

# Chulatarian

Rotary  
Club of Chula Vista 

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

rotary 

ROTARY CLUB  
OF CHULA VISTA

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Rotary   
Club of Chula Vista

The weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Chula Vista  
Chartered February 16, 1926 - Club Number 908 - District 5340  
Meets Weekly, Noon, 4475 Bonita Road, Bonita (Chula Vista Golf Course)

**LOLITA RICO**  
**CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Friday, April 10, 2026, Noon**

**INNOVATION**

Discover how Chula Vista Elementary School District is reimagining education through its award-winning station experiences for students in grades 4–6.

This presentation will showcase seven innovative, hands-on learning environments designed to help every student uncover their unique strengths, explore their interests, and connect them to real-world career pathways.

Get a glimpse into how they are preparing the next generation with the skills, confidence, and vision needed to thrive in the future world of work.

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## MARCH 27, 2026 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

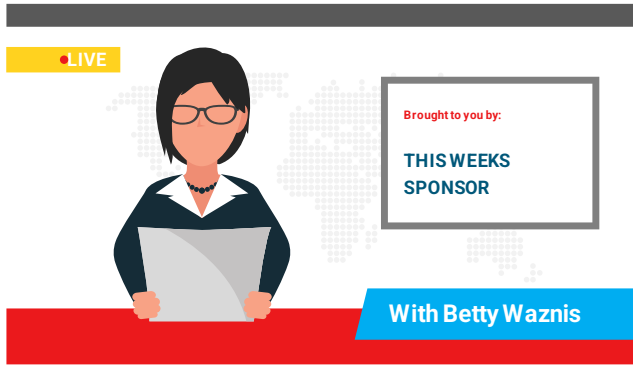


L-R: Odette Ordunez, President of the Chula Vista—Eastlake Rotary Club, presented a check in the amount of \$2000 as their contribution to the Project Mercy Baja Tijuana Home build. Thanks friends!

Caltrans Corridor Director Dillon Moore and his team provided updates on upcoming highway improvements and several currently underway. He encouraged us to log onto the website for regular updates.



L-R: This week's sponsor of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, Chris Lewis with lucky drawing winners Mike Bell, Gus Slovinsky and Diane Flint Wages.



**JIM BIDDLE  
NEWS AT NOON**

**BY  
BETTY WAZNIS**

Hello, everyone. Welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Chris Lewis and The Lewis Group.

According to data released last week by San Diego County's Community Health Statistics Unit, county residents are living slightly longer — 81.5 years — than either Americans or Californians. A child born in San Diego in 2024 is expected to live to 81.5 years, continuing a long-term trend of improved health outcomes across the county and an increase over last year's data. The national average life expectancy is 79 years, and California's average is 81.2 years. San Diego County's women continue to live longer than men, averaging 84 compared to 79 years. Where you find yourself in the county does matter, with Coronado recording an average 87.2-year life expectancy while Lemon Grove is on the other end of the spectrum, notching the county's lowest life expectancy at 78.7 years. The data released last week shows that cancer remains the region's leading cause of death, followed by heart disease, stroke, unintentional injuries and Alzheimer's Disease.

Dudley's Bakery, must-stop roadside attraction for hungry travelers on their way to Julian since 1963, has been sold. Dudley's new owners have a reputation for running successful long-time restaurant operations and plan to keep Dudley's open while updating and improving bakery offerings. Dudley's new owners are Michel Malécot, who has run The French Gourmet restaurant-bakery business in San Diego since 1979, and Michael Brewer, who owns the 70-year-old Sire Bar and Grill in Riverside and Alcoholic Beverage Consulting Service in Temecula.

The longtime friends and business associates plan to reinvigorate Dudley's, gradually increase its baking capacity, bringing back some of the breads that had been discontinued, and expanding its breakfast pastry line with signature French Gourmet items, such as fruit tarts, croissants and baguettes. They would also like to rebuild the wholesale operation with regional supermarkets, so customers don't have to drive to Santa Ysabel to buy a loaf and also turn Dudley's outdoor dining patio into a beer and wine garden where they can serve picnic lunches with locally made craft beer, wine and ciders and hold weekend wine tasting events.

Our hometown 137-foot wooden schooner Bill of Rights, built in 1972, has spent decades sailing along both U.S. coasts and now serves as a training platform for young people through programs such as the U.S. Navy Sea Cadets and Junior ROTC. Retired Navy veteran Capt. Don Johnson purchased the vessel about 13 years ago with a group of friends for \$60,000 and has since relied on volunteers and program funding to keep the ship operating. In a very unexpected turn of events, her home marina's new property owner, Safe Harbor Marina here in Chula Vista, decided to not renew her lease. The ship has 60 days to find a new home.

The Padres season opener was yesterday on a beautiful San Diego afternoon against the Detroit Tigers, who won 8 to 2. We have another chance to win in the second game in the three-game series tonight at 6:40. Something new this year - After years of testing in the minor leagues and during spring training, MLB is introducing automated ball-strike (ABS) challenges, to the regular season. Batters, catchers, and pitchers can now contest ball and strike calls by plate umpires. Reviews will be conducted using a network of cameras positioned around the field perimeter. When this system was used in the 2025 minor league season, just over 1% of pitches were challenged, with roughly half of those calls overturned.

Today's sponsor, Chris Lewis, is the owner/broker of the Lewis Group established in 2013 to offer a wide range of residential and commercial, sales, leasing and property management services. Chris began his real estate career in 1989 and in 1993 joined McMillin Realty where he became one of the top producers, with sales topping 10 million dollars when the average sales price was \$189,000! In addition, Chris is a designated member of the Certified Commercial Investment Institute. The Lewis Group continues to offer top commercial, residential and property management services throughout San Diego County. He looks forward to assisting anyone seriously considering the purchase, lease, or management of real property. Chris has been a member of the Chula Vista Rotary Club since 1989 and served as President in 2001-2002. This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Chris Lewis and The Lewis Group.



## MEET THE RAMIREZ BAYLON FAMILY This Year's Tijuana Home Build Family

### Ramirez Baylón family (M19 L21 Las Praderas)

**Mother: Socorro (43)**

**Father: Gerardo (44)**

**Daughter: Shaila (19)**

**Son: Ricardo (16)**

**Son: Bruce Gerardo (14)**

**Daughter: Lidia Aurora (11)**

**Daughter: Marieli (21)**



**Granddaughter: Yojari Leinani (3)**

Gerardo was born in Mexico City and Socorro in Guerrero. Gerardo migrated to Tijuana 25 years ago and Socorro 21 years ago in search of jobs and a better life. They met at a Christmas Eve party and have now been together for 21 years.

Gerardo polarizes car windows and earns approx 2500 pesos per week (@\$139) . *In his own words: "Life is difficult in this colonia. We don't have running water, electricity, or sewage services. We buy water from a tanker truck, and for electricity, we use a generator that my brother lent us. Our little house is not built with safe materials. In fact, a few days ago, the roof blew off because it was made of wood and canvas, but it couldn't hold up to the strong wind. We had to get another canvas to cover it because water was getting in when it rains.*

*My two oldest children are working because they couldn't continue their studies due to financial reasons. My daughters would also like to continue studying, but right now we can't afford it. Only my youngest daughter is finishing elementary school, and my granddaughter is still too young to start school.*

*The most important thing for my family is to have a safe place during these rainy times when we are struggling with the changes in weather. The truth is that a house would be a blessing because it would take weight off our shoulders and give us peace of mind.*

*I am very grateful to you and to God for giving us this blessing. I wish you all the best and may God bless each of your lives because you do tremendous work in providing homes for families. Thank you."*

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR ROTARIANS!**



**Duane Buckingham - April 4**

**Mike Green - April 5**

**Betty Waznis - April 11**

**Lisa Johnson - April 19**

**Hugo Thomaz - April 27**

**Wendi Messina - April 28**

**GOOD-BYE POLIO  
THANKS ROTARY**



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# SOUTH BAY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES Network

**Family  
Community Cleanup**

Bringing together the best in all of us for a lasting impact!



**Chula Vista  
and  
Eastlake Clubs**

**Saturday  
April 25, 2026  
9:00am**

**Creek to Bay Cleanup**

**24TH ANNUAL**  
Largest environmental cleanup during  
Earth Week in San Diego County

**Location:**  
Marina View Park  
900 Marina View Pkwy  
Chula Vista



Event  
Sponsor:  
  
CITY OF  
CHULA VISTA

**RSVP:** Sign-up sheet will be passed around at the lunch meetings,  
or contact Tina Matthias: (619) 738-4188 Text/VM

**Make a difference in your community!**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**TIJUANA HOME BUILD— Saturday, April 11, 6:30 am—all day**

**MULTI-DISTRICT MEETING—APRIL 24-26 @ GAYLORD PACIFIC**

**ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY—SAT, April 28**

**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE RED SHOE DAY—Wed, May 20**

**INSTALLATION/OUTSTALLATION LUNCHEON  
Friday, June 5—Noon**

**DISTRICT 5340 GOVERNORS' DINNER—June 26, 5:00 pm**

**2026 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
TAIPEI, TAIWAN—June 13-17**