

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista 

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GOOD



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)

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
JAN MELLINGER
Friday, April 24, 2026, Noon



Our very own member (and licensed therapist) Jan Mellinger will provide an excellent refresher on communications—key to all of our daily interactions.

We can often fall into various patterns which can hamper our ability to get our message across as intended.

Jan will share insights from renowned experts in the field and draw on her own professional experiences where talking is a valuable and effective tool.

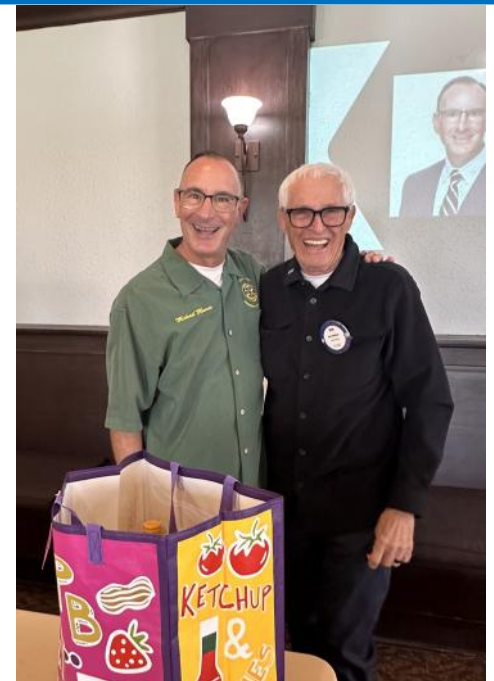
Above: Jan—the Trivia Queen herself (or so she thinks...) - gave up her playing time to volunteer as a Judge at our recent Trivia Night event. Service Above Self!

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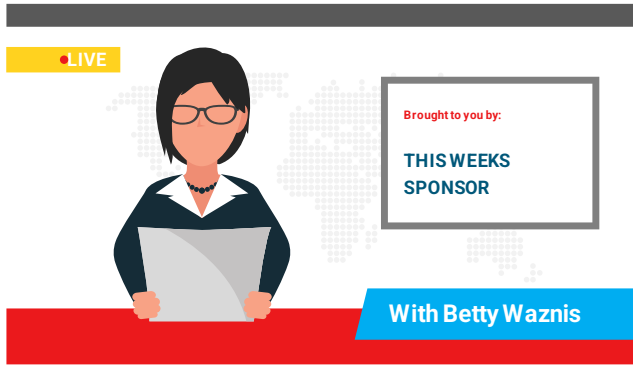
APRIL 17, 2026 HIGHLIGHTS



Michael Monaco donated a limited edition Thomas Kincadee print dedicated to Rotary and held an auction for it. Mike Bell was the lucky member who got to take it home with a winning bid of \$225. Thank you Mike! Angela Shafer-Payne, Airport VP gave us a fascinating look into the inner workings of our regional facility. Great questions!



This week's sponsor of the Jim Biddle News at Noon Michael Monaco with the drawing winners Maria Kachadoorian, Michael Oliveri and Ken Weimer.



**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 Michael Monaco.

Chula Vista Center, like many malls across America, is going in a new direction. Last year, LA-based retail and office developer Primestor bought the 32-acre site for \$86 million. The company has been making cosmetic changes and conducting market research. Now, they are finalizing plans for a major overhaul. Plans include a "redeveloped" east side of the mall, including the area surrounding the movie theater. Renovation will include the theater escalator, which frequently breaks down. Another major feature of the new plan is a full-service grocery store like a Ralph's or Vons. The proposed renovation will join other changes already underway at the mall. At the site of the former Sears, roughly 700 new medium-density homes are going up, some priced below \$600,000.

After more than three decades of pursuing a university presence in the city, the Chula Vista City Council unanimously approved a lease agreement Tuesday with San Diego State University to bring a nursing program to the newly built Millenia Library building. The 10-year lease grants SDSU approximately 6,500 square feet of space. Annual rent is set at \$1. The city will fund an estimated \$2.7 million in tenant improvements. The nursing program is expected to launch this August with 50 students. Mayor John McCann cited a regional workforce study conducted with Southwestern College in explaining the focus on nursing. He described nursing as by far the number one degree in demand.

The Millenia Library building will house a Chula Vista Public Library branch and will include spaces for SDSU's Global Campus operations and the Sweetwater Union High School District. The city is in negotiations with the Chula Vista Entertainment Complex for the building's remaining two floors.

SeaWorld San Diego will soon light up the night sky over Mission Bay in a whole new way as it embarks on a yearlong test of a more eco-friendly alternative to its frequent fireworks displays. On Wednesday, the California Coastal Commission approved a coastal development permit for a one-year pilot program — the first of its kind in the state — that allows the San Diego theme park to conduct up to 110, 15-minute drone shows, each using as many as 1,000 illuminated autonomous aircraft. The permit is a first by the state agency, which has not previously considered the use of drones at this scale over sensitive coastal habitat.

Drone usage is considered to be a welcome replacement to SeaWorld's current practice of launching 1,000 to 1,750 fireworks canisters per show. The replacement of the combustible canisters with reusable drones will produce less noise, reduce bird strikes and eliminate water quality impacts. The theme park is working with drone show company Nova SkyStories, which has put on displays at the FIFA World Cup, the Vatican and many outdoor music venues.

Padres fans have a lot to be happy about this week. The team swept the Mariners in a 3-game home series, giving them an 8-game winning streak, including a thrilling come-from-behind 7 to 6 win on Wednesday night — here's the victory celebration.

Today's sponsor, Michael Monaco, joined the Rotary Club of Chula Vista in 2005 sponsored by Lourdes Valdez. He has held every position in this club from Committee Chair to Past President. He was also our club's Assistant District Governor in 2024 and 2025. Today Michael splits his time between SB Elevate, a non-profit business education, advocacy, and mentorship organization that he co-founded with Kevin Marshall, working on a never ending honey-do list from his wife Sabrina, playing golf, wine-making, SCUBA diving, and spending time with his three wonderful grandchildren Jolene, Juliet, and newborn Jonas.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Michael Monaco.

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TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP!

The Just In Time My First Home event is Saturday, May 9th.

We need 5 volunteers to help set up a young person who has transitioned out of the foster care system.

Volunteers will help as shoppers, movers, and set up.

Food drive to help stock the Just In Time food pantry will be May 1. Items to bring include the following:

- Ready-To-Eat Items (Tuna Helper, Protein Shakes, Microwavable Rice and Beans, etc.)
- Snacks (Protein Bars, Applesauce, Nut Butters, Jerky, Trail Mix)
- Canned Goods (Vegetables, Fruits, Soups, Pastas, Beans)
- Dry Goods (Rice, Pasta, Instant Noodles, Cereal, Quinoa, Oatmeal, Granola)
- Cooking Essentials (Seasonings, Cooking Oils, Flour)

CONTACT BOB SILVAS FOR MAY 9— bsilvas@silvygroup.com



WORLD
IMMUNIZATION
WEEK 24-30 APRIL

Rotary  

The banner features a group of diverse people, including a woman in a blue headscarf, a woman holding a child, and a man in a white lab coat, all smiling. The background is a vibrant purple and yellow pattern.

GOOD-BYE POLIO
THANKS ROTARY



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TIJUANA HOME BUILD HIGHLIGHTS



At the top of a mountain in a new community named Las Praderas, new homes are being built daily. The best 11 year old helper ever! The youngest sibling Aurora helped in so many ways.



The Ramirez-Baylon family of 9 all fit into this leaky, dirt floor home. Fernando de los Santos was busy—taking photos, painting and demonstrating how the solar light system works to the mom Socorro. Our Club also provided exterior solar lights and the Eastlake Club provided a fan light for the interior of the home.

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Family
Community Cleanup

SOUTH BAY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES Network

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



Chula Vista
and
Eastlake Clubs

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

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
Creek to Bay Cleanup

OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY—SAT, April 25

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE RED SHOE DAY—Wed, May 20

BIKE EVENT—MAY 30—@ Child Development Association (Bonita)

**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**