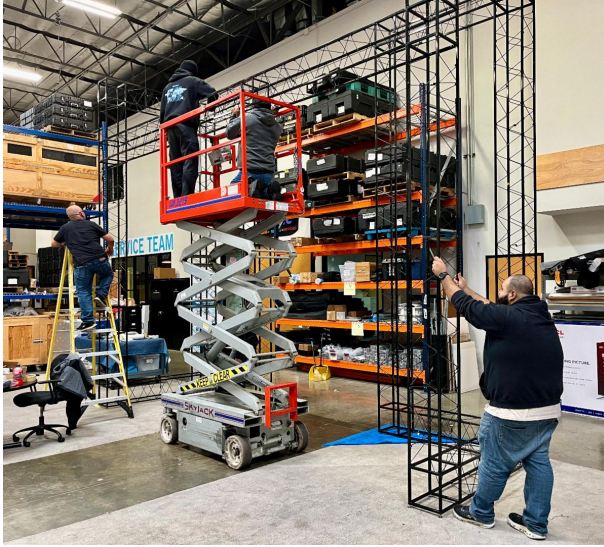
high-impact graphics and modular structures, Skyline Displays of Orange County is able to create exhibits that are visually stunning, flexible, and adaptable to each client's specific requirements.



In addition to custom design services, the company has been a pioneer in the rise of rental exhibits. Renting has become an increasingly popular option for businesses that may have fewer than 3 shows per year or prefer a more cost-effective and logistically easy solution. Skyline Displays of Orange County offers an extensive rental inventory. All a company needs to purchase are the graphics, offering exhibitors flexibility, affordability and customization.

Skyline Displays of Orange County provides a full range of services, starting with an initial discovery meeting to assess each client's specific needs and goals. This meeting helps ensure the company creates the best possible solution that fits the exhibitor's unique requirements. From there, the Skyline Team offers expert guidance and advice, helping businesses of all sizes navigate the process and providing insight before any product is ordered. This tailored approach ensures that every client receives the right support and expertise to create a successful and impactful exhibit. Funk noted that the most notable change in the trade show industry over the years has been the growing demand for backlit exhibits. The use of LED-edge lighting has become increasingly popular, enhancing the visual appeal of displays. The showroom documents recently completed projects, featuring everything from island configurations to museum showcase exhibits, allowing potential clients to see the full scope of their work.

As the company continues to evolve, Funk and his team remain committed to



helping businesses grow and succeed. One example of many is Urban Surfaces, a Corona-based company that began exhibiting with a modest 10-foot exhibit and has since upgraded to a full island exhibit (most recently exhibiting at the IBS show in Las Vegas). This growth, Funk says, is the most rewarding part of the business: watching clients flourish as their trade show presence expands.

Next year, Skyline Displays of Orange County will celebrate its 40th anniversary, marking four decades of innovation and success in the trade show industry. At the same time, the company is also commemorating 20

years in its current Lake Forest location, where they've been able to expand their capabilities and continue serving businesses with cutting-edge solutions. With decades of expertise, Skyline Displays of Orange County remains a trusted partner for businesses looking to make a lasting impact at trade shows.

**Check out their socials below!:**



## **Business in the News**

### **Gatekeeper Systems CEO Nominated for Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award**

LAKE FOREST —

Lake Forest business Gatekeeper Systems' CEO Robert Harling has been nominated for the 2025 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award. Gatekeeper Systems is a leading provider of tech-enabled loss prevention solutions. Harling oversees technology development, business strategy, commercial success and financial growth of the company. Harling had previously served as the CEO of Cartronics, where he helped establish the market for pushout theft solutions. When Cartronics was acquired by Gatekeeper Systems, Harling was named CEO of the newly combined company.

Under his leadership Gatekeeper continues to develop innovative technologies that protect retail associates, stop theft, and drive measurable results for retailers worldwide. Harling has extensive operating leadership experience across multiple industries including wireless communications, edge computing, industrial and defense, and consumer products. Gatekeeper Systems continues to lead the loss prevention industry with innovative technologies, working to minimize risk to customers and security personnel.





The Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards features 88 outstanding nominees who are driving innovation and shaping the local business landscape in Orange County.

*Courtesy of Orange County Business Journal*

[Read More](#)

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### **SimplerSpace Opens Coworking Space in Foothill Ranch**

A new 17,000-square-foot coworking space has opened in Foothill Ranch. This is Simpler Space's second location in Orange County and fourth space overall. The company's co-founder decided to open in Foothill Ranch due to growing demand. Co-founder Drew Sanden said in a statement, "There is a great deal of new residential construction surrounding our project, including Baker Ranch, which is adding to the local population and further driving demand for this type of coworking space."



The Foothill Ranch coworking space is located at 27422 Portola Parkway, suite 200, and offers 32 office suits, 16 dedicated desks, conference rooms and a training room.

*Courtesy of Orange County Business Journal*

[Read More](#)

# Available Commercial Space



26150 ENTERPRISE WAY, STE. 100  
LAKE FOREST, CA 92630

## Enterprise Tech Center

**Steve Ehrich**  
949.468.2328  
sehrich@naicapital.com  
CA DRE #01092019

**NAI**Capital  
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SERVICES, WORLDWIDE



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Property Overview

Located in the thriving Lake Forest area this impressive property features a 2,889 flex condo offering an exceptional atmosphere for owner users and investors. Embodying contemporary design and functionality, this space provides a lucrative opportunity for business growth. With its strategic positioning and versatile layout, this property presents an enticing canvas for cultivating a productive, profitable business environment. Elevate your portfolio with this outstanding offering. With its convenient access to major roadways and a bustling business community, the area surrounding the property offers an enticing blend of urban conveniences and natural beauty for discerning investors.

### Location Overview

Enterprise Tech Center

### Property Highlights

- Two Story Highly Improved Flex Condo
- Corner Unit with Extensive Glass Line
- Double Man Doors for Rear Access to Warehouse Area
- Master Planned Business Park
- Excellent Access to the 241 Foothill Transportation Corridor
- Close Proximity to the 5, 405 and 133 Freeways
- Ample Parking
- Fire Sprinklered
- Attractive Owner User or Investment Opportunity

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 for more visibility and sustainability to the Lake Forest business community!

Connect with the Chamber of Commerce on their socials below:



## Stay Up-To-Date



@lakeforestbusiness



Lake Forest  
Economic Development



@lakeforestbusiness



www.lakeforestbusiness.com

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[Marketing &  
Events](#)

[Shop & Dine](#)



**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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