

Lake Forest Economic Development



Economic Development e-Newsletter

February 2026

Upcoming Events



ATTENTION JOB SEEKERS!

THE COUNTY OF ORANGE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR DONALD P. WAGNER, THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST, AND LAKE FOREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INVITE YOU TO ATTEND A

CAREER FAIR

FEBRUARY 5, 2026 - 10 AM - 1 PM
LAKE FOREST COMMUNITY CENTER
100 Civic Center Dr., Lake Forest

Looking for quality employment?

- Connect with top businesses
- Submit resumes directly
- Interview on the spot
- Streamline the job hunt

Free registration and parking.

Register by scanning the QR code or visit bit.ly/2026CareerFairLF

QUESTIONS? Contact (866) 500-6587 or info@ocworkforcesolutions.com

[@ocworkforce](#) [@orangecountyworkforce](#) [@ocworkforce](#)
[Community Services](#) [WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS](#) [AmericanJobcenter](#)

This WIOA Title I financially assisted program or activity is an equal opportunity employment program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. If you need special assistance to participate in this program, please call (866) 500-6587. TDD/TTY users, please call the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2002 or 711. Please call 800 hours in advance to allow reasonable arrangements to be made to ensure accessibility to this program.

Lake Forest Career Fair

February 5, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM |
Lake Forest Civic Center | 100 Civic Center Dr.
Lake Forest, CA 92630

The City of Lake Forest, in partnership with OC Workforce Solutions and the Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce, is hosting a Career Fair.

Job Seekers and Employers are encouraged to register and gain an opportunity for resume reviews, in person interviews, and connecting with top businesses and talent!

For more information, [click here](#).



Brewing Up Business Over Coffee & Conversations

Coffee Chat

2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

23601 El Toro Road
Lake Forest, 92630

February 11th 8:00AM - 9:15AM

Speaker: Jessica Cole
Cole Lab Creative

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

Includes coffee & breakfast item

Networking
Connections
Conversations

Members: \$15 (pre-registered) OR \$20 at the Door
Prospective Members: \$20 (pre-registered) OR \$25 at the Door

Register at www.lakeforestCAchamber.com

Coffee Chats with the Lake Forest Chamber

February 11th and 25th, 2026 | 8:00 - 9:15 AM |
El Pollo Loco | 23601 El Toro Road
Lake Forest, CA 92630

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

For more information, [click here](#).



Amazing Kids Ribbon Cutting

February 27, 2026 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM |
Amazing Kids | 25531 Commercentre Dr. Suite 120
Lake Forest, CA 92630

Join the City and Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce as we celebrate the Grand Opening of Amazing Kids' new location. Amazing Kids is dedicated to providing compassionate, comprehensive care to children of all abilities.

For more information, [click here](#).



Social Networking Workshop & Panel

March 4, 2026 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 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 this year's Social Media Workshop entitled Social Networking Workshop & Panel. This event will feature an interactive workshop and panel discussion where you will learn how to turn everyday work into content ideas, learn how to make your posts more engaging, and get the most out of your content!

For more information, [click here](#).

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



Export Readiness Assessment: Are You Prepared?

February 11th | 12:00 PM -1:00 PM | Webinar

95% of the world's consumers are outside the United States, but is exporting right for you? Learn how to determine whether your business and product are ready for exporting and what it takes to be successful.

During this session, you will be able to:

- Develop an understanding of the key elements to be successful at exporting
- Assess if your company is export-ready
- Assess if your product is export-ready

To register, [click here](#).

SBDC Start

February 19th | 10:00 AM -12:00 PM | Webinar

Interested in starting your own business? SBDC Start is a five-week startup series designed to give you the knowledge and skills you need to launch your own business. Gain the necessary information and skills to move confidently from idea to launch.

Week 1: Business Foundations – Thursday February 19th
Week 2: Business Planning – Thursday February 26th
Week 3: Financial Fundamentals – Thursday March 5th
Week 4: Financial Strategy – Thursday March 12th
Week 5: Marketing & Customer Engagement – Thursday March 19th



To register, [click here](#).



SBDC Small Business Clinic in Collaboration with the City of Lake Forest

February 19th | 5:00 PM -8:00 PM | Lake Forest Community Center | 100 Civic Center Drive
Lake Forest, CA 92630

The OCIE SBDC is excited to host the SBDC Small Business Clinic, a program offered in

collaboration with the City of Lake Forest, with the goal of bringing assistance and support to small business owners in the community.

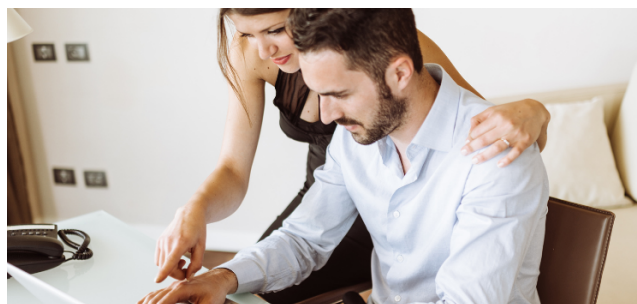
During the program, business owners will get the opportunity to meet with an SBDC consultant at no cost for a 30-minute one-on-one session/meeting to answer their immediate needs pertaining to marketing, operations, financial assessment, and more. All participants will also be aligned with a primary consultant for follow-up assistance to receive continuous, no-cost support in an effort to help them grow and expand their business.

To register, [click here](#).

Access to Capital: For all Levels

February 25th | 10:00 AM -12:00 PM | Entrepreneurial Resource Center-San Bernadino | 320 N D St. 5th Floor | San Bernadino, CA 92630

Looking for ways to fund your business? Securing financing-whether for a startup or expansion- can be challenging in any economy. This hands- on workshop takes an in-depth look at business plans and how they play a crucial role in funding success.



You'll explore different financing options, gain expert insights, and walk away with practical strategies to secure the capital you need. No matter where you are in your business journey, this workshop will give you the tools and confidence to move forward!

What You'll Learn:

- 5 C's of Credit
- What lenders are looking for
- Different funding options

To register, [click here](#).

Keep Informed

Stay Informed and Stay in Compliance

All commercial and multi-family customers now have access to brand-new waste containers. The color-coded containers comply with Senate Bill 1383 and are designed to improve the separation of landfill, recycling, and organic materials. Your participation is essential for staying compliant with local municipal codes as well as state mandates and regulations.



Property owners and managers play a key role and are responsible for

- Training staff and educating tenants
- Maintaining adequate service levels
- Posting clear signage to support proper sorting
- Placing containers in convenient, accessible locations throughout the property.

CR&R representatives and City officials will continue to conduct compliance audits at your property.

These evaluations help confirm that businesses are properly separating materials and improving recycling performance. Please note that the City may issue fines of up to \$500 per violation.

For guidance on how to correctly sort waste materials and resources, visit

www.lakeforestca.gov/trashandrecycling or contact Public Works at (949) 461-3480.

Contact CR&R Customer Service at (949) 520-6005 to optimize your service levels. By adjusting your services, you can improve your bottom line, reduce your monthly bill, and contribute to a clean and healthy environment.

Visit our Website

Business Resources



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.



OC Workforce 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 State of California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) serves as the State's leader for job growth, economic development, and business assistance efforts.

They offer no-cost consultation for incentive identification, site selection, regulatory or permitting compliance assistance, foreign direct investment, and export assistance.

SBDC

OC Workforce

GO-Biz

January Recap



New Business Reception

The City of Lake Forest and Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual New Business Reception on January 21st at the Lake Forest Civic Center. The New Business Reception offered new businesses in Lake Forest an opportunity to connect with City Staff, Chamber representatives, and fellow business owners. Attendees were able to explore resources for success, learn about different resource partners and gain information on Chamber membership benefits.

Flor Amor Ribbon Cutting

The City of Lake Forest and Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce celebrated Flor Amor's anniversary with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on January 30th. The event was coordinated by the Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce and certificates were presented to the business by the City, Chamber, and other elected officials.



Business Spotlight



Hawkins & Hawkins Tax Services

23591 El Toro Rd. Ste. 260
Lake Forest, CA, 92630

**February 2026
BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

Hawkins & Hawkins

TAX SERVICES

Hawkins & Hawkins Tax Services

From the moment you walk into Hawkins & Hawkins Tax Services, it's clear that this is a firm built on care and community. The team strives to create an environment where people feel welcome and supported. As a family-owned and operated business, they bring over a decade of combined experience in tax preparation and tax resolution, helping individuals, families, and small businesses navigate complex tax matters with confidence and peace of mind.



Hawkins & Hawkins Tax Services was founded by Ronnie Hawkins over three years ago after working at a large tax company, where he experienced firsthand how time constraints often made it difficult to provide the level of attention and care clients deserved. Recognizing how stressful and overwhelming tax issues can be, especially for those already facing financial hardship, the founders opened the firm to create a space rooted in trust, community, and advocacy. Their mission is simple: support every client by giving them the time, respect, and guidance they deserve. Operating under the philosophy “No judgment- just results,” the team is dedicated to helping clients feel understood and empowered throughout the process.

Hawkins & Hawkins chose to locate in the City of Lake Forest because of its strong support for small businesses and commitment to community growth. Being part of Lake Forest allows the firm to build lasting relationships with clients and give back to the city they serve. Their services include personal and business tax preparation, back tax filings, tax resolution services, bookkeeping and clean-up services, and ongoing tax support. This comprehensive approach ensures that clients have the guidance they need to stay compliant, reduce stress, and move forward financially.



What sets Hawkins & Hawkins apart is the combination of professional expertise and care they bring to every client. From the first greeting to the completion of services, the Hawkins team prioritizes patience and understanding. Many clients come to them feeling overwhelmed by complex financial challenges, and the team's approach

ensures that everyone is treated with respect and care. Their goal is to provide professional tax support while creating a welcoming and supportive experience for each person who walks through their doors.

Currently, Hawkins & Hawkins is offering a \$199 tax return special for individuals with one or more W-2s, making professional tax services more accessible to their community. Their deep commitment to clients and the community, paired with their expertise and approachable manner, makes Hawkins & Hawkins a trusted resource for anyone seeking tax services in the area.



Whether you're an individual needing personal tax support, a small business requiring bookkeeping assistance, or someone navigating back taxes or tax resolution, Hawkins & Hawkins Tax Services provides the expertise and genuine care to help you move forward. Their focus on community and professional results ensures that clients feel supported every step of the way.

Check out their socials below!:



Business in the News

SemiQ Expands 1200 V Gen3 SiC MOSFET Line with Launch of 7.4, 14.5, and 34 mΩ SOT-227 Modules

LAKE FOREST —

SemiQ Inc, a designer, developer and global supplier of superior silicon carbide solutions for ultra-efficient, high-performance, and high-voltage applications, has expanded its family of 1200 V Gen3 SiC MOSFETs, launching five modules that offer $r_{DS(on)}$ values of 7.4, 14.5, and 34 mΩ. SemiQ's GCMS modules, which feature Schottky Barrier Diodes (SBDs), have lower switching losses at high temperature, especially compared to non-SBDs GCMX modules. The devices target medium-voltage, high-power conversion applications, including battery chargers, photovoltaic inverters, server power supplies, and energy storage systems. All parts are screened using wafer-level gate-oxide burn-in tests exceeding 1400 V and are avalanche tested to 800 mJ.



Timothy Han, President of SemiQ, noted, "The expansion of our third-generation 1200 V SiC MOSFET family marks another key milestone in SemiQ's mission to deliver superior silicon carbide solutions for high-performing applications. By broadening our portfolio with lower resistance options and rugged, easy-to-mount SOT-227 packages, we're empowering designers to achieve higher efficiency, faster switching, and greater reliability across a wide range of energy and industrial systems."

Courtesy of *SemiQ Media*

[Read More](#)

Golden Eagle Partners with Breakthru to Distribute in AZ

LAKE FOREST —

Lake Forest-based Golden Eagle Vodka has signed a new national distribution deal with Breakthru Beverage Group, beginning with Arizona. The premium vodka brand, served locally at Mastro's, The Park Club, and Pendry Newport Beach, previously managed its own distribution in California before briefly partnering with Republic National Distributing Company, which later exited the state. Founder Dakota Blaze Rader said the company quickly returned to independent operations and has since nearly tripled its California footprint. Golden Eagle now operates in California, Nevada, Arizona, and Texas, with plans to expand into eight new markets in 2026. The 24-person Lake Forest team plans to double its operations next year as production increases 300%.



Despite a broader decline in alcohol consumption, Rader said Golden Eagle continues to grow by focusing on premium restaurant clients and investing heavily in brand ambassadors who promote its distinctive, flavor-forward vodka. 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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