

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista



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ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA

BOARD 2025-2026

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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)

JIM O'CALLAGHAN
SOUTH COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Friday, October 3, 2025, Noon



Jim O'Callaghan, President and CEO of the South County Economic Development Council, will share insights into the Council's work to strengthen South County's economy and enhance quality of life for local residents.

His presentation will highlight current initiatives supporting workforce development, small business growth, housing, and infrastructure, as well as upcoming programs including fleet modernization and zero-emission vehicle training, the South County Leadership Program, and efforts to position the region as a premier destination for business and tourism.

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPT. 26, 2025

President Ben Koala called the meeting to order. Jerry May gave the invocation. Upon reconvening, President-elect Rasha Roshdy introduced guest and visiting Rotarians from the Coronado Club.

Bob Silvas, Chair of the Youth Services Committee invited anyone interested to join their next Zoom Committee meeting on the second Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m. (October 8).

Beverly Sumwalt announced that a long-time member of the Sunrise Rotary Club, Robert Humphries, passed away this week. He operated a local mortuary for many years and was well known in the community. His memorial service was scheduled for today.

Bob Silvas shared this month's Centennial Minute, as always interesting, fun and entertaining. This edition featured a photo of the first President ever of our Club—Warner Edmonds. He included a photo from 2010 of the French student, Laura Fabbro, that our Club was hosting. Michael and Sabrina Monaco and Carmen and Jesse Fernandez split the hosting responsibilities for her year in America. All were just in France for her wedding on September 20—a beautiful and memorable event.

Risa Baron introduced Rotarian and guest speaker Maria Kachadoorian, the retiring Chula Vista City Manager. Maria shared that her father worked at the Hotel del for 35 years and lived in Coronado before eventually moving to Imperial Beach and later Chula Vista. She gave an overview of some of the milestones during her tenure—she started the job in June 2020 (!). Some of these included transitioning the ambulance service inhouse, establishing a Legislative program, which has already paid dividends, rebuilding Loma Verde Community Center and now Eucalyptus Park. A community shuttle in the downtown area was implemented and improvements were made to Third Ave. The homeless issue has been one of the biggest challenges and she highlighted the 65 tiny homes built near Main and Broadway, securing and updating Harborside Park and purchasing the Palomar Motel. Maria previously served as Assistant City Manager and Finance Director.

Thank you Maria for your dedication to and hard work on behalf of the City of Chula Vista.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Friday, October 10, **Food Distribution** at St. Mark's (Hilltop & I) 8:30 am

Saturday, October 18—**BEAUTIFY CHULA VISTA**

WORLD POLIO DAY— OCTOBER 24th

Saturday, October 25—**Christmas in October**

Friday, October 31—**HALLOWEEN GOLF TOURNAMENT**
Club Fundraiser at the Chula Vista Golf Course—**NO REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, November 11—**Chula Vista Veterans' Home Lunch**

CHULA VISTA ROTARY 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Sunday, February 15, 2026

Tijuana Home Build—Saturday, April 11, 2026



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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. Welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Rick Richardson and Child Development Associates.

At the same time that world leaders were on their way to Manhattan for the U.N. General Assembly this month, the U.S. Secret Service was quietly dismantling a massive hidden criminal telecom network across the New York area — a system investigators say could have crippled cell towers, blacked out cellular service, jammed 911 calls and flooded networks with chaos.

What did they find? More than 300 SIM servers packed with over 100,000 SIM cards and clustered within 35 miles of the United Nations. It's one of the most sweeping communications threats ever uncovered on U.S. soil, described as a secret cellphone doomsday device. Spread across multiple sites, the servers functioned like banks of mock cellphones, able to generate mass calls and texts and overwhelm local networks. The operation had the capability of sending up to 30 million text messages a minute. Authorities described it as a well-funded, highly organized enterprise, one that cost millions of dollars in hardware and SIM cards alone. They have not disclosed details of the specific government or criminal groups under investigation.

Off the coast of Southern California, researchers recently solved a decades-old mystery about strange barrels on the ocean floor. The barrels, found in the San Pedro Basin between Long Beach and Catalina Island, were surrounded by ghostly white rings. From the 1930s until the early 1970s, 14 deep-water dump sites off the coast of Southern California received waste from refineries, oil drilling, chemical manufacturing, refuse and garbage, military explosives, even radioactive waste. A pair of Scripps-led seafloor surveys in 2021 and 2023 identified thousands of objects, including as many as 25,000 barrels, originally thought to contain DDT. But new research from UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, made public this month, shows the mysterious haloed barrels are leaking something different: caustic alkaline waste. This highly corrosive material has been seeping into the ocean for decades, creating harsh, lifeless zones on the seafloor. It reacts with seawater and turns the sand into a crust as hard as cement that could take thousands of years to dissolve. The full extent of the problem is still unknown — thousands of barrels remain, and many may hold this long-lasting, toxic material. Continuing research is concentrating on a search for microbes that may be able to break down the contamination in an organic way.

The Padres clinched a spot in the playoffs on Monday with a walk-off victory in the 11th inning against the league-leading Milwaukee Brewers and continued to win the 3 game series 2 to 1. Their regular season concludes with three games at home against the Arizona Diamondbacks starting tonight at 6:40.

Today's sponsor is Rick Richardson, whose passion to create positive change in the community is reflected in his lifetime of service. Rick served over 23 years active duty in the U.S. Army, retiring as Colonel. He served his country as a combat arms officer, base commander, and strategic planner including two tours in Iraq and 9 years of service in Europe. He was also trained to parachute from perfectly functional airplanes! Rick is the CEO at Child Development Associates (CDA), one of the county's ten largest non-profit organizations. CDA provides affordable childcare, economic mobility mentoring, and supportive services to over 9,300 families with over 33,000 children. CDA also assists the important work of over 5,000 childcare providers across 26 California counties through nutrition education, financial support, and other supportive resources. Last year CDA served more clients than could fit in Petco Park!

Rick is also a County Commissioner for the San Diego First Five Commission and serves on several state and county boards. He is married to Carmen Richardson, with two daughters McKenzie and Cameryn. In his free time Rick can be found with his family and dog, helping out in the community, exploring the mountains and desert, or driving anything that blows his hair back! This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Rick Richardson and Child Development Associates. This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Rick Richardson and Child Development Associates.

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MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS—September 26, 2025



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SAVE CALENDARS & PUZZLE BOOKS TAKING TO VETERANS HOME DECEMBER 6



TIES THAT BIND—Jesse and Carmen Fernandez pictured at the September wedding of our Club's 2010 Rotary Youth Exchange student Laura and her husband Guillaume. The Fernandez and Monaco families hosted Laura in their homes during her year in America.

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JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

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With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone. Welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Rasha Roshdy. The Federal Reserve announced a quarter-percentage-point cut in benchmark rates yesterday, bringing the range to between 4% and 4.25%—the lowest level in almost three years – and signaled the possibility of two additional cuts this year. In other economic news, the US Treasury Department will stop issuing paper checks for tax refunds, Social Security payments, and most other federal programs on Sept. 30. Even though more than 5 million people still receive physical checks from the government, it's widely agreed that electronic payments are faster to process, and less susceptible to fraud and theft than traditional paper checks. It's estimated the move will save millions of dollars a year.

After nearly four years of construction, San Diego International Airport's new Terminal 1 opens Tuesday, replacing its out-dated 1960s predecessor. Nearly three times larger, the new building is designed to handle 10 million passengers annually. The \$3.8 billion project delivers 19 gates now, expanding to 30 by 2028, plus 17 food and retail concessions, 13 security lanes (up from three), and seven baggage carousels, covering about one million square feet. Southwest Airlines will anchor the terminal, joined by Breeze, Frontier, JetBlue, and Sun Country. Air Canada and WestJet arrive in the spring, and Delta relocates in 2028.

The first impression of the new terminal is one of light and space. The many art installations include a 15-foot jellyfish sculpture at the entrance with a tentacle doubling as a bench. The curved glass façade streams natural light into the ticket lobby while patterned glass reduces glare. Passengers can see through the building—from check-in to the airfield. Inside is plenty of upgraded seating with multiple charging stations, and indoor/outdoor dining for 300 with a view of the San Diego skyline. Local dining options include The Taco Stand, Better Buzz Coffee, Luna Grill, Ambrogio 15, and a restaurant by Tony Hawk and partners. And - you saw it here first - 23 beautiful modern restrooms. The oversized security area is built for future technology and shorter waits. Unique among airports, Terminal 1 also houses a basement with a 4-mile-long baggage system, extensively tested for efficiency.

The Padres lost 2 out of 3 in this week's series against the Mets in New York. Even so, the Padres are a virtual lock to secure a playoff spot, with nine games remaining in the regular season. The second game of the three was won in part thanks to a Manny Machado grand slam, the 14th of his career, more than any active player.

BonitaFest kicks off tomorrow with the Twilight Parade at 6:00 PM at the Sunnyside Arena, followed by the Arts Fest at 6:30 PM at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library. There is more to come next weekend. The melodrama, "Here Comes the Sun," will be showing September 24–27 at 7:30 PM at the Sweetwater Church Theater.

Also, next weekend, the Bonita Museum and Cultural Center is bringing back Taste of Bonita, an event that highlights local restaurants and chefs in the Sweetwater Valley. On Saturday September 27 from 5 pm to 9 pm you can enjoy tastes from local restaurants featuring many different types of cuisine. The museum itself will be open late for visitors to enjoy. The fundraiser supports free educational and public programs for more than 5000 children and community members in the South Bay. See the museum webpage for a reservation.

Today's sponsor, Rasha Roshdy, tells us that she joined our club 4 years ago but she has been a Rotarian at heart all her life. In her newest adventure, she is taking classes at Harvard University Medical School to become a wellness lifestyle coach. She has lived many lives and continues to reinvent herself, so talk to her sometime for an update. This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Rasha Roshdy.

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CHULA VISTA ROTARY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tee Off in Costume: Golf Has Never Looked This Good!

Friday, October 31, 2025

Chula Vista Golf Course
4475 Bonita Road, Bonita, California

11:30 a.m. - CHECK IN

12:00 noon - LUNCH & PUTTING CONTEST

12:30 p.m. - COSTUME CONTEST

1:00 p.m. - SHOTGUN START

5:00 p.m. - LUAU BUFFET, AWARDS, & DRAWINGS

\$175 per golfer or register a foursome for only \$600 by Oct. 14 and *save 100 bucks!*

After Oct. 14: \$700 per foursome.

Make checks payable to Chula Vista Rotary Foundation.

[Player Registration](#)

[Become a Sponsor](#)

[Dinner Registration](#)

- Granting scholarships for locally graduating high school students.
- Building houses in Mexico for under-sheltered families.
- Eradicating polio by vaccinating all of the world's children.
- Participating in community clean-up and food bank programs.
- Coordinating speech contests for community elementary and middle school students to boost confidence and develop critical thinking skills.

**GOOD-BYE POLIO
THANKS ROTARY**



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR ROTARIAN!



Nancy Kerwin - October 8

Jan Mellinger - October 12

Beta Dinsmore - October 18

Bob Silvas - October 28

INVOCATION By Jerry May

Wondrous and unwearied God, breathe deeply into us so that we may be eased into this time of fellowship. We come breathless to you from fretful times and blurred places – our attention splintered, our energy drained, our love glazed.

Still, we have been drawn here, and we thank You for this insistent yearning for fellowship and renewal. O Breath of God, fill us with life anew.

Amen and Shalom