

# HIDDEN MEADOWS

NEWS

JANUARY 2024

Vol 8 No 1



## HMWSG: Christmas Extravaganza at Karla Fernandez's Festive Home

By Michelle Zipse / Resident

In the cozy nook of Hidden Meadows, the ladies came together for a joyous Christmas gathering at the enchanting home of Karla Fernandez. The festive spirit was

in full swing as the house twinkled with Santas and Christmas fairies, transforming the space into a winter wonderland.

The highlight of the evening was the spirited gift exchange, which

added an element of excitement and laughter to the celebration. The rules were simple: participants could either choose a gift or engage in a friendly bout of stealing. The air was filled with merriment as presents

changed hands amid playful banter. Karla Fernandez, the gracious hostess, took the lead in making the gift exchange an unforgettable experience. She skillfully defended her chosen gift, a sparkling Christmas ornament, against the strategic attempts of four daring ladies who tried to snatch it away. In a surprising twist, Karla eventually allowed one lucky lady from the group to take the coveted gift home, spreading joy and goodwill among the attendees.

The festive ambiance extended to the dining area, where an array of delectable dishes awaited the guests. The potluck-style feast showcased the culinary talents of the Hidden Meadows Women's Group. From savory salads to mouth-watering entrees, sumptuous sides, and divine desserts, every corner of the table was laden with homemade delights.

Karla went above and beyond, treating the attendees to a feast that included succulent roasted beef, perfectly cooked turkey with rich gravy, and a cranberry sauce that added a unique and delightful twist to the traditional holiday fare.

As the evening unfolded, the warmth of friendship and the joy of

**CHRISTMAS** / See Page 5



## San Diego Miata Club Zooms in to Deliver Toys for Tots

By Tom Fragala / Resident

"Of course there is a Santa Claus. It's just that no single somebody could do all he has to do. So the Lord has spread the task among us all. That's why everybody is Santa Claus."

— Truman Capote

The San Diego Miata Club held their 4th Annual Holiday Toy Run Event Saturday December 2 in

Hidden Meadows. They met in the golf course parking lot, as they did last year. I was happy to see them again and briefly join their event.

Julie Thompson was helping run the event with her husband Terry. Along with "Santa" David Hunt and his wife Pamela. They had quite a turn out.

The club members adorned their cars with tinsel and lights and other decorations. After donuts and coffee, they had a club prize giveaway. Then they left

for a "run" (a driving trip). Dennis and Maryanne Garon were the run leaders. Steve Norris was sweep.

Their route took them up to Rainbow through the back roads. They ended the run back in Hidden Meadows.

Then all the cars lined up and drove slowly into the back of the fire station, one at a time. Each car dropped off gifts for the Toys for Tots and had a photo taken. I ran over and got some great photos too.

One of their members donated over a dozen handmade wooden toy fire trucks. The fire crew was so impressed that they had the talented toy maker sign one that they will keep in the firehouse.

Afterward they had brunch at The Boulder Oaks Clubhouse.

All photos are found on my Linktree page: [linktr.ee/thetomsocial](https://linktr.ee/thetomsocial).

See more photos on page 7 inside.

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## Fun with Paint at the Side Yard

By Linda Collins / Resident

What a great experience! The Side Yard hosted a Paint and Sip event on December 12. The local artist, Jacquie Hughes, lives right here in our neighborhood. She carefully explained the project and the techniques we used, so even those of us with zero talent or experience could follow along.

Nine neighbors came away from their other holiday activities to enjoy an evening of laughter and creativity: Susan Crandall, Bonnie Metzger, Terese Vasil, Shari Petric Nickelson, Lisa Barr, Linda Collins, Beth Klein, Debbie Lai and Little Lily, a staff member's daughter.

PAINT / See Page 3

### Sewing Room Gifts & Alterations

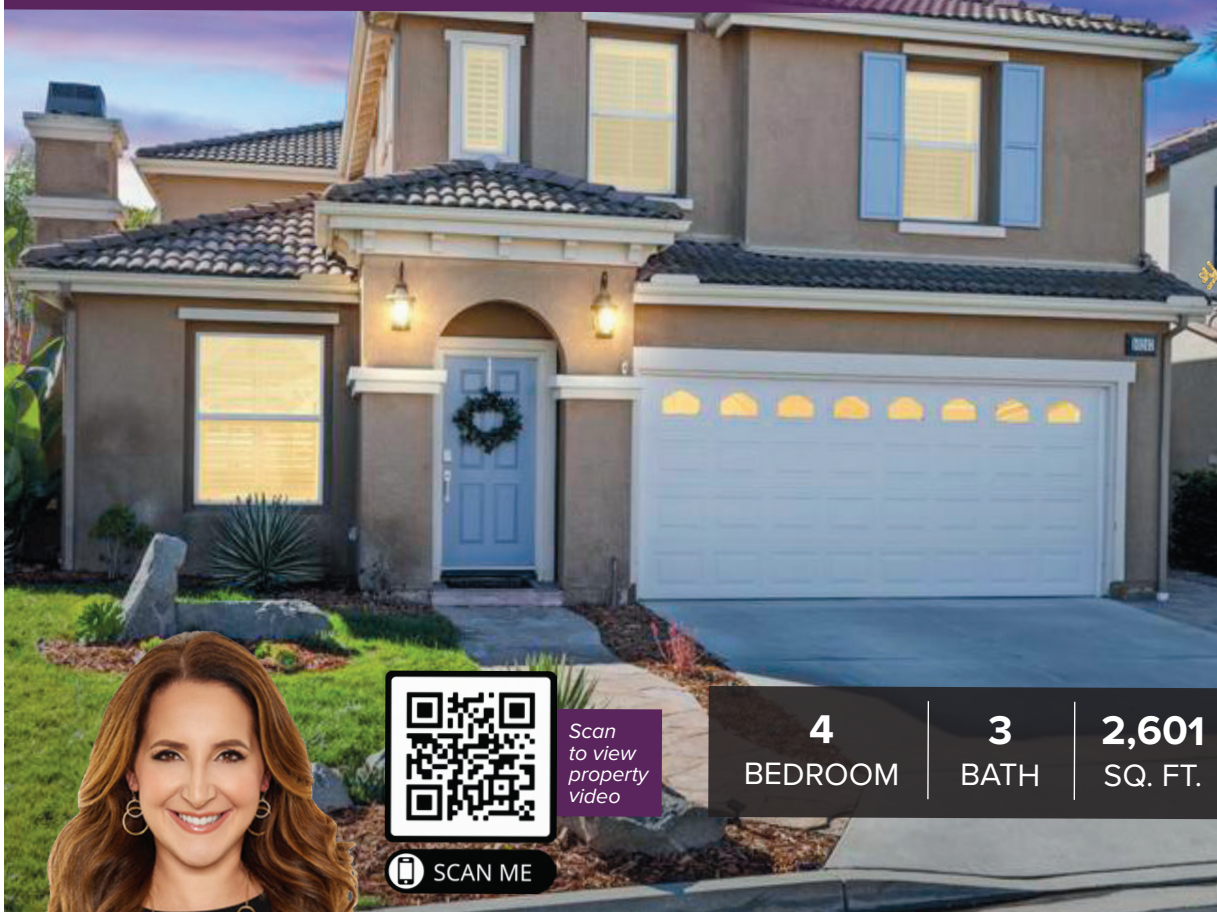
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# VCBA speaker will give fitness message

The first “Good Morning Valley Center” breakfast meeting speaker of 2024 will be Certified Fitness Professional Renee Meyst. The meeting will be held January 10, 2024, 8 a.m. at Valley Center Branch Library, hosted by the Valley Center Business Association. There is no cost to attend.

Giving a taste of her talk, Meyst told *The HMN*, “Forget the Resolutions, Let’s do this together. Starting a fitness and wellness program with exercise as one of the components is not easy. Or should I say starting is the easy part, maintaining and sticking to it is the hard part. Let’s team with our work family, and make 2024 the year of supported team fitness.”

Meyst will help you formulate a plan that will motivate and reward your team for becoming healthier and more fit this year. Oh, and added benefit, they will become more productive, creative, and maybe be in a better mood!

Come and learn on Wednesday, January 10, at the Valley Center Branch Library 29200 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center at 8 a.m..

To contact Renee Meyst, email [rmeyst7@gmail.com](mailto:rmeyst7@gmail.com).

Valley Center Business Association can be reached at [info@myVCBA.com](mailto:info@myVCBA.com)



# Escondido Creek Conservancy Events

By Linda Collins / Resident

## Welcome to the Watershed Hike

Start 2024 right — join the Conservancy for our next Welcome to the Watershed Hike on Bottle Peak!

When: Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024

Time: 9 a.m. to Noon

Bottle Peak was protected forever by a partnership of The Escondido Creek Conservancy and San Diego County Parks and Recreation, who split ownership. The Conservancy owns the top and we'd like to take you there as Bottle Peak is a wonderful location to see the Escondido Creek watershed. This hike is free, however, advanced registration is required.

## Conservation Conversation

Join the Conservancy for our next Conservation Conversation in the New Year!

When: Thursday, January 18, 2024

Time: 6 to 7 p.m.

Where: 8833 Harmony Grove Rd., Escondido, CA

The sky has always held meaningful cultural and scientific importance. Observing the sky allows us to share stories, gather data, and learn more about Earth and the Universe. But over the years, we have slowly changed our view of the night sky.

Join Lisa Will, a professor of Astronomy and Physics at San Diego City College, for a presentation on how light pollution and satellite constellations impact our view of the sky. Lisa has spent her career researching the nature of dust grains in space and innovations in astronomy education.

Register at The Escondido Creek Conservancy

For more information: [information@escondidocreek.org](mailto:information@escondidocreek.org)

## Super Crossword GOLD-TRIMMED

- |   |  |   |   |                                  |                               |
|---|--|---|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                             | 48 “— a living”                                | 86 Dunce  | <b>DOWN</b>                             | 36 — -fi film                    | 84 Missy                      |
| 1 In boots, e.g.                          | 49 Company IDs                                 | 90 Convertible carriage used to transport popes?    | 1 Late-night host Meyers                | 37 Crude home                    | 85 84-Down’s counterpart      |
| 5 Accident                                | 50 Arthur of old TV                            | 94 Suffix in sugar names                            | 2 “How funny!”                          | 38 Diner hirees                  | 86 Working farm horses        |
| 11 Leaf-cutting little colonist           | 52 Sister record co. of Virgin                 | 95 Give support                                     | 3 Adds vocals to, maybe                 | 42 Almost there                  | 87 “It’s finally clear to me” |
| 14 Lend — (assist)                        | 53 Nudge                                       | 97 Port in Italy                                    | 4 Denigrates                            | 43 Dwindle                       | 88 Pork-filled pastry, e.g.   |
| 19 Roof border                            | 54 Neoprene produced at an Alabama university? | 98 Greasy   | 5 Cosmo, O and GQ                       | 44 Axon’s place                  | 89 Rabbit head features       |
| 20 Pungent yellow cheese                  | 60 Italicize, e.g.                             | 99 Boyfriend who’s always upbeat?                   | 6 Suffix with fool                      | 46 Aussie bird                   | 91 Put in cipher              |
| 21 Corp. leader                           | 63 Whitman or Disney                           | 104 — -rock (music style)                           | 7 Grab a chair                          | 47 Tremolo’s kin                 | 92 “I knew it!”               |
| 22 Go-kart, say                           | 65 Some HDTVs                                  | 105 Hebrew letters after alephs                     | 8 Stable feed                           | 51 Bowed                         | 93 Absence of restriction     |
| 23 Nickname for a really strong novelist? | 66 Singular                                    | 106 Exit opposite                                   | 9 Turkish title                         | 53 Fluster                       | 96 Krispy Kreme inventory     |
| 26 The Carolinas, e.g., in Caen           | 67 Chicago airport                             | 107 Pilot planes living on a Pacific island nation? | 10 Attacked like a lion                 | 54 Resembling                    | 100 One of Kirk’s lieutenants |
| 27 Wings for women                        | 68 Baby kangaroo                               | 110 Opinions offered                                | 11 “The Mind of —” (PBS cooking series) | 55 One-eighty                    | 101 Blender brand             |
| 28 Many a flower girl                     | 69 “Friday the 13th” villain                   | 111 Singer Gene who should never be forgotten?      | 12 Former liberal, briefly              | 56 Con’s vote                    | 102 Ferret’s kin              |
| 29 Fen plant                              | 71 Ariel is one                                | 116 Black, in Bordeaux                              | 13 Many “Olé!” recipients               | 57 Groundwork                    | 103 Wilhelm’s “the”           |
| 30 Wilhelm’s “the”                        | 72 Potter’s dirt title Dr.?                    | 117 Blvd. or rd.                                    | 14 “Am not!” rejoinder                  | 58 Greek Cupid                   | 104 Parade place: Abbr.       |
| 31 Return to get H.G. Wells’ title Dr.?   | 73 Shred up                                    | 118 Limited release?                                | 15 Spiteful sort                        | 59 Pay to live at                | 107 City in Iowa              |
| 36 Eschew                                 | 74 Most darling                                | 119 — Sous-le-Vent (the Leewards)                   | 16 College life                         | 60 Large couch                   | 108 Driving exam taker, often |
| 38 Topped party appetizer                 | 75 Very breezy summer month?                   | 120 Affirm  | 17 Final profit                         | 61 What you used to be?          | 109 Lead-in to “while”        |
| 39 “— won’t!”                             | 78 Jay replaced by Jimmy Fallon                | 121 Cold War-era state: Abbr.                       | 18 Creator of the Lorax                 | 62 Bonged                        | 112 Road topper               |
| 40 Prefix with 81-Across or 31-Down       | 79 Greek letter                                | 122 Train base                                      | 24 Private AOL exchanges                | 63 Ragamuffins                   | 113 “... Mac — PC?”           |
| 41 British poet as a young badge earner?  | 80 Min. fraction                               | 123 Safari shelter                                  | 25 “— ToK” (Keshia hit)                 | 64 100% wrong                    | 114 Fabled flier              |
| 45 “The Streak” singer Ray                | 81 Handed out playing cards                    |   | 31 Estimate                             | 68 — -bah                        | 115 Reindeer cousin           |
|   | 83 Item in a nest                              |   | 32 Not falling for                      | 69 Pa Clamptett of TV            |                               |
|   |  |   | 33 Ovine calls                          | 70 Interim ruling group          |                               |
|   |  |   | 34 Springfield storekeeper              | 72 11th-cen. king of Norway      |                               |
|   |  |   | 35 Bishops’ hats                        | 74 Prison parts                  |                               |
|   |  |   |   | 76 Mu — shrimp                   |                               |
|   |  |   |   | 77 Wilhelm’s “I”                 |                               |
|   |  |   |   | 78 Cake tier                     |                               |
|   |  |   |   | 81 Dunce                         |                               |
|   |  |   |   | 82 Allure rival                  |                               |
|   |  |   |   | 83 Fit to print, after revisions |                               |

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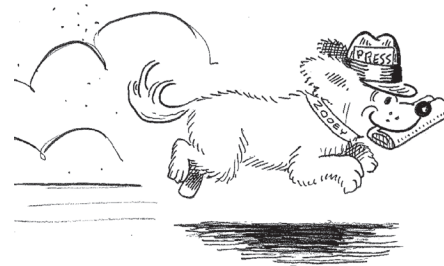
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### SUBMIT CONTENT

Deadline for local article submission: 20th of the month for the next issue. Photographs submitted for publication should be hi-resolution (300DPI), unmodified originals, jpeg format. We cannot accept photos taken from social media sites such as Facebook. Email content and photos to Patricia Fox  
[LocalEditor@HiddenMeadows.news](mailto:LocalEditor@HiddenMeadows.news)

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# Vehicle theft – a crime of opportunity

By DISTRICT ATTORNEY SUMMER STEPHAN

Auto theft is a common crime in San Diego County that affects victims in many ways. Across the county, there were more than 11,300 auto thefts last year, representing about \$140 million in losses, according to statistics from the San Diego Association of Governments. In fact, last year our office filed more than 850 cases against 900 defendants for auto theft-related charges.

Thankfully, our region has a Regional Auto Theft Taskforce (RATT), that works to reduce vehicle theft in San Diego County. They have taken down many criminal auto theft rings that have led to prosecutions and ultimately jail time for criminals.

Auto theft uniquely disrupts the victim's life, especially in a vehicle-centered city like San Diego where almost every aspect of your daily living revolves around your vehicle. From being unable to get to work, school and doctor's appointments to buying food, the theft of your vehicle can be devastating. But there are ways to be proactive, so you do not become a victim of auto theft. Here are some simple tips that can reduce your probability of becoming a victim of auto theft:

- Do not leave your vehicle doors unlocked. Criminals are opportunists and they will find their way into an unlocked vehicle sooner or later.
- Do not leave items of any value in plain sight in a parked vehicle.
- Do not leave your keys in your vehicle.
- Do not leave keys hanging on a hook in your garage.
- Do not leave your garage door open.
- Do not store a spare key in your garage or second vehicle.
- Do not leave your vehicle unattended while it is running.
- Do not assume your vehicle is safe to be left unlocked because you live in a gated area or have an enclosed parking garage.
- Do not leave car keys in a lockbox attached to your vehicle while at the beach or on a hike.
- To avoid becoming a victim of identity theft in addition to auto theft, do not leave valuable items in your vehicle.

The harm to victims is compounded when valuables, wallets, checkbooks, or phones are left in a vehicle, and it is stolen. If a thief gains access to the personal identifying information such as your driver's license or credit card, they can illegally use your personal information to make purchases and steal your identity. Some thieves may try to re-sell your vehicle, and if you leave the vehicle title in the vehicle, the bad actor can attempt to transfer title or sell your vehicle to an unsuspecting innocent buyer.

Earlier this Summer, RATT completed a two-year investigation involving 50 defendants. The undercover operation recovered 172 stolen vehicles, drugs, and firearms. RATT's mission cannot be fulfilled without the help of the public. If you have tips or information on vehicle thefts, please let RATT know on the anonymous tip line: 1-888-TELLRAT (888-835-5728).

As your District Attorney, I'm committed to increasing communication and accessibility between the DA's Office and the public in order to keep you safe. I hope these consumer and public safety tips have been helpful.

## Book Review

by Lynn Clark

There are several ways I find new authors to read. The easiest way is to go to the library and look at the new arrivals. That is how I found Robert Dugoni, and once I read his newest release I went searching on my computer for the rest of his work. He is primarily a crime writer, and he has a series plus stand alone books that I have been working my way through for the last year. When I ran across this book I was intrigued because it was nothing like his crime books, but it was excellent. I hope you find time to read it.

*"The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell"* - by Robert Dugoni - fiction

When Sam Hill was born and opened his eyes his mother and father realized his life was going to be very challenging. Born with a vision abnormality called Ocular Albinism the pupils in his eyes were red. His vision could be corrected, but the color of his pupils was probably never going to change.

Sam's mother never found a problem she felt she couldn't surmount until she tried to register Sam in the Catholic school down the street. When she met resistance to the idea from the nun that was the principal, she quickly found a way around that obstacle. That was easy compared to the problems that Sam encountered when he entered school. His classmates changed his name to "Sam Hell", and from there it went to "Hell Boy", or "Devil Boy". There was the teasing, and the bullying, and the cruelty that often emerges when someone is considered "different".

His isolation eased when Ernie Cantwell and Mickie Kennedy entered school. Ernie was the only black child in the school and Mickie was the girl from the wrong side of town, but they bonded; and their friendship remained solid throughout their years in school.

Ernie and Mickie found success after college, and Sam became a small town eye doctor. Forever searching for some meaning in his life, and never quite finding it, Sam traveled around the world offering his services to the underprivileged until....

## Tell us now

By SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND

As your County Supervisor, advancing government programs that promote efficiency and accessibility for the residents of North County is among my top priorities. If you have a problem that needs County assistance our **Tell Us Now!** phone app provides an efficient and convenient way to report issues directly to the County.

Available to iPhone and Android users, the County's *Tell Us Now!* app builds on the County's commitment to customer service by making County systems more efficient. It is a user-friendly app where constituents can report non-emergency problems to the County. Through the app you can contact many County Departments to report a variety of issues, such as County Code Compliance to report graffiti; and the County Department of Public Works to report road maintenance, signs and traffic issues.

It's easy to use—See a problem, take a photo, add some text and send! The app will alert someone to clean up the mess, repair the sign or fix that error! If you see a pothole, send it in on the app and we will get it repaired shortly. Be sure to download the app today and participate in making your neighborhood and our County a better place to live!

As always, if we can be of assistance or answer any questions, my team and I can be reached at (619)531-5555 or via email at [Jim.Desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Jim.Desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov). We are still happy to help with any of these issues too!

*Jim Desmond is a member of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. He represents the 5th District, which includes Escondido, Valley Center, Pauma Valley, Palomar Mountain and much of the Backcountry.*

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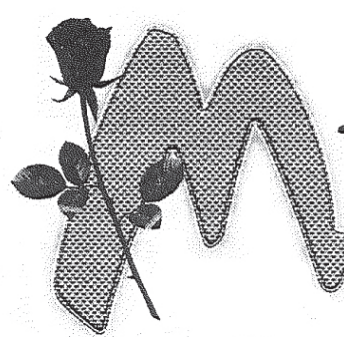
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Karen Soriano, Svitlana Bailey, Lisa Saget, Eveline Bustillos Agnes Chikan and Karla Fernandez



Dani Walther, Amanda DeRisi, Pat Buntin, Karla's sister, Robin Rabens, Rochelle Rubin, Piazza Courser and Agnes Chikan



Our hostess Karla Fernandez running the games and gift exchange

**CHRISTMAS / From Page 1**

the season enveloped the gathering. Conversations flowed, laughter echoed, and time seemed to slip away as everyone reveled in the

company of friends. This event proved to be a resounding success, leaving everyone with cherished memories of a magical and festive night.

As the holiday season continues, the spirit of togetherness and celebration lives on, echoing the sentiments of joy and camaraderie shared by the women of Hidden Meadows.



# JANUARY 2024

## SIDEYARD IS GROWING

**WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE, STARTING IN JANUARY.... WE WILL BE ADDING BRUNCH SERVICE ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS.** YES YOU HEARD THAT RIGHT! BRUNCH IN THE MEADOWS... WHO WOULD OF THOUGHT! EVERY WEEKEND FROM 9AM TO 1PM WE WILL BE SERVING BRUNCH! YOU WILL BE TREATED TO HOUSE MADE BENEDICTS, BISCUITS & GRAVY, OMELETS AND MANY MORE!

WE ALSO WILL BE ADDING MANY MORE ITEMS TO OUR LUNCH AND DINNER SERVICE! INCLUDING SOME PASTAS AND MAYBE SOME STEAK AND AHI PLATES. WHO KNOWS? GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO STOP BY TO SEE!

**BESIDES ALL THE DELICIOUSNESS WE JUST SAID, WE HAVE SOME GREAT LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BOOKED! EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT IS "FRIDAY NIGHT SPOT-LIGHT". THESE OUR STAFF PICKED ARTIST AND CROWD FAVORITES!**

- SAM CARY: JAN 5TH
- CHARLIE RAE: JAN 12TH
- LEE MELTON: JAN 19TH
- CHARLIE RAE: JAN 26TH

**BESIDES FRIDAYS, WE TEND TO KEEP THE PARTY GOING! SORRY NOT SORRY! LIVE MUSIC SATURDAY NIGHTS AS WELL!**

IF YOUR A FOOTBALL FAN! WE HAVE THE SUNDAY TICKET TOO! WHICH WE WILL BE PLAYING THE REST OF THE REGULAR SEASON GAMES, THE WILD CARD GAMES, DIVISIONAL ROUNDS & THE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS!

WE ARE TAKING 2024 BY STORM! READY TO INTRODUCE NEW FOOD ITEMS, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND MUCH MORE! LETS ALL CHEERS TO A NEW YEAR TOGETHER!



Now offering Doordash Delivery ALL DAY EVERY DAY at SideYard

# Toys for Tots Shows Christmas is in our Hearts

By Tom Fragala / Resident

“I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year.”

-- Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

The Toys for Tots Event was held Saturday December 2 from 9 am to noon at Fire Station #3 in Hidden Meadows. The private event was hosted by the Hidden Meadows Community Foundation.

We had a wonderful breakfast catered by SideYard. Residents who donated a toy received a free breakfast! Santa was there for the kids from 10 am until noon. Santa's Helpers were Dina Davis, Doreen Schoos and Lisa Saget. There was a kid's crafts table, where kids could get creative and make Christmas ornaments and more. The kids craft table had Dawn Salazar, Vanessa Cruz and Amy Luis.

There was a meet and greet with the crew of Station #3, Trevor, Garrett and Steven. Kids could learn about the fire truck and climb inside. We appreciate our local fire crew for protecting our community!

We were honored to have local Camp Pendleton marine Staff Sgt. Daniel Ryan in attendance. Thanks for your service!

We had a fun crew of volunteers at the event. Vickey Ciarlanti organized the entire event and it was amazing as usual. Kiska Alba was the greeter out front. There were many donated door prizes at the event. Volunteers helping with door prizes were Bonnie Metzger, Lynn Wheeler, Michelle Zipse and Vickey Ciarlanti. Beth Klein was our volunteer Marine host. Linda Collins was also helping everywhere.

Thank you to our local businesses, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and community members for your continued support for our private events here in the Rim Rock and



Hidden Meadows Community. These events happen because of you!

Thanks to everyone who attended! These events really help bring people together and make our community special.

All photos are found on my Linktree page: [linktr.ee/thetomsocial](http://linktr.ee/thetomsocial).

Please donate to the Hidden Meadows Community Foundation at [hiddenmeadows.news/donate](http://hiddenmeadows.news/donate).



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San Diego Miata Club Photos - Continued from Page 1



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## Fine Dining Luncheon in Escondido

By Pat Tanabe / Resident

The December HMWSG luncheon was held at Vintana Wine & Dine. Those of you unfamiliar with this restaurant will find its location a bit unusual. Vintana is situated atop the Lexus dealership with panoramic views of the mountains and Escondido. As expected, the restaurant was decked out for the holidays and even had a new Lexus decorated with a gigantic red Christmas bow on the roof. Someone has been a very good boy or girl this year!

We dined outside on the lanai, where there were heat lamps to chase away the chill in the air. Some of the dishes sampled were lobster bisque, shrimp carbonara, Asian chicken, togarashi pecan salad, parmesan herb crusted Caesar salad, and a Korean short rib melt sandwich. The food was good and the portions generous. The restaurant was busy with many holiday luncheon gatherings, which probably explains why service was a little slow. Our server, however, was very personable and helpful and happily served as our photographer. We also had the opportunity to celebrate the birthday of a special person – Michelle Zipse!

Vintana is an upscale restaurant serving California cuisine with fantastic views. Don't let the odd location put you off trying this restaurant. They host special holiday dinners, happy hours, weekend brunches, Tuesday Date Night, and Wine Wednesdays. Please join us for one of our monthly lunches at a local restaurant. Contact: [HMWSG92026@gmail.com](mailto:HMWSG92026@gmail.com).



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# HIDDEN MEADOWS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## PRIVATE and PUBLIC EVENTS for Hidden Meadows and Rim Rock Residents

Watch for details on upcoming events (2024) in the Hidden Meadows Local Newspaper and our Social Media sites.

Check out our website at [www.hiddenmeadowsfoundation.org](http://www.hiddenmeadowsfoundation.org)

These events can't happen without your help. PLEASE contact me at [vickeyciarlanti@gmail.com](mailto:vickeyciarlanti@gmail.com) to add your name to our list of volunteers or to make a donation. Donations can be made via Zelle at

[HMCFFDonate@yahoo.com](mailto:HMCFFDonate@yahoo.com) or [www.HiddenMeadows.news/donate](http://www.HiddenMeadows.news/donate)

.....  
**(Private Events - Dates and Locations to be announced)**

Spring Festival

2024 Scholarship Fundraiser Event

2024 Scholarship Awards Night

Volunteer Appreciation Night

Fourth of July Parade

Trunk or Treat

Turkey Trot

Toys for Tots

.....  
**(Public Events)**

**Seller's Faire /Bake Sale Fundraiser: Total of 4, Lower Parking Lot at the Golf Course (Dates Pending)**

To Donate Baked Goods for the bake sales contact Vickey Ciarlanti at [vickeyciarlanti@gmail.com](mailto:vickeyciarlanti@gmail.com) or

Bonnie Metzger at [bonnie.metzger@icloud.com](mailto:bonnie.metzger@icloud.com)

**Golf Tournament Scholarship Fundraiser: May 2024**

**Location: Boulder Oaks Golf Course**

**Vintage Car Show - Date and Location to be announced**

.....  
**NEW EVENTS ARE BEING PLANNED AS WELL!!! Fundraisers, Beautification Projects and Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program**



**Record size catfish: The angler who caught the lake record 71.20 pound is Abisai'l Martinez.**

## Record catfish caught at Lake Wohlford

The big news of the past week at Lake Wohlford was Abisai'l Martinez.

Martinez of Vista catching the new Lake Record Catfish near the Crappie Float.

According to ranger specialist George Scalo, Martinez's fish was caught using a nightcrawler and weighed a whopping 71.20 pounds. "Lake Wohlford cats prefer cut mackerel, shrimp, or chicken liver," said Scalo. "In addition to this behemoth a 32.20 pound catfish was caught by Kona Xiong and a 17.40 pound cat was caught by Somnang Onn. I guess it is safe to say the large catfish are feeding right now."

The trout bite has been brisk with many fish being caught along Senior Shore and in Boat Dock Cove. Matthew Lalourie of Bladensburg, Maryland had the biggest trout of the past week at 6.80 pounds caught on hook-up bait in Willow Cove. Other notable catches included David Colapietro's 6 pound, Robert Jenkin's 5.50 pound, Cary Kimura's 5.40 pound and Anthony Martinez's 4.60 pound trout.

Park hours: 6 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Open seven days a week) Dock closes: 4:30 p.m.

Last Plant: 1,500 lbs. of rainbow trout the week of Dec.24th -30th.

Next Plant: 1,500 lbs. of rainbow trout the week of January 7th – 13th.

Water temperature: At surface 57.02 f., 9.24 D.O. @ 15' 54.68 f., 9.04 D.O.

Water level: Lowlevel, private watercraft are currently banned.

Permits and boat rentals are sold at the Ranger Station. The lake is credit/debit only, no cash transactions. Rangers do not sell fishing licenses so anglers must obtain them elsewhere prior to their visit. The all-day motor boats are \$25 for seniors on Tuesday and Thursdays and to active military every Saturday.

To protect Wohlford from invasive exotic Quagga mussels, there is a ban on private watercraft and equipment that could have been exposed to mussels. Restricted equipment includes; private boats, canoes, kayaks, float tubes, trolling motors, fish finders, anchors, and other equipment that contacts the water.

Each month Whopper Contest winners in four categories are awarded a free fishing and boating permit. Contest winners must legally catch their fish at Lake Wohlford and have it weighed in by a Wohlford Ranger on our scale. For information on the contest or fishing conditions, please contact the Ranger Station at (760) 839-4346.

To view current fish photos, visit: <http://www.wohlfordlake.com>

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# Where to recycle trees

In Escondido, it's EASY to recycle your Christmas trees from December 26 - January 5.

- Curbside:
  - Cut tree to fit inside green waste bin and place on curb on your regular trash collection date. Kit Carson Park: 3333 Bear Valley Parkway
  - South entrance, first parking lot on right, across from adult softball complex
  - Jesmond Dene Park: 2401 North Broadway
  - Parking lot next to ball fields
- Questions? Call Escondido Disposal at 760-745-3203 or the Recycling Hotline at 760-839-6216.

**SUBMIT CONTENT FOR HMN**

Deadline for local article submission: 17th of the month for the next issue. Photographs submitted for publication should be hi-resolution, unmodified originals, hi-res/300dpi. We cannot accept photos taken from social media sites such as Facebook. Send drafts and photos to Patricia Fox to **LocalEditor@HiddenMeadows.news**

**HIDDEN MEADOWS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

HMCF2023@gmail.com

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Donate online: [www.HiddenMeadows.news/donate](http://www.HiddenMeadows.news/donate)

**HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

911: Immediate Emergency Assistance

211: Emergency and non-emergency county information hotline

Animal Services: 619-299-7012

CAL FIRE/Fire Information hotline: 619-590-3160

California Highway Patrol: 858-637-3800

**Deer Springs Fire Protection District**  
 Station 1 Headquarters: 760-749-8001  
 Station 2 Deer Springs: 760-741-5512  
 Station 3 Hidden Meadows: 760-751-0820  
 Burn Permits: 760-749-8001

Road Conditions/ Closures:  
 Cal Trans 800-427-7623 or [www.traffic.com](http://www.traffic.com)

# Hidden Meadows Community Resources and Organizations

**Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**  
 Contact Marc Weissman at 760-525-5170 or [marcweissman11@gmail.com](mailto:marcweissman11@gmail.com).

**Community Sponsor Group**  
 Contact Chairman Jim Chagala, at 760 751-2691 for more information.

**Hidden Meadows Neighborhood Watch**  
 Please join our facebook group: Hidden Meadows Neighborhood Watch. We'll share neighborhood information, safety tips, and news of future events.  
 Contact Info: Erik Tyler 442-235-9060 [erikdtyler@gmail.com](mailto:erikdtyler@gmail.com)

**Deer Springs Fire Safe Council**  
 Contact Steve Kerrin at 760-807-1141.

**Emergency Communication System**  
 To register, visit [www.deerspringsfiresafecouncil.com](http://www.deerspringsfiresafecouncil.com).  
 An information hotline is updated during emergencies or noteworthy events and may be called 24/7 at 949-472-1407. Red flags are placed on the "Fire Danger Signs" during red flag warnings.

- Homeowners Associations
- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| The Meadows Homes Association (MHA)         | 760-749-7278 |
| Rimrock Homeowners Association              | 760-749-4008 |
| Hidden Meadows Ranch Homeowners Association | 760-407-7575 |
| Silverado Management Services               |              |
| Oak Meadows Glen Homeowners Association     | 760-749-4796 |

**Organizations**

**Garden Club**  
 Contact Kim Marin ([kimgroggmarin@gmail.com](mailto:kimgroggmarin@gmail.com)) or Melisa Mitchell ([melisamitchell6@hotmail.com](mailto:melisamitchell6@hotmail.com))

**Hidden Meadows Bridge Group**  
 We play bridge at the MHA Pavilion every Wednesday from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Please call Curt Bruce at 442-222-0821 if you'd like to join us.

**Hidden Meadows Community Foundation (HMCF)**  
 Contact Michele Zipse at [HMCF2023@gmail.com](mailto:HMCF2023@gmail.com).

**Ladies Bible Study**  
 Contact Debbie Hamer at 760-297-1278 or Sue Shepard at 760-213-0325

**Tennis Club**  
 Contact Katy Freeze at 760-749-9722 or [clarkfreese@gmail.com](mailto:clarkfreese@gmail.com).

**Women's Golf Club**  
 Contact Ellen at 760-749-1190

**Women's Social Group**  
 email to [hmwsg92026@gmail.com](mailto:hmwsg92026@gmail.com).

**Yoga**  
 Contact Joanne Boessow at 760-751-0261 or [mljab33@cox.net](mailto:mljab33@cox.net) for more information.

**Super Crossword**

*Answers*

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## Hidden Meadows Garden Club Heads for The Light

By Richard Marin / Resident

For the December gathering of the Hidden Meadows Garden Club, the leadership decided that it was time to visit the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas. The only thing the Club is more wary of than a road trip is a nighttime road trip, but they were drawn to go for the very popular Lightscape Show that is run from November 17th and has now been extended to January 7th due to popular demand.

The San Diego Botanic Garden was created in 1970 on 22 acres of donated land (the ex-home of Ruth Baird Larabee) and was originally called the Quail Botanical Garden. It was expanded by another 15 acres and renamed by the County in the early 1980s. Now, this 37-acre urban oasis has 4 miles of meandering trails and ocean views (at least in the daytime). It also hosts 5,300 plant species and varieties, and 29 uniquely themed gardens that represent 15 different regions and many habitats of the world.

The Lightscape Show is installed on one mile of the hillside paths of the Botanic Garden and is an exciting installation that combines nature and lighting art to dazzle the senses of all ages. The show is a combination of light and sound with themed holiday music coming at you from all sides as you wander the paths, awestruck by every variety of lights hidden in and amongst the trees and shrubs. There are hanging lights that look like blossoms, sparkling lights wrapped around every limb of this tree or that, overhead laser light shows, and flashing lights that put Chevy Chase's house in *National Lampoon Christmas Vacation* to shame.

The Hidden Meadows Club members, consisting of Melisa Mitchell (note the absence of hubby Mike Brower, who refused to miss Thursday Night Football) and her mother Judith, Faraj and Yasuko Tavangari, Jane Cairns, Diane Heath and her sister, Mike Quandrozzi, Bonnie and Tom Metzger, Sima Kashani and friends, Kathy and

Doug Brownell, Donna and Jeff Hinke, Pat and Roy Buntin, Pat Tanabi and Joe Zlotnick, Nancy Garcia, Frances Munk, Kim Marin and the author. This intrepid squad met at the golf course parking area and carpooled in six vehicles to Encinitas, doing their best to maintain a convoy, but getting unhinged by holiday traffic.

Nonetheless, everyone made it to the Gardens and spent the next few hours wandering the grounds in the darkening skies, being wowed by the display and using the occasion to get into the holiday spirit. We were all motivated by the occasion to go home and wonder whether we had put up enough lighting decorations on our own gardens for the season. If you are as lazy as the rest of us, I recommend just going to the San Diego Botanic Garden to get your holiday lighting fix. It won't disappoint.


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# Sideyard Public House expands kitchen, menu



Shari & Alex Petric and (center) Jake Nickelson of the Sideyard Public House, with a huge selection of local and international brews.



Jake Nickelson has built the Sideyard's collection of brews into an impressive, even intimidating degree. But he is a people-loving personality.

By DAVID ROSS

If you've never visited the Sideyard Public House in Hidden Meadows, now would be a good time: They are expanding both their kitchen and menu.

Shari Petric, co-owner of the restaurant/pub, says the new menu is coming January 1. Expect some new items like such as ahi and poke dishes, but don't expect changes in quality—like Sideyard's devotion to making all sauces from scratch. And they will always have chef specials.

The expansion of the kitchen makes many things possible for the restaurant, which opened in 2020 during the depths of the pandemic, when opening a restaurant was almost an act of faith. Faith that turned out to be justified for Shari and Alex Petric.

The gamble paid off, so they needed to expand because the place's popularity turned it into a social magnet for the whole community. "We are a vital part of the community," says Shari. Which meant they needed to expand the kitchen to keep up with demand. "Every weekend every table [and they have 125] is full," she explained. Expanding the restaurant is also a "leap of faith."

With growth, Sideyard has become something of an institution. With so many tables it has become home to several organizations that meet there regularly. "We've become an event venue, with lots of wedding rehearsals," she said. "We never thought we'd do that." Recently a couple celebrated 75 years together there.

It has become a place where people gather. "Some people come five days a week," said Shari. "People who have lost a spouse come to have dinner with friends. "The best thing we have done

for people here is give them a social life."

The day before I visited the Sideyard for this interview, Shari Petric hosted a "Sip and Paint." Local artist, Jacqui Hughes, led a group of women on a journey of art discovery—paired with wine. "We are a fun, welcoming environment where you can get a smile and a great meal!" she said.

And for the Petrics themselves? "It's everything we could have dreamed of," she says. It doesn't hurt that they live one minute from home!

## Everything from scratch

They have a selection of burgers all done in the "smash burger" style. Their burgers and burger style sandwiches are the most popular items on the menu. All served on a brioche bun as soft as a cloud. Shari Petric wants people to know that nothing is frozen and they bread their own battered fish tacos.

They constantly ply their customers with samples, to introduce them to new tastes and get their reactions.

Beginning January 1 they will begin offering Brunch from 9 a.m.-noon. Featuring dishes like Eggs Benedict, with homemade hollandaise sauce and biscuits and gravy. "Eggs Benedict is my favorite," said Shari.

Never let it be said that I write about a restaurant without sampling some of its delicacies. This visit was one of the best I've experienced in a while. I tried a plate of Chicken Wings, which are each as meaty as drumsticks and come in Buffalo BBQ, Sweet Thai Chili and Lemon Pepper.

Next I tried the Brussels Sprouts, which is crunchy, sweet and savory all at the same time. You can tell yourself that you're eating healthy.



Shari Petric proudly displays "The Sideyard Burger" the restaurant's signature dish, a smash burger with American cheese, iceberg lettuce, tomato, red onion, dill pickle, homemade sauce on a soft-as-a-cloud brioche bun. Try fitting your mouth around that!



Roasted Brussels Sprouts with applewood smoked bacon, almonds, bleu cheese crumbles and balsamic vinegar. A favorite of many—including this writer.



The Classic, dripping with gooey American cheese and the Sideyard's homemade sauce. It's a feast on a bun!



A plate bone-in Chicken Wings. This plate is of the Sweet Thai Chili, which has a nice bite. Two yums up!

I also enjoyed the Loaded Tots, with shredded cheese, bacon, sour cream and chives.

## Beer Talk

Let's talk beer, and the man to talk it with is Jake Nickelson, who has built the restaurant's collection of brews that includes such royalty as Pliny the Elder and Blind Pig from the Russian River Brewing Company (currently rated Number one among top U.S. craft beer brands), which Nickelson has a professional relationship with. "People drive here for miles, sometimes from LA, to get those beers," he says proudly.

Many customers come to enjoy the Nickelson's company and his people-loving personality that for some people is like "having a son," said Shari.

Nickelson was previously F&B director at Lake San Marcos, where he built relationships with some of the finest craft beer outlets. "I tend to buy from indies and support small businesses," he said. "I could make life easier by ordering from one distributor, but I don't. I order from twenty to twenty five! It's all about having the best."

They also have a wine list of more than 60 labels, some of them local, others from NAPA. "We have some really good labels," said Nickelson. They also have "a ton" of seltzer waters with flavors like kiwi and pineapple—all fresh. They also have craft cocktails, hard cider and even non-alcoholic beers.

"We hit the holidays hard," said Nickelson. "We have lots of Delirium Tremens (a Belgian Strong Ale from the Huyghe Brewery and Weihenstephaner, a beer from the world's oldest brewery, the Bavarian State Brewery Weihen-

stephan. And he doesn't stop there. Nickelson also brews three house beers, including a house blonde, a house West Coast IPA and a house Milk Stout. This season he brewed a gingerbread stout called Santa's Little Helper. "We have a rotating tap of 20 beers, which is very eclectic," he said. He's always happy to give customers a taste first.

## Giving back

They enjoy giving back to the community and just hosted a Toys for Tots for the second year. They frequently do fundraisers where they donate 20% back to the charity, such as Little League or a school or scholarship. "That's just something that a good community restaurant should do, give back to the community that you live in," Shari said.

Every month the staff meets and brainstorms questions such as, "What can we do? What's fun?" They constantly try to up their game. "Next year we will do a tree lighting!" said Shari.

They do a lot of "to go" orders and they just started working with Door Dash—which they hope will be helpful for some of their senior customers who have trouble getting out to eat.

What makes the Sideyard special, said Petric, "is the feeling between the community and my entire staff." A lot of people have become friends by meeting here, she said.

The Sideyard Public House is open 11 a.m.—10 p.m. weekdays and weekends 11 a.m. to midnight. There is live music 6-9 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays and Trivia Thursday, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The address is 10326 Meadow Glen Way East. The phone is 760-297-1051.