

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



**ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA**

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P.O Box 324
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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)

MICHAEL SMITH
BONITA-SUNNYSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Friday, September 25, 2026, Noon



Michael Smith is the Fire Chief of the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District, where he is responsible for leading the District's emergency response, emergency medical services, fire prevention, training, administration, and long-term strategic planning. Chief Smith began his career with the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District in 2006 as a Firefighter/Paramedic and has served in several leadership roles, including Captain, Training Officer, and Deputy Fire Chief, before being appointed Fire Chief in July 2026.

Having spent his entire fire career serving the Bonita community, he brings both operational experience and a deep commitment to public service. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Fire Administration and believes that exceptional public service is built on highly trained personnel, fiscal responsibility, accountability, and strong community partnerships. Under his leadership, the District continues to focus on firefighter wellness, professional development, strategic planning, modernizing equipment and facilities, and pursuing grant opportunities to maximize taxpayer resources.

Chief Smith is actively involved in regional fire service leadership and currently serves as Secretary of the San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association. He also represents the special district community through his appointment to the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Special Districts Advisory Committee. A firm believer in continuous improvement, Chief Smith is committed to maintaining the highest standards of professionalism while ensuring the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District remains prepared to meet the evolving needs of the community it serves.

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CLUB HIGHLIGHTS - SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

President Rasha Roshdy called the meeting to order. Carmen Sandoval gave the invocation. Chuck Bevan led us in song. Lunch was served.

President-elect Risa Baron introduced guests and visiting Rotarians.

President Rasha provided an update on Polio eradication work and shared photos of some of the 1000 desks provided by Rotary to schools in Nigeria (District 9142).

Community Programs Chair Gary Bryant shared two clipboards for sign-ups for the upcoming October hands on events— Christmas in October (where we help fix us a local resident's yard) and Beautify Chula Vista where we will be at the Salt Works collecting litter and recyclables.

Programs Chair Lisa Johnson gave an update on upcoming speakers and events planned. These include Bonita -Sunnyside Fire Chief Mike Smith next week, Wendi Messina giving us the latest on the Y, a special Halloween treat is in the works and much more. Save the date for December 11—our super FUN Bake Sale and Cookie Baking Contest.

We will have a Book Swap on November 20. Get your books ready to share with others. Mike Bell will tell us about running campgrounds.

Betty Waznis provided the Jim Biddle News at Noon. This week's sponsors Bernard and Neisha Hernandez gave winners fall in a basket—so cool!

Our speaker Laura Mello, with Rotary International and a member of the Rancho Bernardo Rotary Club, gave a comprehensive overview of "What She Wished She Knew Sooner As a Rotarian" of the extensive impact RI has in the world. She covered "Every Rotarian Every Year," World Fund, District grants, Global grants and much more.

INVOCATION—Given by Carmen Sandoval Fernandez

As we gather in this new season, let us pause with gratitude—for the changing beauty around us, for the fellowship we share, and for the opportunity to serve our community together.

May the spirit of Rotary guide us to listen with respect, act with integrity, and place service above self. May our diverse experiences strengthen our common purpose, and may our efforts bring hope, dignity, and positive change to those we serve.

With thankful hearts, may we welcome the months ahead with generosity, courage, and renewed commitment. May the work we begin here grow into a harvest of kindness, understanding, and lasting good.

Let us carry this gratitude and purpose into our meeting and into the season before us.

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● LIVE



Brought to you by:

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 Neisha and Bernard Hernandez and Neisha's Dance and Music Academy.

A major swell from Hurricane Polo might combine with large high tides in northern San Diego County on Monday and Tuesday, causing flooding in an area that has already suffered severe beach erosion. The hurricane, one of the largest ever recorded in the eastern Pacific, also might push waves close to the railroad tracks in San Clemente, once again disrupting commuter rail service between San Diego and Orange counties. The city of Del Mar has declared a state of emergency in advance of expected high water. Construction crews are already placing boulders weighing 4 to 8 tons each on some Carlsbad beaches. Forecasters say Polo is moving northwest off southwestern Mexico and will send enormous rains ashore over the next few days. It may possibly turn toward land, impacting us when we'll already be experiencing

In a related development - this summer's unprecedented humidity and extreme heat brought on by El Niño conditions is giving a boost to mosquitoes and helping spread West Nile virus. In some of the worst humidity Southern California has ever experienced, more mosquitoes are thriving, breeding — and biting. Mosquito season typically runs from June to October; the region is on track for one of its most severe West Nile virus seasons in recent memory.

So far, 11 county residents have contracted West Nile Virus, including three in Coronado. There is no specific treatment for West Nile virus. About 80% of infected people show no symptoms. About 20% develop mild, flu-like symptoms like fever, headache, body aches, a rash, or gastro upsets. A small percentage can develop severe central nervous system illnesses, such as encephalitis or meningitis, in rare occasions *resulting in death*. To keep yourself and your family safe:

1. Dump or drain anything that holds water, like plant saucers, buckets, toys, and wheelbarrows.
2. Request free mosquito-eating fish for ponds, fountains, or unused swimming pools at the County Vector Control Headquarters in Kearny Mesa or cooperating nurseries throughout San Diego County.
3. Protect yourself from bites by wearing long sleeves and pants outdoors where mosquitoes are expected.
4. Use repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon, eucalyptus, or IR3535.
5. Make sure window and door screens are in good shape.
6. Report increased mosquito activity, unmaintained swimming pools or dead birds to County Vector Control at 858-694-2888 or email vector@sdcounty.ca.gov.

In more pleasant animal news, Fat Bear Week has officially begun. Some of the largest brown bears on Earth make their home along the Brooks River in Alaska. They prep for winter hibernation by fishing for salmon in the late summer and fall. Fat Bear Week is a fun annual tournament celebrating the magnificent animals and highlighting Alaska's wild beauty. Organizers of the bracket-style tournament have revealed the 16 finalist brown bears at Alaska's Katmai National Park and Preserve. Fans can check out the bears on the national park's live nature cam network - Explore.org. You can vote for your favorite now through Sept. 29. Fans from around the world participate in the contest, now in its 12th year. More than 1.7 million votes were cast in 2025.

The Padres won the series with the Dodgers 2 games to 1 and have secured a spot in the post season. Exactly three years after the Padres clinched a playoff berth with a victory at Dodger Stadium, they were playing yesterday for the right to continue playing. They are now striving over the next three days for the right to host their best-of-three National League Wild Card Series. They are in position to do so, a game ahead of the Cubs, who also clinched a playoff berth Thursday. Because the Cubs won the series between the teams, the Padres have to finish a game ahead of the Cubs in the standings in order to remain the No.4 seed.

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CLUB HIGHLIGHTS - SEPTEMBER 25, 2026



L-R: News sponsors Neisha and Bernard Hernandez with the lucky drawing winners: Ken Weimer, Jesse Fernandez and (below left) guest Stephanie Cook.



IMPACT

Last year, because of YOUR support and dedication to Doing Good in the World, together we funded more than:

1432 Global Grants (\$88.2m)
468 District Grants (\$29m)
74 Disaster Response Grants (\$1.9m)
1 Program of Scale Grant (\$2m)

President Rasha with RI Regional Major Gifts Officer Laura Mello. One of the informative slides she shared with us.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR ROTARIANS!

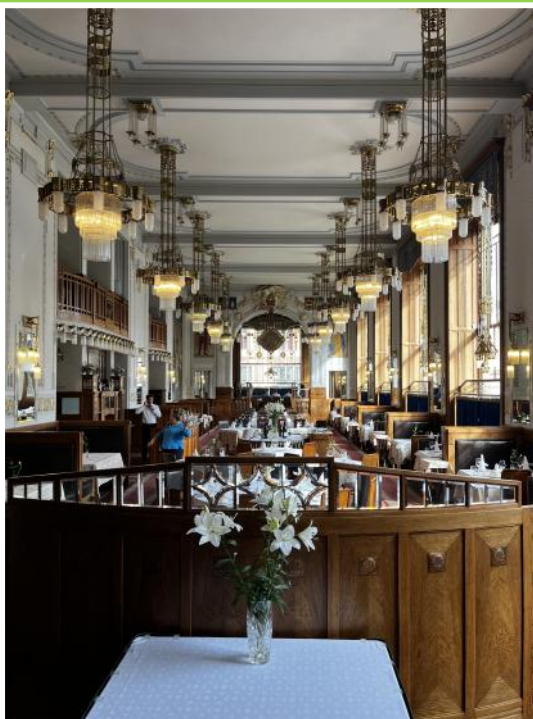


NANCY KERWIN—OCTOBER 8

JAN MELLINGER—OCTOBER 12

FERNANDO DE LOS SANTOS—OCTOBER 13

BOB SILVAS—OCTOBER 28



Past member Dan Dredla sent us his greetings from his world travels in Prague.

He and Lori saw this in a window and checked it out—pretty swanky!

We asked and he said he is pretty sure no one wears shorts here.

He misses us and says HI TO EVERYONE.

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Beautify
CHULA VISTA



Join us!

Saturday, Oct. 24
8 am - NOON

Rotarians in Action

Staging Site:

South Bay Salt Works

1470 Bay Blvd, CV, CA 91911

- Pick up litter and recyclables
- Have fun!

VOLUNTEERS:

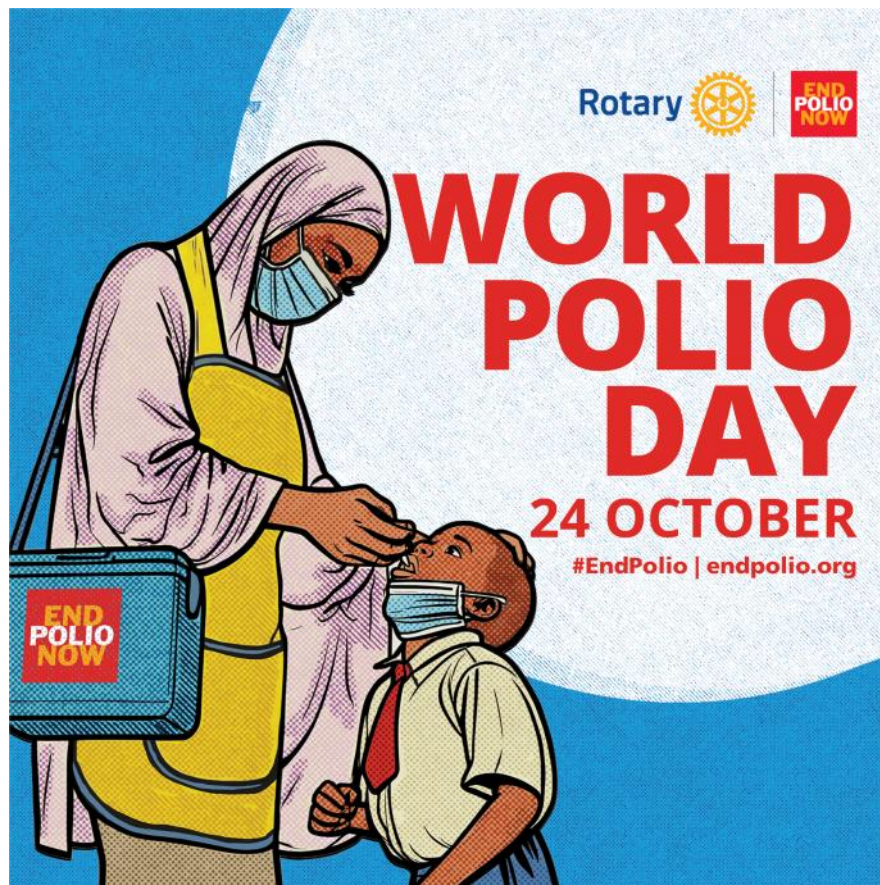
- Meet at your designated location (provide your own transportation)
- Bring snacks or lunch and reusable/refillable water bottles
- Wear appropriate clothing/shoes, bring work gloves and buckets for litter (if available)
- Community service hours forms will be provided upon request
- Visit www.beautifychulavista.org - print, sign and bring your participation waiver

Questions? environmentalservices@chulavistaca.gov • (619) 691-5122

For more information & registration visit: www.beautifychulavista.org



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(Continued from Page 3)

Today's sponsors, Bernard and Neisha, both grew up in Chula Vista (off of Orange Avenue) in the 1970's and 80's . They attended Rohr Elementary School together. In high school, Neisha transferred to the Chula Vista School for the Creative and Performing Arts, while Bernard continued on to Castle Park. The two still saw each other, though, as Neisha drove Bernard to karate lessons on Saturdays.

As lifelong family friends, their lives weaved in and out of one another's until they were tricked by Neisha's brother into a date. And, the rest is history! Now they have 4 kids (ages 14-26) and run their dance and music school together. They were honored with the Service Above Self award and Rotarians of the Year in 2023. Here they are on a recent trip to Denver to see the Padres vs Rockies.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Neisha and Bernard Hernandez and Neisha's Dance and Music Academy.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Rotary Club of Chula Vista Eastlake
PRESENTS A
A Day in
VALLE DE GUADALUPE
MAGONI & DECANTOS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

DEPARTING AT 9:30 AM | RETURNING AT 10:00 PM

YOUR TICKET INCLUDES:

- LIGHT SNACKS
- DRINKS, WINE & BEER ON THE BUS
- ENTERTAINMENT ON THE BUS
- VISITING 2 WINERIES MAGONI & DECANTOS
- LOBSTER DINNER IN ROSARITO

TICKET PRICE \$125 PER PERSON ALL THIS INCLUDED!

Good Wine, Great Company, Greater Cause!

All proceeds support our community projects and local initiatives.

PAY WITH VENMO
Rotary Club Chula Vista Eastlake
@RotaryClub-ChulaVistaEastlake

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Scan QR Code or Click Link
paypal.com/rotarypayment/23C29T08FY2

MIRIAM GONZALEZ
619-259-9810
miriam.cvrotary@gmail.com

TICKET INFORMATION
ANTHONY MILLICAN
619-849-0260

PAYMENTS BY
CASH, CHECK,
VENMO OR PAY PAL

PAYMENT DUE AT
TIME OF RESERVATION

*** THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY! ***

Rotary District 5340

Oktoberfest

FAMILY FUN FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

RANCHO SAN JERONIMO
2012 A Sunset Avenue
San Diego, CA 92154

ENTRANCE: \$20 PER PERSON
CHILDREN UNDER 12 ENTER FREE!

With your \$20 entrance donation, you help sponsor Rotary District 5340 youth programs and support opportunities that make a positive difference in the lives of local youth.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

- MUSIC
- GAMES
- PRETZELS
- SAUSAGES & HOT DOGS
- HAMBURGERS
- ICE CREAM
- DRINKS & REFRESHMENTS

And lots of family fun!

★ Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the event.

LOCAL VENDORS & HEALTH FAIR BOOTHS WELCOME!

Want to promote your business, organization, or health-related services? Booth spaces are available for rent!

- JEWELRY
- PURSES
- CLOTHING
- LOCAL PRODUCTS & CRAFTS
- HEALTH FAIR BOOTHS
- HEALTH & WELLNESS INFORMATION
- AND MORE!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE YOUTH PROGRAMS OF ROTARY DISTRICT 5340

FOR INFORMATION, EMAIL CHANY MARTINEZ AT chanymartinez47@gmail.com

CALENDAR

CV-Eastlake Rotary Valle de Guadalupe Fundraiser—Sat October 3

District 5340 Oktoberfest for Youth Programs—Sat October 17, 1-6 pm

Beautify Chula Vista - Sat, October 24—8 to Noon —Save the Date!

Christmas in October—Sat, October 24th—Save the Date!