

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)

LISA LINDGREN
SENIOR GLEANERS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
Friday, October 31, 2025, Noon



Lisa Lindgren is the General Manager of Senior Gleaners of San Diego County; a nonprofit organization committed to reducing food waste and alleviating hunger in the local community. With a strong background in non-profit management, volunteerism, and community engagement, Lisa brings both passion and expertise to her role, overseeing daily operations and leading a small staff and hundreds of volunteers countywide.

Under Lisa's leadership, Senior Gleaners has expanded its outreach to previously underserved parts of San Diego County to rescue surplus produce and distribute it to those in need. Her hands-on approach ensures that every aspect of the organization runs smoothly, from helping to coordinate gleaning events to ensuring financial stability, managing operational logistics and fostering relationships with community stakeholders.

Lisa is known for her commitment to empowering seniors, encouraging active participation among volunteers, and promoting sustainability throughout San Diego County. Her vision and dedication continue to make a positive impact, helping Senior Gleaners fulfill its mission of nourishing the community and supporting those facing food insecurity.

Lisa and her husband live in the Bay Park community of San Diego. She volunteers with Soroptimist International and enjoys reading and horseback riding.

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR OCTOBER 24, 2025

President Ben Koala called the meeting to order. Bill Torre introduced guest and visiting Rotarians.

Today was World Polio Day and President Ben encouraged members to chip in our Polio Pig. President Ben reviewed upcoming programs and activities.

Community Projects Chair Gary Bryant gave a re-cap of the Beautify Chula Vista event on October 18. He also discussed the Christmas in October which began with earlier, heavy duty work on Oct. 11 and 18. The big work party is October 25.

Bob Silvas presented the Centennial Minute with historical Club highlights from years past—always very informative and entertaining. Did you know our Club helped form the first Rotary Club in Tijuana?

Betty Waznis provided the Jim Biddle News at Noon. This week's sponsor was Nancy Kerwin and the drawing winners were Jeanette Badal, Mike Bell and Ken Weimer.

Rochelle Carroll asked members to provide friends and family emails to build our outreach list for the upcoming Trivia Night event in March. This will be one of our major fundraisers to help provide the much needed funds to accomplish our projects for this year.

She also reminded everyone to round up eye glasses you no longer need. We will be donating them to the Lions Club. You can put them in the plastic container at the welcome table. We used to do this years ago! Thanks for taking the lead
Rochelle!

Lisa Johnson introduced Leann Marchese with the Girl Scouts of San Diego County. Leann brought us up to date on the history and current status of Girl Scouting in our area. There are 2 million+ members currently with 111 councils in the U.S. and girl scouts in 92 countries.



President Ben thanks guest speaker Leann Marchese with the coveted Rotary mug.

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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 Nancy Kerwin.

Earlier this week, NASCAR declassified maps of the street course it will use for next year's NASCAR San Diego Weekend, June 19 to June 21, just in time to celebrate the Navy's 250th anniversary. Digital renderings and maps reveal a challenging 16-turn, 3.4-mile street circuit at Naval Base Coronado, the longest course on NASCAR's 2026 schedule. Part of the course races along the bay and features a sharp left-hand turn located between two aircraft carrier docks. Race fans have already begun placing deposits for pre-sale tickets at [NASCARSanDiego.com](https://www.nascarsandiego.com).

As more internet users rely on artificial intelligence (AI) to answer their questions, OpenAI introduced its own web browser, Atlas, on Tuesday, to compete with the world's most popular browser, Google Chrome, which has amassed about 3 billion worldwide users and has already added an AI feature called Gemini. About 60% of Americans overall — and 74% of those under 30 — use AI to find information at least some of the time, making online searches one of the most popular uses of AI technology. ChatGPT already has more than 800 million users but many of them get it for free. The San Francisco-based company also sells paid subscriptions but is losing more money than it makes and has been looking for ways to turn a profit, hoping for some of the advertising dollars that Chrome gets now. Atlas launched on Tuesday on Apple laptops and will later come to Microsoft's Windows, Apple's iOS phones and Google's Android phones.

California has named an official state snake - the giant garter snake. A semiaquatic species that is considered one of North America's largest native snakes, the striped snake, a uniquely Californian species, can grow to over 5 feet long. It's nonpoisonous to humans and has historically thrived in natural wetlands along California's Central Valley, from Chico down to Fresno. It has been listed as endangered since 1993 due to climate change and development. Up to now, it has managed to survive by inhabiting artificial waterways such as irrigation canals. However, those artificial habitats are shifting too, as the area moves away from rice production and toward orchards and dry farmland. The hope is the snake's new, higher profile in California can give it a fighting chance at avoiding extinction.

Coming off its final idle week of the season and riding the momentum of a four-game winning streak, San Diego State Aztec football travels to Fresno State with the Battle of the Old Oil Can on the line. The game is set to start at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow. At 5-1, San Diego State is off to its best start since the 2021 season. The four-game winning streak for the Aztecs is tied for the 12th-longest active streak in the country. SDSU is receiving votes in both the AP Top 25 poll and the Coaches poll for the second straight week.

Today's sponsor, Nancy Kerwin, has been a Rotarian for over twelve years, most of that time as a member of Chula Vista Sunrise Rotary. She is also on the boards of South Bay Family YMCA and the Chula Vista Welfare Council and currently serves as a member of Chula Vista and San Ysidro School Districts Citizen Bond Oversight Committees.

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR OCTOBER 24, 2025



The Chula Vista Rotary Club welcomed **Linda and Don Visnick** last week! L-R: President Ben, Carmen Sandoval, Linda, Don and Immediate Past President Jesse Fernandez. Linda and Don worked in education—Linda on the business and tech side, Don on the education and administration side. Carmen and Jesse are their sponsors.



Nancy Kerwin was this week's sponsor of the News at Noon and the drawing winners were (L-R) Jeanette Badal, Mike Bell and Ken Weimer—all winning gift cards. Thank you for your support of the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation!

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**SAVE CALENDARS & PUZZLE BOOKS
TAKING TO VETERANS HOME DECEMBER 6**



**GOOD-BYE POLIO
THANKS ROTARY**



OUR CLUB IS COLLECTING

**EYEGASSES YOU NO
LONGER NEED**

PUT IN THE BIN
AT THE CHECK-IN
TABLE—**Thanks!**



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GOLF TOURNAMENT POSTPONED—FEBRUARY TBD

Wednesday, November 5—**JUST IN TIME FOSTER YOUTH—First Home**

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

Friday, November 14—**Food Distribution at St. Mark's**

Friday, November 28—**DARK—No Meeting—Thanksgiving**

Wednesday, December 10 - **Ronald McDonald House Dinner**

Friday, December 19 — **Holiday Program**

CHULA VISTA ROTARY 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 15, 2026

TRIVIA NIGHT— Friday, March 13, 2026