

GUEST OPINION | THE BUSINESS BUZZ by Jim Wynne

SC Rolls Out Red Carpet for Local Legends

By the time February rolls around, Hollywood won't be the only place handing out awards. Right here in our Spanish Village by the Sea, the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for its most celebratory event of the year: the Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon, happening Friday, Feb. 20, at the stunning Bella Collina San Clemente.

If you've ever wondered who's quietly (or loudly) making San Clemente such a great place to live, work and do business, this is where the spotlight shines. The annual luncheon is equal parts networking mixer, community celebration and victory lap for the people and organizations that keep this town moving forward.

Guests will enjoy a delicious three-course luncheon (yes, the good kind) while connecting with local business owners, non-profit leaders and civic champions. The program includes the installation of the Chamber's Board of Directors, along with the presentation of some of the most meaningful honors in town.

Chamber members were invited to apply for a range of awards, including Business of the Year, Nonprofit of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Outstanding Lifetime Achievement, Volunteer of the Year, and more. These aren't participation trophies. They're recognition for real impact — companies creating jobs, nonprofits strengthening the community and individuals going above and beyond without asking for applause. And, yet, applause they shall receive.

What truly sets this event apart isn't just the plaques or applause, but the peo-



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ple behind them. Year after year, the honorees remind us what's possible when talent meets heart and commitment to community. Their stories have a ripple effect, inspiring fellow business owners, volunteers, and residents to raise their hand, give a little more and find new ways to contribute to the city we all love. The Annual Meeting isn't just a celebration of past achievements; it's a spark that motivates the next wave of leadership, service and civic pride in San Clemente.

Events like this matter more than ever. In a world of remote work and online everything, the Annual Meeting is a reminder that relationships still drive business. Deals are sparked over table conversations. Partnerships begin with handshakes. And, sometimes, inspiration comes from hearing a neighbor's story of grit, growth or service.

For local businesses, it's also a smart move. Being nominated, or better yet, winning, puts your name in front of the people who live, shop, invest and hire right here in San Clemente. Visibility, credibility and community goodwill all in one afternoon? That's a solid return.

Whether you attend to celebrate this year's honorees, support the Chamber, or walk away inspired to contribute a little more to the city we all call home, this is one event worth attending. Event details at scchamber.com.

Jim Wynne, president of WynneCRE, is a local commercial real estate broker, former San Clemente Chamber of Commerce board member, San Onofre Surfing Club board member, San Clemente resident and father of five. SC



Photo: Courtesy of San Clemente Historical Society

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Does anyone remember Del's Sea Shore Apartments at the corner of Coronado Land and Ave. Victoria from the early 1960s? If yes, please share your memories and pictures with the San Clemente Historical Society!

This photo can be purchased from the San Clemente Historical Society at sanclementehistoricalssociety.org.

San Clemente Times will showcase a historical photo from around the city. If you have a photo you would like to submit for consideration, send the photo, your name for credit as well as the date and location of the photo to ryoungman@picketfencemedia.com

ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK

Chai

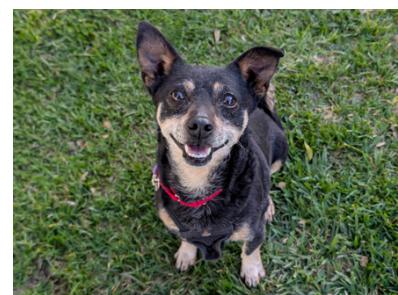


Photo: Courtesy of San Clemente/Dana Point Animal Shelter

SAN CLEMENTE TIMES

This little guy is Chai, the happiest pup you're likely to meet. Five years old, Chai is an outgoing dog who loves to greet you with a smile. He has a generally easygoing nature and enjoys his daily walks, but seems to be happiest when perched in a comfy lap. Chai gets along with other dogs and would likely make a wonderful addition to just about any home.

If you are interested in adopting Chai, please visit petprojectfoundation.org/adoptions/ to download an adoption application form. Completed forms can be emailed to animalservices@scpanimalshelter.org, and you will be contacted about making an interaction appointment. SC

Local Real Estate by Local Experts



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Did you know that...

- 1 In 2025, San Clemente had 633 homes sold, while in 2024, there were approximately 671 homes sold.
- 2 In 2025, the average home sale in San Clemente was \$2,057,455, while in 2024, the average home sale was \$1,872,304.
- 3 Out of all the sold homes last year, the average market time in 2025 was just 39 days to sell, and sold for 98.6% of asking price.

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