



Employee Spotlight: Loma Verde Staff

On December 9, hundreds of community members celebrated the City's grand reopening of Loma Verde Community Center. Users were amazed at the beautifully remodeled recreation and aquatics center funded by Measure P, the half-cent sales tax approved by voters in 2016. No one was more excited than the Loma Verde staff who work at the facility! They were continuously involved in construction details and logistics throughout the nearly two-year project. Led by Aquatics Supervisor III Karina Craig, along with Aquatics Supervisor II Caroline Lechner, and Recreation Supervisor II David Ramos, the employees are thrilled with the results.

Craig began working at Loma Verde as a lifeguard at age 16. "I love my job and being able to give back to the community," she said. "I grew up in Chula Vista and took swim lessons and swam on a club team at Loma Verde. This was my second home!"

Lechner, a 15-year employee, also grew up playing water polo and swimming at Loma Verde. "For me, getting to see this new facility is amazing," she said. "I'm so excited to see the next generation of children use this gorgeous new facility. It gives them a lot of pride in their community."

Ramos has been employed in Recreation for 21 years having been at Otay Recreation Center, Norman Park Senior Center, Heritage Community Center and now Loma Verde. He states, "the programming we can do will excel us. The new equipment and spaces that we didn't have previously will bring in large crowds. Residents from all over the City can enjoy the facility." Loma Verde now offers programming for basketball, pickleball for adults and kids, as well as other indoor sports. *Pictured above, Craig, Lechner, and Ramos.*



Continues next page

Essential to maintaining two new pools and a splash pad is the dedicated City Public Works Pump Crew. Members of the crew worked tirelessly to make sure the pools and splash pad were ready for opening day and beyond. The City is fortunate to have them, enabling the facility to stay open and functioning as much as possible. Pump crew personnel check the pools every day and are on call as needed. Special thanks to Supervisor Joe Allshouse, Elmer Lucero, Pedro Martinez, Michael Stromp, Robert Thompson and Gabe Torres. "These are the men behind the scene that keeps Aquatics running," exclaimed Craig.

The community center consists of a new multi-purpose gymnasium, rooms for dance, crafts, fitness, and games, as well as restrooms, pool shower/changing rooms, and classrooms. The center previously offered one pool. Aquatics features a new recreation pool, a 50-meter competition pool, a splash pad, and classroom/party room. The recreation pool is ideal for swim lessons and water play, while the competition pool is fully equipped to host swim and water polo competitions, as well as lap swimming.

[Visit the webpage to see all the recreation and aquatic programming at Loma Verde.](#) Thank you to the great staff at Loma Verde and Public Works! We appreciate you.