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Status Update: REI coming to Laguna Hills, its third store in Orange County

The outdoor gear and apparel retailer is coming to a Laguna Hills shopping center, apparently replacing a Marshall's there.





REI Co-op is coming to Laguna Hills in late 2023, the third location for the retailer in Orange County. The store should open by next fall at Oakbrook Village. (fFile AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

By **SAMANTHA GOWEN** | sgowen@scng.com | Orange County

Register

PUBLISHED: October 31, 2022 at 9:07 a.m. | UPDATED: October 31, 2022 at 9:12 a.m.

REI Co-op is coming to Laguna Hills in late 2023, the third location for the retailer in Orange County.

The store should open by next fall at 24271 Avenida De La Carlota in Oakbrook Village, currently a Marshall's.

REI, which stands for Recreational Equipment Inc., carries a vast inventory of outdoor goods, ranging from apparel to gear for camping, cycling, running, fitness, hiking, paddling, climbing and snow sports.

The store also will have a full-service bike shop staffed by certified mechanics,



“REI first came to the Los Angeles area in 1977 through our original Manhattan Beach location, which was our fourth store in our history,” said Steve Lochan, REI’s divisional vice president of retail. “Once open, REI Laguna Hills will be our 12th store in the market...”

The Laguna Hills center is home to a Road Runner Sports shop and Trader Joe’s.

Address: 24271 Avenida De La Carlota



30 am to 1:00 pm. Thursday, Nov. 17 at the Irvine Hilton hotel. (Photo by Brandon Bell/Getty Images)

Housing forum is Nov. 17 in Irvine

OC Forum, UC Irvine, and UCI Health are hosting their annual housing event from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Thursday, Nov. 17 at the Irvine Hilton hotel.

Speakers include Steven Thomas, Alexa Washburn (National CORE), Mike Forsum (Landsea Homes), Dorian Harris (Bank of America) and moderator Steve Churm.



Fundraiser for senior programs is Nov. 2

The Orange County Community Foundation on Wednesday, Nov. 2 is hosting Preserving Dignity, a fundraiser looking to raise \$100,000 for five local nonprofits serving Orange County's older adults in need. Money raised will go to programs that will help seniors with access to proper care and resources as they age. Giving Day participants include Alzheimer's Orange County, Council on Aging – Southern California, SoulRapha, Southern California Hospice Foundation, and St. Francis Home of the Franciscan Missionary Sister of the I.C.

The organization has set a goal of \$50,000 and has a \$25,000 matching grant to incentivize donors.

To contribute, go preserving-dignity-giving-day.ocnonprofitcentral.org

Irvine, Laguna Beach playgrounds get money for makeovers

Two local playgrounds are getting makeovers after receiving money from the state with help from Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris.

Petrie-Norris presented Irvine officials with \$2.8 million to renovate the playground at Sweet Shade Neighborhood Park. The one-time allotment from the state budget will create a universal playground for residents of all ages, supporting those with disabilities as well as their parents and caregivers.

Playground features will include an adaptive swing, a sensory garden and an adjacent restroom and adult changing area. The playground also will be wheelchair accessible.

The Boys and Girls Club of Laguna Beach received \$400,000 to renovate and create a Dream Play Yard, adding areas for skateboarding, a greenhouse, raised garden beds and butterfly gardens, chalkboards of all sizes and a new play structure, turf and shade structure.

"It's going to be a tremendous resource for Laguna Beach kids of all ages," Petrie-Norris said in a statement. "I cannot wait to see the vision for the



New nonprofit has big tasks ahead at Christ Cathedral

A new nonprofit has been formed at the Diocese of Orange to manage projects and fundraising for the Christ Cathedral campus in Garden Grove.

The OLLV Foundation will be completing the Our Lady of La Vang Shrine and the creation of the St. Callistus Chapel, which will be located in the cathedral's crypt.

Elysabeth Nguyen, a Christ Cathedral parishioner, committee member and volunteer, will lead the foundation.

On the move

UBS Wealth Management USA announced that a three-person team, Sequoia Partners, has joined the firm in Irvine. The team, led by Howard L. Woo and Luke C. Schell and client service associate Cyntia Lopez, advises high-net-worth people and families.

John Schwegman is the new chief commercial officer at Brea-based Mullen Automotive, which has hired the former GM executive to lead the startup's next phase of its electric-vehicle growth. Schwegman, with 35 years of experience at GM, will oversee commercial strategies for Mullen Automotive's Commercial EV Vehicle Division.

Jackie Adler has joined Newport Beach-based Spinnaker Investment Group as director of wealth planning. She will develop financial planning strategies for the firm's clients, with a focus on advising women.





Asma Ishaq, chief executive of the beauty and supplement company Modere in Newport Beach, has been inducted into the Enterprising Women Hall of Fame. (Courtesy of Modere)

Milestones

Asma Ishaq, chief executive of the beauty and supplement company Modere in Newport Beach, has been inducted into the Enterprising Women Hall of Fame. She co-founded Jusuru International in 2009, which was acquired by Modere in February 2017 and was then appointed Modere's CEO in January 2018.

Appointments

Anaheim resident Kristine Murray, 54, has been reappointed to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, where she has served since 2018. She also has been president and CEO at KLM Strategies since 2018. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$250 per diem. Murray is registered without party preference.

Good works

Unlimited Possibilities, a Santa Ana-based nonprofit that helps children and families with disabilities, raised \$330,000 for its new pediatric therapy center



MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center's annual gala at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach raised a record \$750,000 for the Heart & Vascular Institute at Orange Coast Medical Center in Fountain Valley. Money raised at the event will support the hospital's heart program, including the next phase of development for the institute, which is slated to open in December. It will feature a second cardiac catheterization laboratory, a dedicated cardiovascular observation unit for pre-procedural admission and post-procedural recovery, and eight more telemetry-equipped private patient rooms.

The Surfrider Foundation raised just over \$250,000 at its One Ocean gala, with money going to support clean water and healthy beaches. The event also honored Shaun Tomson, a World Surfing champion and Surfrider ambassador.

Santa Ana-based Beyond Blindness and event partner 19th Hole Golf Productions raised \$91,570 at the annual Dr. Frank Villalobos Fall Golf Classic, held at the Aliso Viejo Country Club. The money raised will support programming and therapies provided by the nonprofit, which helps children with visual impairments and other disabilities.

Grants

The Anaheim Family YMCA has received a \$10,000 grant from the Orange County Youth Sports Foundation to upgrade and enhance the Y's gymnastics and swim programs. The money raised will help provide the YMCA with new mats and safety equipment. The YMCA offers gymnastics programs to youth of all ages.

Status Update is compiled from press releases by contributing writer Karen Levin and edited by Business Editor Samantha Gowen. Submit items and high-resolution photos to sgowen@scng.com. Allow at least one week for publication. Items are edited for length and clarity.

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