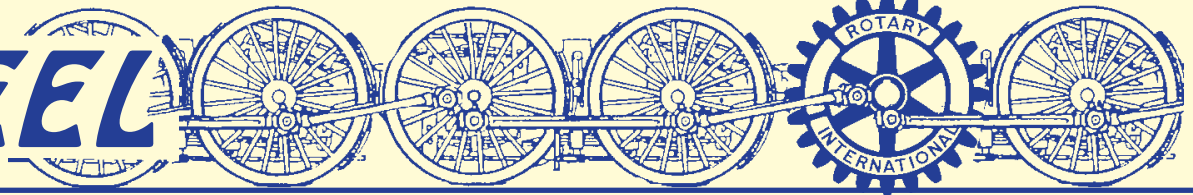


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



March 6, 2026
Vol. 77, No. 32
Editor:
Alan Dunham

The Way It Was

Enjoy the Green Hills.

In the Beginning

Phil Dougherty opened the meeting at Novato City Hall. President Lynn is attending a leadership conference.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mark Bosch led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Thought for the Day

Chris DeGabriele gave the Thought for the Day which was basically “the more you give, the more you receive.”

Guests of Rotarians

Jay Magtibay with Tom Rickey and John Redwine with Pat Eklund.

Announcements

Speaker Series

Novato Speakers Series is continuing March 23.

Environmental Sustainability Presentation

Randy Baker gave a report on home Fire Safety.

History of Novato

Phil read a list compiled by President Lynn of the History and interesting facts of Novato.

Community Care

Jim Spilman is recovering from Knee Replacement Surgery. Please send a funny card to help keep his spirits up.

Member Directories

New Member Directories are available. See Sonia Seeman or Patty Dougherty.

Featured Rotarian

Rene Prado shared his life’s history which included being born in Mexico. He changed school 16 times from K to 12 while moving. He held many diverse jobs. He finally ended up as a computer technician.

Program

The program was a state of the City of Novato.

Amy Cunningham, City Manager gave an overview of the budget and some of the projects related to Measure M.

Katie Gauntlet Community Services Director review the programs which are designed to serve residents of all ages. See NovatoFun.Org.

The Winner

Winners this week was Peter Oser.

Volunteers Needed! Help Pack Easter Dinners with North Marin Community Services

On March 31, 2026, join us to help pack food for 270 families so they can enjoy an Easter Dinner!

We need six volunteers to help pack the food in individual bags beginning at 9:00a.m. and ending about 11:30a.m. We will need the same number of folks to hand out the dinners to the families at 1:30p.m. the same day. If you can sign up for one of the times needed, great. If you can help both times, even better. Please contact me if you have any questions and if you would like to help on March 31.

Larry Harrison
415 250 5099
Lharrison1636@gmail.com

The BIG WHEEL

P.O. Box 657
Novato, CA 94948

The Four-Way Test

"Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

Captain Gil Rud From the Prairie to the Pacific: A Blue Angels Journey Thurs., April 23, 2026 7 pm to 8:30 pm



Captain Gil Rud will share his journey from rural North Dakota to the cockpits of U.S. Navy jet fighters, and ultimately captain of a flagship aircraft carrier, USS Constellation, responsible for the welfare of 5,000+ sailors.

His success as a naval aviator led to the ultimate reward- "Boss" of the world-famous Blue Angels, overseeing their successful transition to the F/A-18 Hornet.

Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15
www.novatospeakerseries.com

Upcoming Programs & Events

March

- Mar. 13 **West African Project Fairs** - Mike Morrissey and Evan Blacksea
- Mar. 20 **Meeting** - Eames Institute
- Mar. 27 **Club Social** - Adobe Creek Brewing

April

- Apr. 3 **No Meeting**
- Apr. 10 **CAT/Environmental Sustainability**
- Randy Baker
- Apr. 17 **Novato Sustainability** - Gretchen Shubeck
- Apr. 23 **Novato Speaker Series**
- Apr. 24 **No Meeting**

May

- May 1 **Youth Services** - Ross Millerick
- May 8 **Teacher Recognitions**

Rotary



Club of Novato

YES, BIG WHEEL EDITORS ARE STILL **NEEDED**

*Support the most interesting
Rotary Club ever!*

*Help share our meetings
with family, friends
and members unable to attend.*

*All you need to do is supply typed
notes of the meeting. NO Formatting!*

Contact Bill Vespa at
zip@sonic.net

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

- Lynn Dawson**
President
- Peter Pelavin**
Vice President
- Marisa Remak**
Secretary
- Chris DeGabriele**
Treasurer
- Francesco Arezzo**
R.I. President
- Mitone Griffiths**
District Governor
- Judy Johnson**
*Assistant
District Governor*

DIRECTORS

- John Reuscher**
Logistics & Facilities
- Phil Dougherty**
Public Image & Awareness
- Marcus Combs**
Community Service
- Gloria Dunn-Violin & Randy Baker**
*Environmental Sustainability
(NR-CAT)*
- Holly Axtell**
International Service
- Jorg Puhr-Westerheide**
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)
- Ross Millerick**
Youth Service
- Patty Dougherty & Sonia Seeman**
Membership
- Sonia Seeman**
Jonas Center Liaison
- Peter Oser**
President, Nova-Ro Corp.
- Brad Williams**
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment
- Tom Rickey**
Past President



Flood Reduction in Action at Loma Verde Elementary School

Something amazing has happened at **Loma Verde Elementary School**. This past year, SMS teamed up with the Rotary Club of Novato and the incredible Loma Verde community to tackle a long-standing flooding issue. By installing a bioswale (a type of green infrastructure), what was once a problem area is now a living outdoor laboratory where students investigate watershed health, biodiversity, habitat restoration, and real-world climate solutions.

And then came the ultimate test: the recent 30-year storms that swept through Marin County. While many areas experienced serious flooding, Loma Verde's campus stayed dry. The bioswale did exactly what it was designed to do by capturing and slowing stormwater before it could overwhelm the grounds. One teacher even arrived at school with an extra pair of shoes, fully prepared to wade through floodwaters... only to discover they weren't needed at all.

That's climate resilience in action. It's hands-on learning, thoughtful design, and community partnership. And it's proof that when we invest in nature-based solutions, they show up for us when it matters most.

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

The application for membership of the following was (were) approved by the Board of Directors and the Membership Committee:

- **Randall Lee: Non-Profit CFO**
- **Laurie Vogensen: Hospice Nurse, Retired**

If there are no objections by:

Thursday, March 6

he/she/they will be inducted on or about:

Friday, March 13

Marisa Remak
Secretary

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



845 Vallejo Avenue, Downtown Novato
www.handjtire.com
hjtire@vbbn.com

Burt Hoffmann
John Da Silva

(415) 897-1185

- Tires
- Brakes
- Alignment
- Shocks
- Oil Changes
- Tuneup

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor

Limited Sponsor Opportunity!

Show your support of the RCN and target people that share your commitment to supporting Rotary.

Limit of two sponsors!

Size: 1/4 column

Frequency of publication: 3x or 4x per month

Distribution: Over 130 like minded recipients

Open Rate: 68%

Cost \$600 per year (\$15 per issue, prev. 3yr avg.)

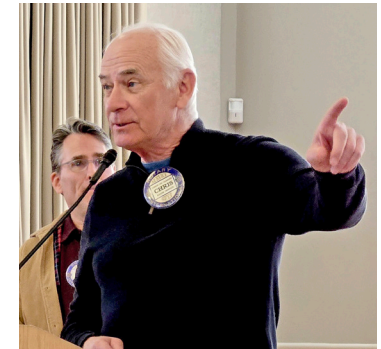
Contact Bill Vespa: zip@sonic.net



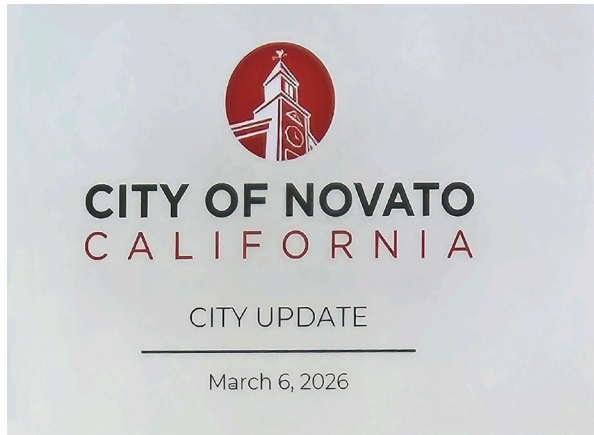
We met off-site at the Novato City Hall and ate boxed lunches.



Mark Bosch led us in the pledge.



Chris DeGabriele gave us a lyrical thought for the day from the Malvina Reynolds song, "Magic Penny".



City Manager, Amy Cunningham.



Past President Tom introduced his guest, Jay Magtibay.



Past President Jorg introduced his guest, his wife Linda.



Director of Park & Rec. and Community Services, Katie Gauntlet.



Rene Prado was our Featured Rotarian.



Randy Baker spoke about fire safety in the home.



The Program was about the state of the City Finances and Services. Reports were given by Amy Cunningham and Katie Gauntlet.

