

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)

SOFIA ROBITAILLE & IRMA VELASCO
SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE UPDATE
Friday, July 18, 2025, Noon

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Sofia Salgado-Robitaille and Irma Martinez Velasco will share what is new at Southwestern College. From new buildings to new programs and events, there's a lot happening at SWC that you should know about. Plus they will also talk about the new Alumni Association and how folks can get involved and support our students.

Southwestern Community College District is the premier public institution of higher education in Southern San Diego County that serves a diverse community of students by providing quality academic programs, comprehensive student support services that ensure equitable access, and clear pathways to student success.

Southwestern Community College District promotes learning and success to prepare students to become critical thinkers and engaged life-long learners/global citizens. The District is committed to continuous improvements through the use of data-informed planning, implementation, and evaluation.

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR JULY 11, 2025

President Ben Koala called the meeting to order. Carmen Sandoval gave the invocation. Chuck Bevans led us in song.

President-elect Rasha Roshdy introduced guests and visiting Rotarians. President Ben reviewed upcoming programs.

Betty Waznis provided the Jim Biddle News at Noon, which was sponsored by Ben Vallejos, of the Living Coast Discovery Center. He told us that after 16 years, Lori Torio has accepted a new position elsewhere—congratulations to Lori. We will miss her and wish her all the best. Ben highlighted their major annual fundraiser on August 2 for Living Coast. He invited members to attend. Get tickets online or from Ken Weimer.

The lucky drawing winners were: David Hoffman, Jeanette Badal, and Bob Silvas. Bonus wine only winners were Monica Lehpamer and Bob Bliss (as a gift from Rasha, who does not partake).

President-elect Rasha welcomed new member Ivy Fernandez into our club. She is a small business owner, attended Pepperdine University and is sponsored by President Ben. Ivy will also serve as the Executive Treasurer and handle our club and foundation books. Welcome Ivy!

Our guest speaker was Kristen Fogel, San Diego Writers Ink. She gave an interesting talk about the power of the written word. Through their workshops, groups and online activities, they have encouraged many people to express themselves and tap their creativity. A very interesting and thought provoking talk. Thanks Kristen!



Welcome to our new member, Ivy Fernandez. She is a CPA, owns her own business and is our new Executive Treasurer. Her sponsor is President Ben.

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JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

LIVE



Brought to you by:

THIS WEEK'S
SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone, and welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today, Ben Vallejo, the Living Coast Discover Center and its coming Farm to Bay celebration and fundraiser.

Republic Services employees in Chula Vista resumed trash pickups Wednesday after several days off the job to show solidarity with striking union members in Boston, disrupting collection for thousands of residents. Republic said its employees were resuming regular service "as quickly as possible and asked customers to leave their containers out until they are serviced. Since July 1, hundreds of Republic Services employees in Boston have been on strike. Since then, picket lines have extended nationwide, including in Chula Vista and at some facilities in San Diego. As of Wednesday, negotiations in Boston continued. During the local work stoppage, Republic Services sent drivers from out of state to collect trash, but prioritizing hospitals and nursing homes. Service is expected to return to normal by Monday. Additional collection crews and extended hours will be used to catch up on missed pickups.

It's getting easier to get to the Chula Vista bayfront. On Wednesday, with a giant pair of golden scissors in front of the new Gaylord Pacific Resort and Convention Center on Chula Vista's redeveloping waterfront, Mayor John McCann cut the ribbon inaugurating a new shuttle service that will connect hotel and bayfront visitors to destinations elsewhere in the city. The shuttle, which starts running this week, will take riders on two routes from the Gaylord resort to stops at trolley stations on E and H streets, Third Avenue, the Chula Vista Center shopping mall and the Living Coast Discovery Center wildlife sanctuary. The 12-passenger electric Ford vans will depart every 15 minutes and currently are free to ride. The city initially will pay for the service using \$2.7 million in revenue generated via MTS billboards. City leaders said the shuttle is part of an ongoing effort to leverage tourism generated by the Gaylord resort and boost business activity in west Chula Vista.

The largest piece of Mars on Earth sold for 5.3 million dollars at Sotheby's yesterday, the most valuable meteorite ever auctioned. Martian meteorites are rare, composing only about 400 of the more than 77,000 officially recognized meteorites on earth. The 54-pound rock was discovered in November 2023 by a meteorite hunter in the Sahara Desert. The rock has a distinct Martian reddish color and is partially composed of glass forged from the heat and pressure applied to Mars' surface when an asteroid struck it, propelling the chunk 140 million miles through space. It has the scientific name NWA 16788, referencing its discovery in Northwest Africa, and was validated as a Martian rock in the leading journal for meteor science earlier this year.

The Padres are back on schedule after our four All Stars helped the National League to victory on Tuesday. It was a 6-6 tie at the end of the ninth, then the NL outhomered the AL, 4 homers to 3, in a historic six-man swing-off tiebreaker to win. Next up for the Padres—a ten-game road trip. First a three-game series against the Nationals starting today at 3:45, then to Miami for three against the Marlins, and finally 4 against the St Louis Cardinals.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today sponsored by Ben Vallejo, the Living Coast Discover Center and its upcoming Farm to Bay celebration and fundraiser.

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MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS—JULY 18, 2025



L-R: Lori Torio has left the Living Coast, so long-lost Ben Vallejos came to visit and brought sponsor gifts.
David Hoffman, Bob Silvas and Jeanette Badal won their choice of libations and passes and other fun items from Living Coast. Good to see you Ben!



Monica Lehpamer (transfer member from Sunrise) won a prize and Rasha Roshdy won also but gave it to Bob Bliss—who is on a bit of a losing streak.
President Ben presenting speaker Kristen Fogle with her gift.

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SAVE YOUR 2026 CALENDARS!

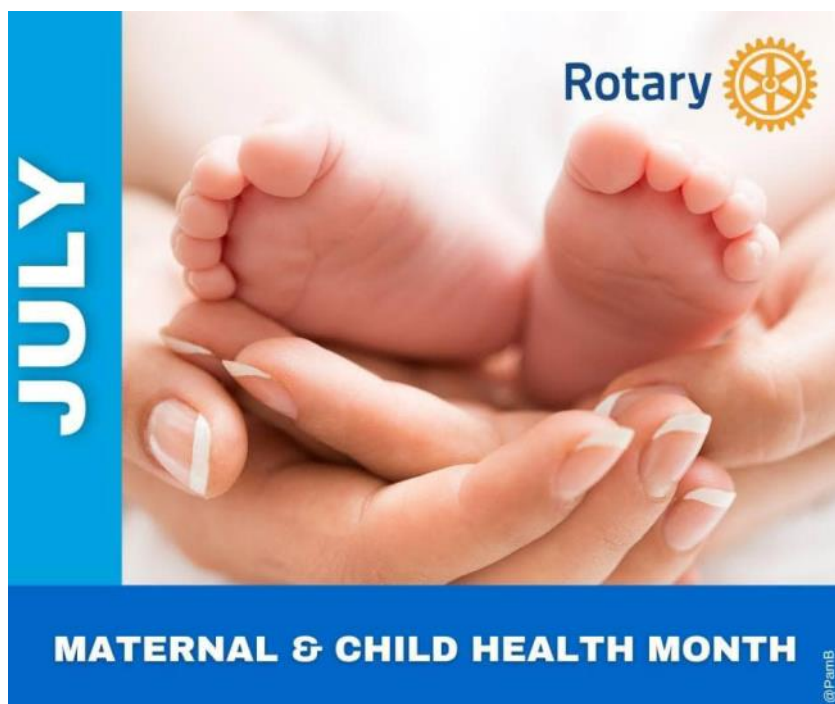
Hello Chula Vista Rotarians!

By way of introduction—this Newsletter Note is from Beverly Sumwalt, one of your new transfer members from Chula Vista Sunrise Club. This is a request for a future opportunity we can blend in to one of our end-of-year service projects.

You know those advertisement/donation request calendars that we all get in the mail, starting about now?? Well, if you would kindly save them, (pick out your favorite for your refrigerator, and save the rest)—we can donate a large stack of “New Year Calendars” to the Veterans’ Home, or to one of the many Assisted/Memory or Skilled Nursing Care Facilities in South Bay, lots of options—and cheery for people who are more “room bound” and likely don’t use a digital calendar.

Thank you in advance, as we are always looking for ways to provide Service Above Self—and this is one small way to bring a little New Year Cheer to those who may enjoy the gorgeous photos!

Yours In Rotary, Beverly Sumwalt



GET WELL SOON!

Our get well wishes go out to

Neisha Hernandez

As she recovers from recent
knee surgery—

Not replacement, still a big ouch

