

Chulatarian

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)**

**MAYOR JOHN MCCANN
CITY OF CHULA VISTA
Friday, August 14, 2026, Noon**

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Mayor McCann is a lifelong Chula Vista resident, a decorated Navy veteran, and a proud father and grandfather. Raised by a single mother who worked at the Rohr/Goodrich factory, he attended Chula Vista public schools from kindergarten through high school. He went on to earn his Master's degree in Economics from San Diego State University and worked at the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Mayor McCann served our country with distinction for 26 years in the United States Navy, both on active duty and in the reserves. His service includes a year deployment to Mosul, Iraq, during the Global War on Terrorism, as well as a forward-deployed expeditionary role on the Korean Peninsula.

His commitment to public service continued here at home. Since the 1990s, he has served our city as a member of the Housing Commission, the Planning Commission, then as a City Councilmember beginning in 2002, and now as Mayor since 2022. Under his leadership, Chula Vista has balanced its budget without cutting services, strengthened public safety, addressed homelessness, created thousands of jobs—including the approval of the Gaylord Hotel—and expanded opportunities for homeownership.

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CLUB HIGHLIGHTS - August 7, 2026

President Rasha Roshdy called the meeting to order. Autumn Reid gave the invocation and Chuck Bevan led us in song.

Bill Torre introduced the one guest present who turned out to be a local student, Alejandra Cain, we helped along the way through Interact at Olympian High and a scholarship. She is now in her final year at Michigan State. Bob Silvas introduced her and she provided an update for us.

The Club sang “Happy Birthday!” to the two Rotarians with August birthdays—Ryan Crawford and Bernard Hernandez. Ryan’s birthday was actually on August 7th and he chose to celebrate with all of us.

President Rasha continued the next episode of “Who Has My Gavel?” She asked Reid and Beta Dinsmore if they had it. Remember it has to be the truth Rotarians! They said they did not have it.

Gary Bryant shared that Chuck Day with Ronald McDonald House will be retiring this fall. His successor has been named.

We thank Chuck for all he has accomplished and wish him all the best in his next chapter.

Trivia Night will be Friday, March 5 - mark your calendars!

Betty Waznis provided the Jim Biddle News at Noon, sponsored by Rochelle Carroll. The lucky drawing winners were Mora de Murguia, Ken Weimer, and guest Alejandra Cain!

The Club held its Assembly. Each committee chair provided overviews of their activities. Tana and John Lorah are co-chairs of the Membership committee and invited members to join. She is considering a new onboarding process and re-institute steps for new members to complete before receiving their blue membership badge.

Kimberley Marshall chairs the Scholarship Committee which will now include Eastlake High and a district-wide scholarship for vocational education.

Gary Bryant shared that Community Programs will undertake most (if not more) of the same activities as before. They plan to add the major Meal Packing project that our friends from the Sunrise Rotary began.

Carmen Sandoval invited members to the International Projects Committee. They will be meeting Tuesday, August 18 at noon at La Bella’s Pizza on Third Avenue. We are continuing our partnership with Altrusa—this time on a Reading Corner at one of the orphanages in Tijuana. The Tijuana Club has invited us to join them at their meetings, Three Kings events for disabled kids and other proposed projects. President Rasha has new initiatives including desks, books, healthcare in Africa and more to consider. These will be discussed at the Committee meeting.

Bob Silvas told us about the lasting impact of the Model United Nations program and the broadly expanded Interact Clubs at local high school.

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**THIS WEEK'S
SPONSOR**

With Betty Waznis

JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON

**BY
BETTY WAZNIS**

Hello, everyone and welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today brought to you by Rochelle Carroll and the Trivia Night Committee.

Plaza Bonita has new owners that are looking to make the 45-year-old mall an even more popular destination for the community. A joint venture between private equity real estate firm Henderson Park and Los Angeles-based developer Lowe purchased the one million square-foot mall. The property was sold for \$201.5 million on July 21. They plan to improve entrances and customer areas and expand the mall's dining options with an emphasis on specialty and local eateries. The new owners are also considering adding residential units to the site. Built in 1981 and renovated in 2011, Plaza Bonita features more than 150 shops and restaurants, is currently 95% leased and draws around 11 million visitors a year.

More jumpers than ever are coming to Sunset Cliffs. Since June 1, lifeguards have performed 32 water rescues there. Just in the past week, a 17-year-old boy suffered six fractured vertebrae after jumping and striking rocks. Another man fell onto the rocks while climbing the cliff face and sustained traumatic injuries before being rescued with help from an off-duty Coast Guard member. City law bans jumping into the water from higher than five feet due to severe risks, which are heightened this week by rip tides and large waves from Hurricane Genevieve. Despite being continually dispersed by police and rangers, jumpers frequently return. Nearby residents report growing crowds of up to 150 people on weekends, fueled by social media shots of The Arch, leading to littering, public disruption, and inexperienced swimmers tackling dangerous conditions.

Turns out we humans aren't the only ones who love having pets! A fascinating study from the University of Oxford released last week found that non-human primates also enjoy bonding with other species. Researchers looked into 303 different real-life cases—from scientific papers to media stories—where monkeys and apes were caught carrying, grooming, playing with, and even adopting other animals. Think gray langurs petting squirrels, snub-nosed monkeys playing with pigs, and capuchin monkeys raising a baby marmoset like one of their own. What makes this so special is that these interactions aren't about survival or mutual benefit; there's no practical reward in it for them. Anthropologists suggest that this natural curiosity, empathy, and desire to care for other creatures might be the early evolutionary building blocks of our own deep connection with animals.

The Padres won last night and earned a crucial series split against the Diamondbacks. They're now within a game of a playoff spot. They return home to face the Astros in a 6:40 game tonight featuring new trade acquisition Cy Young award winner Robbie Ray coming over from the Giants.

Today's sponsor, Rochelle Carroll, is excited to serve as your Trivia Night Chair again this year. After such a successful event last year, she knows we can make this year's Trivia Night even bigger and better.

Thanks to your incredible generosity through donations and table sales, we raised approximately \$12,000 last year! With another outstanding committee and the continued support of our club, she's confident we can build on that success and raise even more to support the important work we do in our community and beyond.

And remember - you don't have to be a trivia buff to join the fun! Trivia Night is really about coming together for an evening of food, fun, fellowship, and fundraising, while celebrating and sharing all the amazing things our club does to make a difference. So, mark your calendars for March 2027 and plan to join us at The Venue at Eastlake for another memorable evening! We'll begin planning at the end of August, so more information and a confirmed date is coming soon. Let's make this the best Trivia Night yet!

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Rochelle Carroll and the Trivia Night Committee.



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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - August 7, 2026



L-R: Lucky drawing winners, pictured with sponsor Rochelle Carroll, were Mora de Murguia, guest and former Interact student Alejandra Cain, and Betty Waznis.



Birthday boy Ryan Crawford celebrating his big day with all of us.

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WE NEED THESE ITEMS!

CLASSROOM ESSENTIALS



- Pencils
- Erasers
- Notebooks
- Folders
- Loose-leaf paper

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES



- Dry erase markers
- Printer paper

ART & CREATIVITY SUPPLIES



- Crayons
- Markers
- Glue sticks
- Scissors

HEALTH & HYGIENE ITEMS



- Disinfecting wipes
- Tissues
- Hand sanitizer



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR EDUCATORS!

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



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