

CAMARILLO NOONTIME OPTIMIST CLUB

News Brief

February 20, 2017

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**By providing hope and positive vision,
Optimists bring out the best in kids**



Optimist Meeting Venue Changing!



After more than a decade of Optimist Club Monday meetings at Round Table Pizza, the restaurant has permanently closed its doors to all. Many groups, clubs, sports teams, birthday party families, etc. will have to find another

place to meet and enjoy a fun time together... Be sure to click onto our website—www.camarillooptimistclub.org—or check the weekly club email info for our Monday meeting spot. For February 27 we will be at Toppers Pizza, 520 Arneill Road.

Jan. 30 - Camarillo Police Chiefs David Murray and Chris Dunn

Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club Board Member—**Larry Davis**—arranged for the incoming and outgoing police chiefs to share the latest local law enforcement news. Commander Chris Dunn, a naval reservist lieutenant commander, will step down from



(l-r) above: Commander Dave Murray, Larry Davis, and Commander Chris Dunn

the Camarillo police chief position he took over in October from outgoing police chief Monica McGrath, after receiving orders for deployment to the Middle East. Commander Dunn brought two of the surveillance drones that local authorities use to help to fight crime, assist in searches, locate lost hikers, etc. at a fraction of the cost of buying and deploying helicopters.

In order to give the City of Camarillo continuity of service, Commander Dunn switched assignments on Jan. 15 with Commander David Murray who oversees the agency's support services. After moving from Bakersfield to Ventura with his parents as a youngster, and later graduating from Long Beach State, Murray eventually was hired with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office in 1990. He has held many positions over the years including SWAT team commander, K-9 unit manager, patrol watch commander, detention serves, adjutant to the undersheriff, and more. Welcome to Camarillo! 2

YWA - Saluting their daughter's success

Haley Coggins, a sixth grader at Los Primeros School of Sciences and Arts

(LPSSA), received the Youth We Appreciate Award from the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club.

Samantha Sontag, Haley's teacher, said the 11-year-old is a very kind, giving and outstanding student who is participating in volleyball and yearbook at LPSSA. She was sited for being a leader in class and displays a maturity far beyond her years in both her academics and her relations with her peers and teachers.



Pictured above (l-r): PVSD Superintendent, Dr. Angelica Ramsey, Haley, Miss Sontag, & Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club YWA coordinator, Janna Visser.



Haley's parents (above: Chris and Erica Coggins) noted that she has been a very bright light in their lives. They mentioned that "while stationed in Guam, Haley participated in Earth Day Clean Up and helped display flags in the park to honor the fallen from WWII. In the DODEA education program while in the overseas military school she received an award for best in science. Too, she has had to take on a bully and has always had the respect for her peers no matter the circumstances."

Feb. 13 - Steven Dwyer—Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Ventura County

Steven Dwyer informed the Camarillo Optimist Club that Habitat for Humanity celebrates 25 years of Restores across the country! The Oxnard Restore—1850



Eastman Ave.,—has been around for 17 years taking in donations of new and gently used furniture, appliances, building materials and more and selling these items at a fraction of the retail price to the public. Rare affordable housing in Ventura County has new home construction and renovated and repaired structures a very valuable part of the Preserve a Home and the New Home programs of Habitat. Transforming lives and making a new beginning for families has been the goal of Habitat for Humanity and its many volunteers and professional helpers.

Citizens of Ventura County are urged to learn about the volunteer opportunities and donations that can be made by contacting Habit at: habitatventura.org or [facebook.com/hfhvc](https://www.facebook.com/hfhvc).

Howard Hoover (right above) arranged for Steven to come to the Optimist Club lunch meeting and share some of his growing up years and the challenges Habit faces in the months and years ahead.

Our Newest Member—Mark Contreras, Principal of Rio Mesa High School is Inducted on Feb. 13...

The **Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club** officially inducted **Mark Contreras** at its first meeting in February at Toppers Pizza. The party room lighting was so poor that we had to follow up and take the picture below with Ron Klemann's granddaughter—Skylar Klemann—doing the photography at Mark's house. We had a chance to meet



Mark's kids and dogs. We very much look forward to having Mark and his wife come to a meeting in the near future when he can share some of his bio, his many family activities, Rio Mesa happenings and future plans. Look forward to seeing Mark at the **Annual Youth Banquet and Awards Event March 16, 2017, at the Camarillo Civic Center** along with a bunch of award winning Rio Mesa High School Students.

Remember to click on to our **website—www.camarillooptimistclub.org**—anytime you need to see the **Calendar of Events Coming Up**, past happenings, pictures of YWA groups, and more...

Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club Calendar:

February 20 - No Meeting - Presidents Day Holiday

February 27 - Dr. Penelope DeLeon - Oxnard Union High School District Superintendent, and YWA, Jolina Le, Monte Vista Middle School at Toppers Pizza

March 6 - Donald Price (Retired) - Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, and YWA, Sophia Valencia, Camarillo Heights School

March 13 - Jose Rivera - U.S. Navy SeaBee Museum, and YWA, Ashlee Shon, Dos Caminos School

March 16 - Optimist Club Annual Youth Banquet and Awards at the Camarillo Civic Center at 6:00 p.m.

March 20 - Gerry Olsen - History of Norwegian Grade, and YWA, Maliah Maldonado, Las Posas School

March 27 - To Be Determine - Get To Know Your Optimist, and YWA, Omar Ruiz, Pleasant Valley School of Engineering and Arts

April 3 - TBA and YWA, Katelyn Miller, Tierra Linda School

April 10 - Howard Hoover - Surprise Subject

April 17 - No Meeting - Easter Weekend

April 24 - TBA

May 1 - TBA

May 5 - Optimist Club Annual Youth Benefit Golf Tournament and Dinner at Sterling Hills Golf Course at 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

May 8 - No Meeting - Mother's Day Weekend

May 15 - Mike Kroll - Optimist Club Essay Winners Recognition

May 22 - Jeri Jennings - The Love on a Leash program for therapy dogs

May 29 - No Meeting - Memorial Day Holiday

FILLER: Vacationing in Hawaii, two priests decide to wear casual clothes so they won't be identified as clergy. They buy Hawaiian shirts and sandals, and soon hit the beach. They notice a gorgeous blonde in a tiny bikini. "Good afternoon, Fathers," she says as she strolls by.

The men are stunned. How does she know they're clergy? Later they buy even wilder attire: surfer shorts, tie-dyed T-shirts, and dark glasses. The next day, they return to the beach. The same fabulous blonde, now wearing a string bikini, passes by, nods politely at them, and says, "Good morning, Fathers."

"Just a minute, young lady," says one of the priests. "We are priests and proud of it, but how in the world did you know?"

"Don't you recognize me? I'm Sister Kathryn from the convent."