

CORONADO ISLAND

# crown city

magazine™



## THE SURFING ISSUE

*Legends & Lifestyles*

**Pay It Forward: Optimists**

**Honoring Local WWII Vet**

PRICELESS

JULY 2018

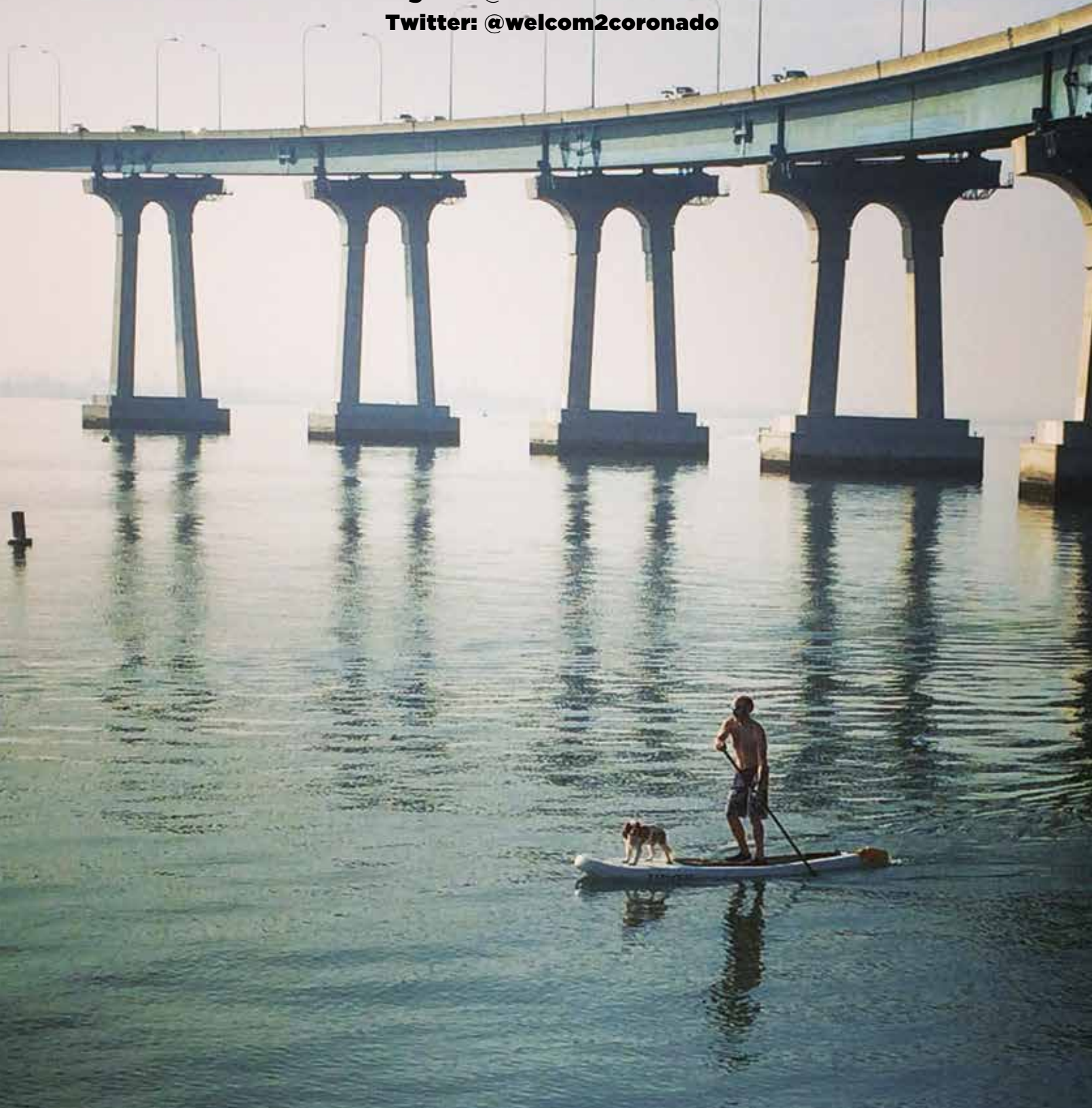
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SCOTT AURICH  
*presents*

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716 TOLITA AVENUE \$6,500,000  
6BR, 4.5BA, 4,820 SF | Elevator, pool, roof deck



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NEW CONSTRUCTION

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6BR, 6BA, 5,000 SF | Spring 2019



ONE BLOCK TO THE BEACH

1022 G AVENUE \$3,999,000  
4BR, 4.5BA, 3,667 SF | Open design, elevator, roof deck



PREMIER BEACH LOCATION

733 TOLITA AVENUE \$3,950,000  
3BR, 3.5BA, 2,894 SF | Solar, roof deck, ocean views



9,800 SF LOT

810 ALAMEDA BLVD \$3,675,000  
4BR, 3.5BA, 3,604 SF | Single-level w/pool, 1BR casita



POOL & SPA

711 MARGARITA AVENUE \$3,650,000  
5BR, 3.5BA, 3,500 SF | Courtyard 7,700 SF lot



DECK WITH FIREPLACE

1105 6TH STREET \$3,099,000  
5BR, 7BA, 3,653 SF | Elevator, coastal design



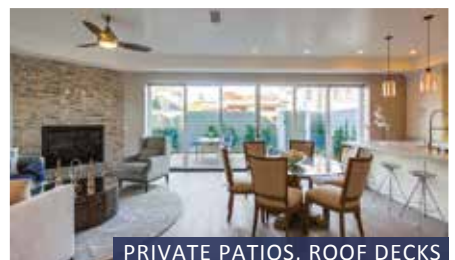
BRAND NEW

919 G AVENUE \$2,795,000  
5BR, 4.5BA, 3,200 SF | Roof deck, private patio



BAY AND CITY VIEWS

1099 1ST STREET #207 \$2,495,000  
2BR, 2.5BA, 2,229 SF | 150+ SF patio



PRIVATE PATIOS, ROOF DECKS

710 & 714 E AVENUE \$2,339,000  
4BR, 4.5BA, 2,344 SF Townhomes | Open design

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Lifeguard Trevor  
Wageman rode  
some big waves  
off Coronado  
during Pacific  
Hurricane Marie  
in August 2014.



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**ON THE COVER**

**Cole Quinlan photographed  
by Tammy Outlaw**

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**crown city**  
magazine

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FROM YOUR PUBLISHING TEAM

# Hello Summer!

Welcome to the First Issue of Crown City Magazine, July 2018!

Coronado is an extremely unique place with lots of amazing stories, many of which haven't been told yet. It is our commitment to find those stories and share them with you, the reader.

The members of our team all have fond memories of lazy summer days on Coronado beaches, past and present. Summertime means school is in the rear-view mirror, the kids are home, and there's more time to hang out. There's no better place to spend your summer days than Coronado.

Islanders come home from across the country, and even the world, for the Fourth of July. It's a time for locals to reunite with fellow Coronado High School grads through the years. Special reunions are held for those celebrating milestones of 10, 20, 30, 40 and even 50 years. And CHS graduates in-between those milestone years gather together at the All-Class Reunion on the night of July 3 at the Coronado Golf Course, an amazing opportunity for everyone to see old friends.

The Fourth of July is our busiest day of the year and Coronado rises to its patriotic best. Visitors and residents come together to celebrate our country's independence with pride. The day is action-packed so check out our schedule of all the holiday's events.

Surfing has been around for a long time and Coronado has its own unique role in its history. We've got some fun stories of past and present-day surfers which will only scratch the surface of the years, the characters, and the legends of Coronado surfing.

Speaking of patriotism, we also have a story about 96-year-old Coronado resident Tom Rice returning to France to revisit Normandy and jump out of a plane on the anniversary of D-Day, after his first jump there in 1944.

We also highlight in this issue the Optimist Club of Coronado's annual Sports Fiesta at the end of July, and we have a fun Q&A by City Councilman Whitney Benzian with our retiring police chief.

Thanks for reading our first issue and we'd love to hear what you think. Send feedback and story ideas to [hello@crowncitymagazine.com](mailto:hello@crowncitymagazine.com). Enjoy the magazine!

Most Sincerely,

Amy Slack, Heather Canton,  
Leslie Crawford and Amy Stirnkorb





## Coronado Summer Concert Series

*Concerts begin at 6pm unless noted otherwise.*

**July 1**

### **RON'S GARAGE**

Ron's Garage will transport you to the best musical moments of the 1960s and 70s to the current music of today. Sponsored by Bungalow 56 & Nicolls Design Build.

**July 4 @ 4pm**

### **CORONADO CONCERT BAND**

The band, launched in 1997, has grown annually in size and stature, relying on core members and the services of part time residents. Experience the talent of a true cross section of our community at its creative best. Sponsored by California American Water.

**July 8**

### **TAINTED LOVE**

A newcomer for 2018 is Tainted Love. Want to relive the 80s? Tainted Love delivers with seven charismatic and accomplished musicians. Sponsored by Newman Charitable Trust.

**July 15**

### **THE ZIPPERS**

The Zippers have become one of the most sought after acts in the country. They were recently named Best Dance Band In The USA by the National Music Award. Sponsored by Madhu Arora.

**July 22**

### **CALIBER**

Caliber offers a rich variety of music — 70s, 80s, 90s, old school funk, classic rock, reggae, and top 40 hits — all performed with skill and authenticity to create an amazing live, dance music experience. Sponsored by CalPrivate Bank.

**July 29**

### **ABBAFAB**

From the earliest ABBA hits to Mama Mia, AbbaFab will take you on an unmatched ABBA journey in the heart of Coronado. Sponsored by Coronado Real Estate Association.

**August 5**

### **GILBERT CASTELLANOS LATIN JAZZ REVIEW**

This hot salsa orchestra will present some of the greatest Latin Jazz standards of all time. Just try to stay still for this concert Sponsored by Rotary Club of Coronado.

**August 12**

### **MUSTACHE HARBOR**

The band covers the classic hits from the 70s and 80s, the likes of which have not been seen since Christopher Cross, Steely Dan, Ace, Kenny Loggins and The Little River Band ruled the airwaves and created AM Gold. ENJOY THE RIDE! Sponsored by Newman Charitable Trust and Steve & Karen Pittendrigh.

**August 19**

### **IT'S NEVER2L8**

It's Never 2L8 will get you up off your feet, dancing and singing at the top of your lungs. Their playlist includes mainstream, classic hits ranging from the 60s to present day dance tunes. Sponsored by Dr. Electric.

**For more concert information,  
visit [coronadoconcert.com](http://coronadoconcert.com)**

## **ONGOING**

Coronado Promenade Concerts:

Sundays, Spreckels Park

Art in the Park: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays,

Spreckels Park

Farmer's Market: Weekly Tuesday

afternoon, Coronado Ferry Landing

Rotary Club: Weekly Wednesday at

noon, Hotel del Coronado

Optimist Club: Weekly Thursday at

7 am, Coronado Community Center

## **JULY**

3: Circumnavigation

3: All Class Reunion

4: The Biggest Day of the Year!

17: Armchair Travel

18: Celebrate Coronado

20: Dutch Shoe Marathon Sabot Race

22: Firehouse Spaghetti Dinner

25: Classic Movie Series

27: Movie on the Bay

28: Optimist Sports Fiesta

## **AUGUST**

21: Armchair Travel

23: CUSD First Day of School

26: Bike the Bay

29: Classic Movie Series

## **SAVE THE DATE**

September 13: Coronado Hospital  
Foundation Golf Tournament

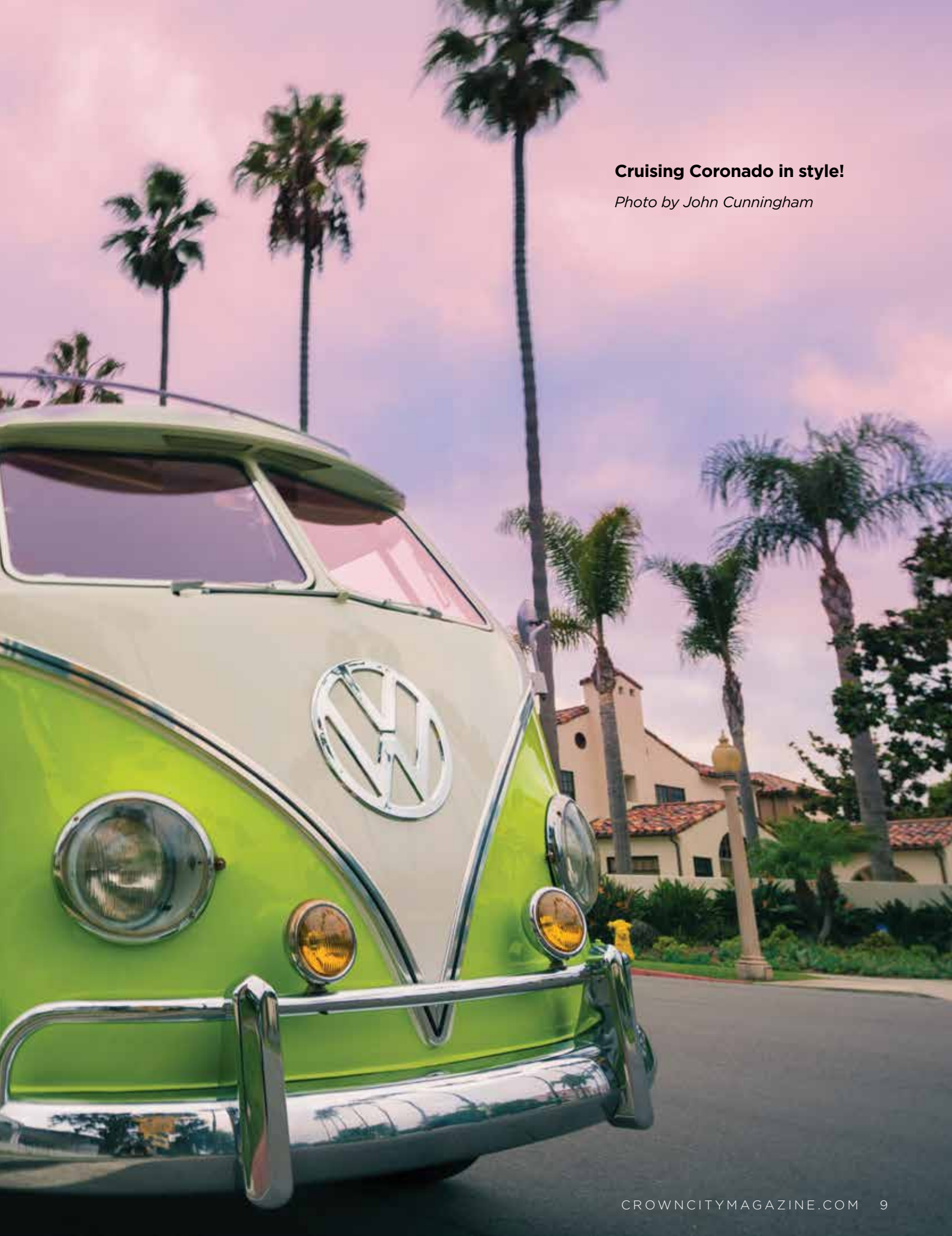
September 16: SuperFrog Triathlon

September 21: 92118 Day!

*For more details and a complete listing  
of events, visit [CoronadoCalendar.com](http://CoronadoCalendar.com)*







**Cruising Coronado in style!**

*Photo by John Cunningham*



## THE SURFING ISSUE

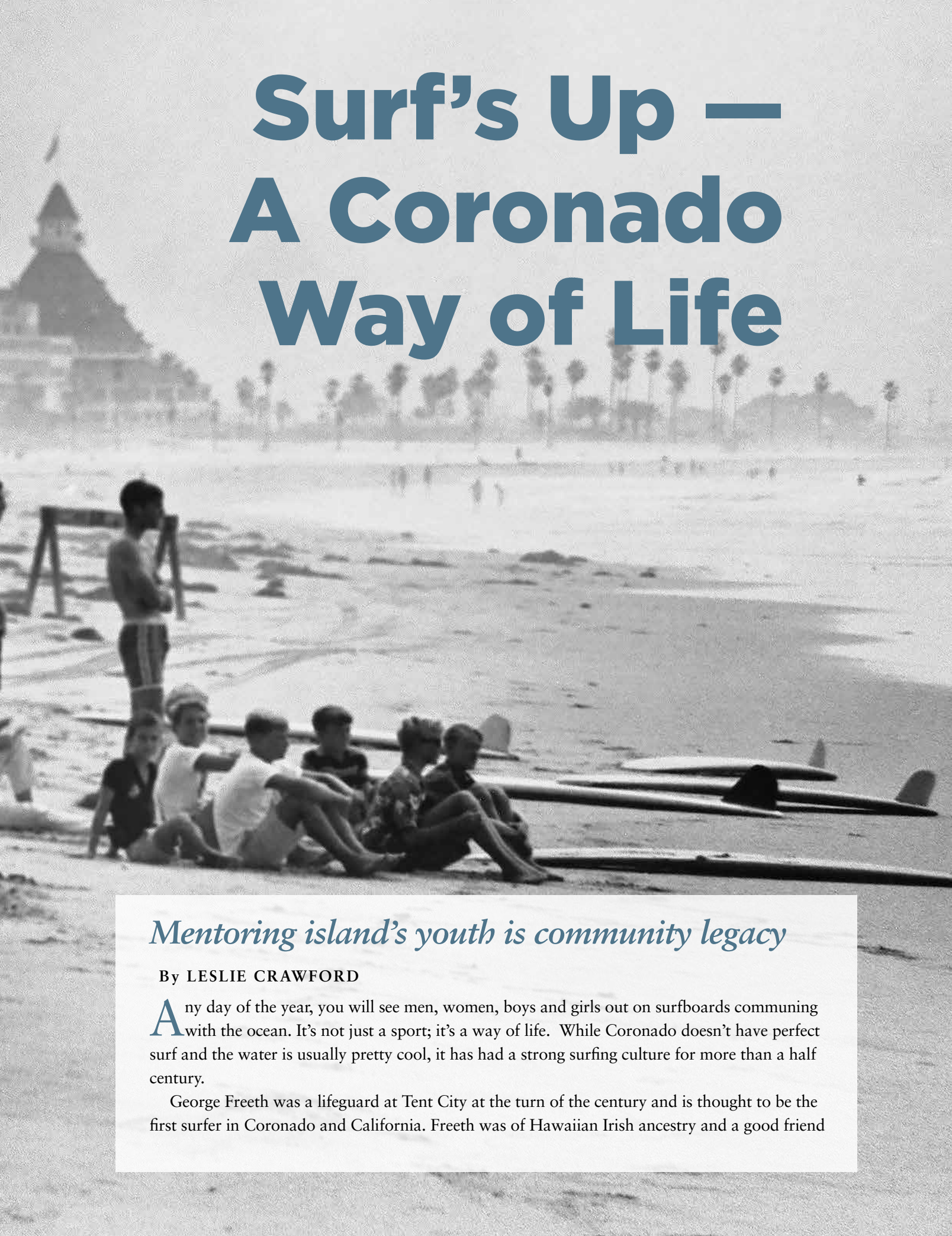
**Coronado Surf Explorers watch senior surfers while waiting for their turn to compete, circa 1960s.**

Photo Courtesy [JohnElwellCollection.com](http://JohnElwellCollection.com)





# Surf's Up — A Coronado Way of Life

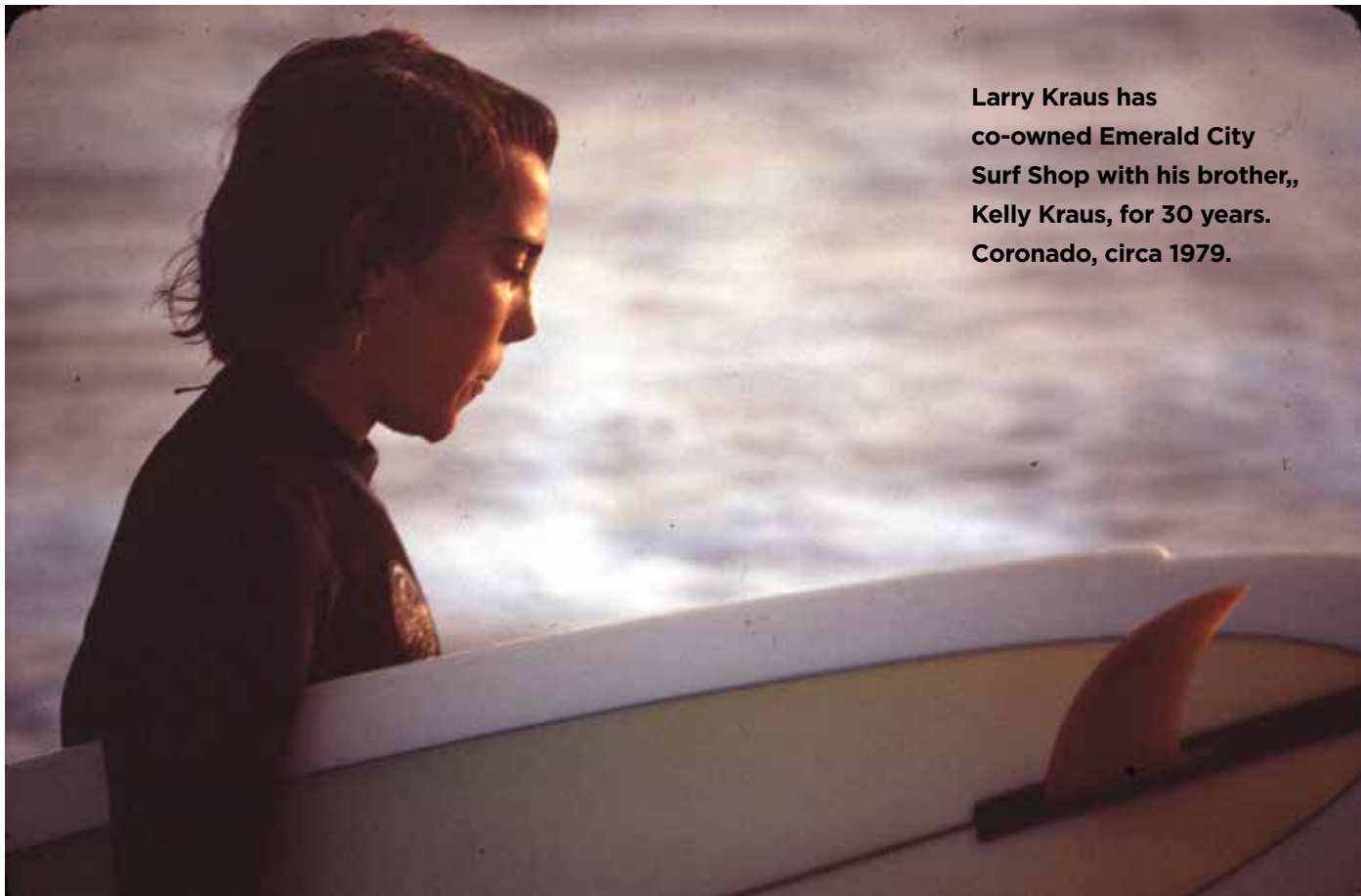


## *Mentoring island's youth is community legacy*

By LESLIE CRAWFORD

Any day of the year, you will see men, women, boys and girls out on surfboards communing with the ocean. It's not just a sport; it's a way of life. While Coronado doesn't have perfect surf and the water is usually pretty cool, it has had a strong surfing culture for more than a half century.

George Freeth was a lifeguard at Tent City at the turn of the century and is thought to be the first surfer in Coronado and California. Freeth was of Hawaiian Irish ancestry and a good friend



**Larry Kraus has co-owned Emerald City Surf Shop with his brother,, Kelly Kraus, for 30 years. Coronado, circa 1979.**

Photo Courtesy Leslie Hubbard Crawford

of iconic surfer Duke Kahanamoku.

Over the past 100 years, numerous Coronado watermen — legends, really — have mentored the island’s younger generations of surfers.

In the 1960s, a new culture emerged, an era of modern surfboards, surf movies, music and personal style that gave rise to surfing’s rebellious reputation as unruly and disrespectful. The surfers were a rowdy group, and when a few of them started “moon-ing” tourists while changing into their surf trunks out in the open on Ocean Boulevard, city leaders decided it was time to create a more positive



direction for the kids. John Elwell, early surfer and former lifeguard turned schoolteacher, stepped up and took on the task of guiding the surfing youth into a more structured framework.

“The boys wanted to surf and keep their identity as surfers and did not want to become Boy Scouts,” Elwell said. “Surfers were independent individuals and rebellious to rules and organization.” The compromise? Create a group of surfing “Explorers” under the auspices of the Boy Scouts, which would allow the boys to pursue their interests without having to wear uniforms. Elwell became

the Coronado Explorer advisor and (unbeknownst to the boys) official Scout master, and he went to work building a team focused on competitive surf meets. The rules were few, but stated that an Explorer had to be in good standing and a “gentleman” surfer or wouldn’t be allowed to compete.

Elwell rallied the Coronado community to help give more positive guidance to the young surfers. Two local dentists, Dr. Jim Cahill and Dr. Jim Verneti, and Navy Captain George Heap, who all had Scouting connections, became great supporters of the program. Coronado heart specialist, Dr. Paul Morton, gave instruction on drowning and resuscitation. Elwell also recruited La Jolla’s Scripps Institution of Oceanography Dr. Walter Munk, who



now at age 101 has been called the greatest living oceanographer and the “Einstein of the Oceans.” Munk taught the Explorers about environmental awareness and beach conservation, making these boys early leaders of this movement.

The Scout connection proved to be a tremendous asset when the Explorers wanted to surf a prime spot on the Navy side of North Beach. Elwell wrote the commanding officer of Naval Air Station North Island requesting access. It turned out the CO was a former Scout, and he agreed to allow the boys wearing surf trunks with the Explorers insignia unrestricted access to one of the finest beach breaks in California at the time.

Elwell’s deep roots in Coronado’s early surfing history attracted interesting and legendary people from the larger surfing community. “My old friends from Hawaii like John Severson, the McGilivarys and Bruce Brown allowed us to show their surf films to finance our activities. We packed the



**Big wave surfer Toby Cunningham of Coronado.**



**Pete Johnson, owner of Delray Surfboard Designs. Coronado, circa 1979.**

[Coronado High School] auditorium,” Elwell said.

Eventually the Coronado Surf Explorer Post was the biggest BSA (Boy Scouts of America) Explorer Post and surfing club in the world with more than 100 members and were featured in TIME and National Scouting magazines. Eventually Elwell moved away and the Explorer Post continued on for a while longer before finally disbanding.

“Coronado has produced some of the best surfers in the world. The Surf Explorers were a success and early leaders to improve surfing and beach conservation,” said Elwell a steadfast friend and mentor to many of those young surfers, who went on to become successful adults, and in turn, mentors to the newest generation of Coronado watermen and women.

Coronado’s culture of surfing has remained strong and constant

over the years and has produced top ranking surfers and leaders in the surf industry, including surfboard shaping and manufacturing.

Mike Gillard, now coach of the Coronado High School Surf Team, has won more than 1,000 trophies for regional, West Coast, National and International competitions.

He has been honored with a lifetime achievement award from the National Scholastic Surfing Association, and even has a movie based on his life as a surfer called *North*

*Shore*. Gillard’s brother Terry and sister Christine are also national and world ranked surfers. Taylor Jensen is a professional longboarder and three-time World Longboard Champion. Toby Cunningham, a professional ocean athlete and the first ever BillabongXXL paddle winner, travels extensively to ride big waves around the world.

These days, there are often as many women as men out in the surf,





CHS Surf Team (above) and Cole Quinlan (opposite page)

and in contrast to years ago when the attitude was “Locals Only,” the atmosphere out in the water is one of fun and camaraderie.

The latest generation of Coronado surfers are members of both Coronado Middle School (CMS) and Coronado High School (CHS) surf teams. Coronado High School’s surf team began with a legacy of mentors that continues to this day.

Lorton Mitchell, who left a strong legacy of mentoring and love of the ocean, coached the high school team with his wife, Carolyn, and John Gillem. Stan Searfus eventually took over the team, started the Coronado Middle School Surf Club and coached both teams until his untimely death this past January. Now, Mike Gillard has taken up mentoring the young surfers of Coronado schools. All these guys grew up in Coronado, paying forward the guidance they received

in their early years of surfing on our beaches.

This past school year, both Coronado Middle School (CMS) and Coronado High School (CHS) moved up to Division I, the highest division in the Scholastic Surfing Series and now compete against other coastal middle and high school surfers.

Cole Quinlan, who will be a CHS senior this fall, won first in the Longboard Division I and third at the state level of the Scholastic Surf Series. He also competed and placed first in the Southern California Individual Longboard Division of the West Coast Championships, moving him up to the USA Nationals where he placed second. Cole is one of the many teens in Coronado strongly influenced by Stan Searfus who

selflessly passed on his love of the ocean and the surfing lifestyle.

The Coronado Surfing Association rounds out the local organizations committed to promoting a thriving surf community, fostering a culture of camaraderie, and environmental stewardship. Each year the organization awards the Lorton Mitchell Surf Scholarship to a chosen girl and boy. This year’s recipients were Coronado High School students Chapin Miller and Dylan Linde.

The history of surfing in Coronado could go on and on. There are way too many people and stories to fit into these limited magazine



pages, but that just means there are plenty more great tales still to be told. Surf culture is thriving in our little corner of the world.

*Crown City Magazine would love to hear all the Coronado surfing stories we don't know about. Please email us at [editor@crowncitymagazine.com](mailto:editor@crowncitymagazine.com).*



PHOTO BY NATE SMITH



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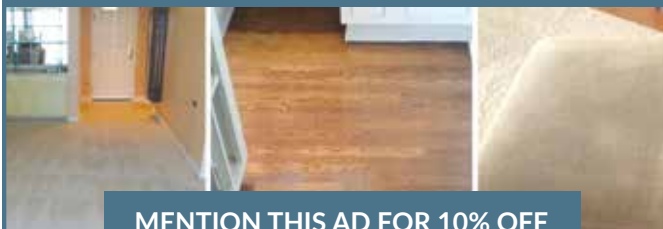
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# Support Coronado's Youth

## The Optimist Club of Coronado's 47th Annual Sports Fiesta

Mini Triathlon  
5-K Run & 1-Mile Rough Water Swim



Beach Volleyball, Cornhole, Picnic, Family Carnival  
Golf Cart Decorating Contest, Pickleball, Lawn Bowling  
and more

July 28th and 29th

for information and to sign up go to

[optimistclubofcoronado.org](http://optimistclubofcoronado.org) 619-365-0583

# Family Tradition

*Sports Fiesta rallies island athletes for good cause*

## OPTIMIST CLUB SPORT FIESTA

**When:** July 28; triathlon starts at 7 a.m.;  
5K run at 9 a.m.; one-mile ocean swim at 10 a.m.;  
Carnival and picnic are from 12 to 4 p.m.

**Where:** Sunset Park, 101 Ocean Blvd., Coronado

**Fees:** Each of the three events costs \$32 for  
adults, \$10 for youths 18 and under. Walk-on fees  
are \$40 for adults, \$15 for youths.

**Information:** [optimistclubofcoronado.org](http://optimistclubofcoronado.org)

**Coronado native  
Al Hansen has  
participated in  
the Optimist  
Club's Sports  
Fiesta since 1972.**





By MARTINA SCHIMITSCHEK

**F**or Al Hansen, the Sports Fiesta has always been a family affair.

The retired school principal has been participating in the Optimist Club of Coronado's annual event since its inception in 1972. And he's hardly ever missed a year.

"It's just what we do," he said. Over the years, his wife, children, brothers, nieces and nephews have joined him in one or more events. This year, it just will be Hansen and his brother David who will be tackling the event's triathlon on July 28. Both will be in the over-70 group.

The triathlon, which consists of a 400-meter ocean swim, a one-mile run and a four-mile bike ride, is in its 44th year and is the longest continuous running triathlon in the world. It's one of the three signature events of the Sports Fiesta. The other two events are a 5K run/walk and a one-mile ocean swim.

"It's really a great one," Hansen said of the triathlon. "It's really short and it's such a local event. We try to do a fair amount of training, but even if you don't train you can suffer through it. The segments are short and you use different muscle groups. That's what makes it great."

In his younger days, Hansen said, he did the "whole Hard Rock" — all three of the events, which used to include a 10K instead of the 5K.

"The run, swim and triathlon are the main events in the Sports Fiesta," said Don Crawford, president of the Optimist Club of Coronado who has been in charge of the event since 2010. "We call them the Big 3."

Other Sports Fiesta events have come and gone, such as the paddleboard and

**Swim, Bike, Run:  
the mini-triathlon  
is a fun event with  
competitors who  
come back year  
after year.**

sandcastle competitions. This year, the club added an afternoon carnival at Sunset Park, which is also the staging area for the morning competitions. The carnival will include a cornhole contest and a prize for the best-decorated golf cart as well as free games for children.

Other events include lawn bowling at the Coronado Public Library, pickleball at the Coronado Island Marriott Resort, and beach volleyball at North Beach.

The Sports Fiesta is the Optimist's signature event, bringing in approximately \$40,000 to \$45,000 each year through ad campaigns, donations and entry fees. That money will be used to support the youth of Coronado. "The money from the Sports Fiesta will support over 40 groups," Crawford said, covering everything from service and athletic groups, NJROTC and scholarships. Some contributions are unbudgeted such as the donation to a garden project at Coronado High School for a special education class this year.

"Anyone that wants financial support needs to write a letter providing specific details," he said.



A template of the letter can be found on their website at: ([optimist-clubofcoronado.org/request-for-support-template/](http://optimist-clubofcoronado.org/request-for-support-template/))

The Optimists can be seen volunteering around town throughout the year, participating in Easter egg hunts, the Fourth of July parade and Christmas and Halloween events. They also sponsor a free Thanksgiving Day movie at the Village Theatre. Often it will be a movie that's already on Blu-ray, but they also have had premieres of "Frozen" and



"Coco." "It's our gift to the youth of Coronado," Crawford said.

The club is a non-profit group with 116 members. The requirement for becoming a member is being a positive person. Prospective members need a sponsor and must attend three meetings in three months. The club meets every Thursday from 7 to 8 a.m. at the Coronado Recreation Center's Nautilus Room.

Members range in age from the 20s to the 90s. "People there are like energizer bunnies. It's a fun club. We're a very close-knit, friendly, low-pressure group," said Crawford, who has been a member for 17 years. "But the best part, the most satisfying, is supporting youth groups."





**“We’re a very close-knit, friendly, low-pressure group. But the best part, the most satisfying, is supporting youth groups.”**

— Don Crawford, president of the Optimist Club of Coronado



And while the Sports Fiesta helps brighten the future of Coronado kids, it has also spawned the king of all triathlons, the Iron Man.

“Naval officers came down from San Francisco to do the triathlon,” Crawford said. “They thought it was fun, but a bit too easy.” While the idea for the Ironman started after the 1977 Oahu Perimeter Relay, Crawford said, that the officers competing got their enthusiasm for

triathlons at the Sports Fiesta. John and Judy Collins, the founders of the Iron Man, now live in Coronado and help with the Sports Fiesta.

Crawford is expecting a good turnout now that the event is back in July, after a few years of being held in September. The majority of the competitors are from the San Diego region, he said, but “over the years we’ve had people come from Europe and even China. They

happen to be in Coronado.”

And while the course is short, it’s not always easy. “One year big surf made it more exciting. We’ve had years with 55-degree water,” Hansen said.

Hansen, a Coronado native, hopes to garner one of the medals in his age group. “It’s just such a festive, family, team, village atmosphere. I’m going to keep going as long as I can.”

## CORONADO VILLAGE

### Active

Homes on the Market: 85  
Price Range: \$714,000 - \$25,000,000  
Avg Price Per Sq Foot: \$1,144  
Avg Days On Market: 92

### Sold

Home Sold in past 30 days: 20  
Price Range: \$739,500 - \$6,199,000  
Avg Price Per Sq Foot: \$910  
Avg Days On Market: 60

### Pending

Homes in Escrow: 30  
Price Range: \$865,000 - \$3,699,000  
Avg Price Per Sq Foot: \$968  
Avg Days On Market: 43

## CORONADO SHORES

### Active

Homes on the Market: 17  
Price Range: \$679,000 - \$5,995,000  
Avg Price Per Sq Foot: \$1,544  
Avg Days On Market: 101

### Sold

Home Sold in past 30 days: 3  
Price Range: \$842,000 - \$975,000  
Avg Price Per Sq Foot: \$981  
Avg Days On Market: 80

### Pending

Homes in Escrow: 1  
Price Range: \$1,630,000  
Avg Price Per Sq Foot: \$1,483  
Avg Days On Market: 14

## CORONADO CAYS

### Active

Homes on the Market: 30  
Price Range: \$740,000 - \$7,200,000  
Avg Price Per Sq Foot: \$680  
Avg Days On Market: 46

### Sold

Home Sold in past 30 days: 5  
Price Range: \$889,000 - \$2,291,000  
Avg Price Per Sq Foot: \$589  
Avg Days On Market: 53

### Pending

Homes in Escrow: 9  
Price Range: \$749,000 - \$4,499,999  
Avg Price Per Sq Foot: \$676  
Avg Days On Market: 52

*\*\*These numbers and sales are based on the sales and activity in the past 30 days from Sandicor MLS.*

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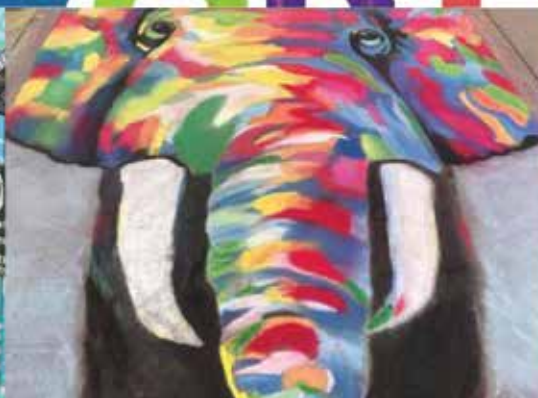
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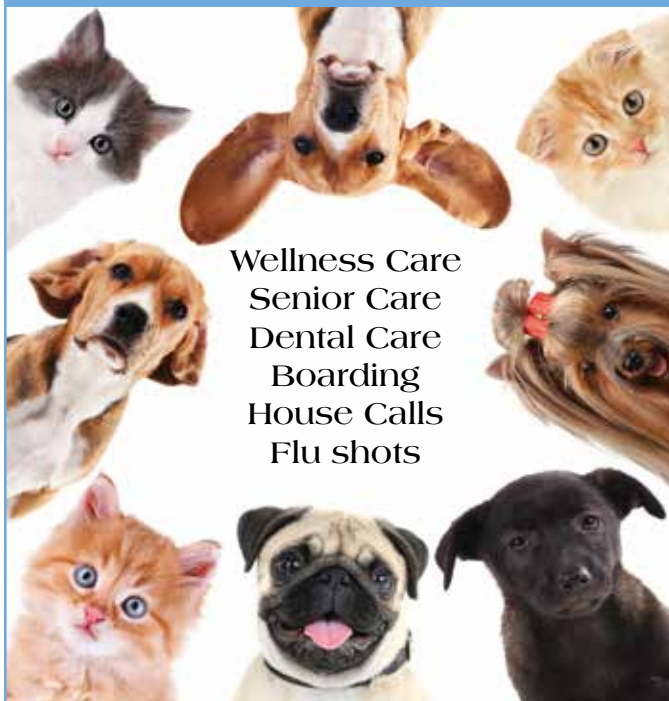
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# Farewell, Police Chief Froomin

*Police Chief Jon Froomin retires from the Coronado Police Department on July 9, 2018. He has been a strong advocate of building community relationships and has proved himself to be humble and approachable with a good sense of humor. Coronado City Councilman Whitney Benzian recently had a fun Q&A with Chief Froomin.*

## WB: WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

CF: From a very young age I knew I wanted to have a career that helped people. I quickly learned that a police officer would be a good fit. School was not my strong suit, however, it was a school youth program that linked students for a day with municipal jobs like a city manager or police chief. I was assigned the police chief. When I was done with this program I told the police chief to “keep my seat warm.” Additionally, as an Eagle Scout I started a Neighborhood Watch program, the first of its kind in our community.

## WHO DO YOU MOST ADMIRE IN LIFE?

My dad. He was a teacher by trade but he also taught me great life lessons like the importance of belonging to groups. He was a mason. I participated in the Masonic youth group prior to being a boy scout. This is something my dad encouraged. I learned from his example what to do and not do.

## WHAT AGE DO YOU FEEL RIGHT NOW? YOU'RE RETIRING BUT STILL YOUNG.

I feel young. I may look 51, but I feel like I'm in my late 20s, early 30s. Age is a mindset. When I'm at home I like to think I'm pretty funny and can let loose whereas my public persona must of course be more serious.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC?

Top 40 hits, I guess. No country, no hard rock.

## FAVORITE FOOD?

Beef Stroganoff hands down but lately I've been branching out trying new food like sushi.

## WHAT COUNTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT?

We don't do a lot of traveling. We consistently like to head down to Cancun, Mexico. It's one of the only times and places I can fully disconnect as a police chief and not worry about work back home. Often my wife will take my phone away and allot me 30 minutes a day to check emails and direct assignments.

## HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME OFF?

I am deeply committed to the Special Olympics. I have volunteered with them for many years, both in San Diego and back home. My daughter now joins me in volunteering.

## WHAT IS A SKILL YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN AND WHY?

Anything with my hands. I will now have the time to find a new hobby. My wife has taught herself to knit which I've been impressed by. It seems like a good stress reliever.

## IF SOMEONE STOPPED YOU ON THE STREET AND ASKED WHAT THEY SHOULD SEE OR DO ON CORONADO, GIVE THEM ONE SUGGESTION.

Can't not see the Hotel Del. It's one-of-a-kind. But then I would tell them to hit the beach and walk down Orange Avenue to find a place to eat where you will have a good meal at any location. With a smile he said he would tell them “In order to stay safe be sure to eat only on the island. Don't go over the bridge.”

## WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY FOR A CORONADO POLICE CHIEF?

As you'd expect, it varies every day. Some days I am





meeting with the other heads of the City departments to collaborate to make sure we are all working to accomplish the goals and mission of the City. Other days, I am meeting with my staff to make sure we are all on the same page for that day, month. I also meet with many community members and groups. For example, this week I will be attending the graduations of Village, Strand and the high school. In short, this job is what you make of it. I am proud to be a Coronado Police Chief. The citizens of this town wave and honk at me when I walk down the street and I think part of that is because they truly respect the uniform and the role we play. You don't see that everywhere you go.

#### **WHAT MAKES POLICING IN CORONADO DIFFERENT THAN OTHER CITIES?**

The level of expectation from the public which is a good thing. Their expectations keep us working to provide the best service we can. "They call, we come." In Coronado, we do "service policing." We aren't too busy with crime

solving so we can walk down Orange Avenue or attend the Concerts in the Park to create a bond with the residents. When I hire new officers I make it very clear how different it is to be a cop here versus San Diego.

#### **DO YOU HAVE A POLICING PHILOSOPHY?**

It's the Service philosophy I just mentioned. We focus on quality of life issues.

#### **WHAT'S THE MOST COMMON MISPERCEPTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT?**

People think we make a ton of money on parking tickets. That we use the money to balance our budgets. It just isn't true. It generally loses money. We do it to change behavior. Most of the citation money goes to the court system.

#### **IF YOU COULD SAY ONE THING AND PUT IT ON A BILLBOARD FOR OTHERS TO READ WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

Respect. We must all accept the differences we have as a society. This is also important from the point of view of a police officer and the citizenry. It goes both ways.

#### **WHAT WILL YOU MISS ABOUT CORONADO?**

Everything. What won't I miss?!

#### **WHAT WILL YOU MISS ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

The interactions with all the great people, the schools, Navy...everyone and every group in this town is so supportive. And, finally, I am going to miss the impressive dedication our police officers bring to the job every day. If I wasn't so far from my family I would probably work another 5 years.

#### **WHAT DO YOU FEEL MOST PROUD OF?**

Being a Coronado Chief. It's my most significant career achievement. But I am proud that I did it and moved here because it was out of my comfort zone. I grew up in Foster City where I was an officer prior. I feel like I quietly made a difference here and that matters to me.

*Chief Froomin, thank you for your dedication to keeping Coronado safe and orderly. We wish you the best in your retirement.*



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# EPIC

## SUMMER DAY







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## Buy a Bikini and Board Shorts

When brothers Kelly and Larry Kraus surfed their way from Imperial Beach to Coronado, it was just a matter of time before they opened Emerald City Surf Shop—an iconic stop for locals and visitors alike. Emerald City—a cultural code name for Coronado's ever-green barrels with ties to the Wizard of Oz—opened in 1988 and celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Created by surfers, operated by surfers and catering to surfers, the shop features apparel and accessories from all the top brands like Roxy, Vans, Patagonia, Billabong, Reef, Volcom, Brixton and more.

**EMERALD CITY SURF SHOP**  
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Tom Rice prepares to lead a march of paratroopers to the La Barquette Locks near the town of Carentan, France.



# Journey to Remember

*Coronado resident, a D-Day paratrooper, returns to France to jump commemorating World War II fallen*

By MARTINA SCHIMITSCHEK

**O**n June 6, Tom Rice jumped out of an airplane over the fields of France, just as he did 74 years earlier on D-Day 1944. A few days before, the 96-year-old Coronado resident lead a march of paratroopers, who were mainly re-enactors, to La Barquette Locks by the town of Carentan in Normandy, part of a 15-mile march commemorating the fierce battles in that area. It was there Rice landed that June night and stepped into the fighting of World War II.

“We set up a defense position in a garden and stayed awake,” Rice said. “Dark is dark, and we didn’t know what was going on in front of us.” Rigging up a warning system, he





**Tom Rice (below right)  
in his gear getting  
ready for his tandem  
parachute jump.**



and his troop mates fired on the enemy when their noise traps rattled.

Rice was a "Screaming Eagle," a paratrooper in the Army's 101st Airborne Division and part of the Allied invasion of northern France called Operation OVERLORD. Rice, then 22, jumped out of the airplane with a sprained ankle, an injury he got during the last night-time practice jump in England.

"We did a good tape job. I didn't tell anyone because they might not let me jump. I just strapped my boot a bit tighter," said Rice, who acknowledges he's always been a risk-taker.

Rice's unit, the 501st Parachute Infantry, Company C, was greeted

**"Dear Mr. Rice ... You wrote in your fantastic book, 'Trial by Combat,' the people of Carentan never forgave [America] for the destruction of their city and the death of family members. Please come and see for yourself. Forgiveness has long ago turned into eternal gratitude."**

— Jean-Pierre Lhonneur, Mayor of Carentan Les Marais, France

by German anti-aircraft fire on the way from England to their target near Utah Beach. "There were all kinds of fireworks going up. It looked like the Fourth of July," he said.

Rice was the first to jump, but the plane lurched to avoid the fire

and Rice got his arm caught in the door. He managed to get free after hanging upside down and made the landing. Fighting continued for more than a month in Normandy, and Rice was hit by shrapnel and a sniper bullet. And as the war continued, Rice made more jumps joining





**The people of Carentan filled the streets as the paratroopers marched through town.**

the fight in Holland in September 1944 and the Battle of Bulge later that year. At Bastogne in Belgium, he was shot several times and one bullet tore out part of his bone below his right elbow.

“It’s pretty amazing you’re still alive,” quipped Christophe Dugas, a neighbor who accompanied Rice on his recent 10-day trip to France. Rice earned a number of awards for his bravery including a Bronze Star with an oak leaf cluster and a Purple Heart with two clusters, as well as France’s Knights of the Legion of Honor.

Rice had told Dugas he wanted to return to France and stay with a French family. Dugas, a native of

France, started to make arrangements and eventually Air France underwrote the flight and the International Airport of Montpellier the parachute jump.

“It was a much-wanted vacation,” said Rice, a retired high school teacher who still lives in the house his father built. “It was time to go back again, commemorating those who did not or could not come back.”

Rice thinks of the men he left behind every year by jumping out of a plane, often in Otay Mesa. In 1994, he was in Normandy jumping into the sky to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. This year, it was in the south of France. Because

of his age, he does tandem jumps now, but the thrill is still there.

“It was unbelievable,” he said.

But for his many hosts, it was Rice who was unbelievable.

“At one point they wanted him to wear leg braces for the jump,” Dugas said. “They asked if he could bend his knees. He just pushed out his chair and touched his knees to his chest. There was silence. Then he pushed his chair back to the table and went on with his lunch.”

But Dugas said, “It was a pleasure to see Tom being honored. We can never pay back what he did for us.”

Seventy-four years later, the people of France, especially in the Normandy region, are still filled with gratitude for the bravery of the men who helped free their country. He was greeted as a celebrity and asked for autographs at the D-Day Museum in Arromanches and he met actors from “The Band of Brothers” at the World War II film festival in Sainte Marie du Mont.

“I don’t know how it could be surmounted,” Rice said.

He’ll find out next year. He’s already been invited to jump out of a plane for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.



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# EMERALD CITY

## Coronado's Premier Boarding Source for 30 Years & Counting!

By Marissa Thai Canton

Photos Courtesy of Emerald City and Jake Barret



Kraus brothers getting ready to open first location on Isabella Avenue in Coronado



(L-R)  
Larry Kraus,  
Erik Carpenter,  
Chris Tuttle,  
Kelly Kraus

Coronado's local surf shop, Emerald City, marks its 30th year anniversary this year! Two brothers' passion for surfing led them to open Emerald City Surf Shop in 1988.

Through the years, by encouraging and supporting local action sports, they have become an important part of our island community.

The founders of Emerald City, Kelly and Larry Kraus grew up in a beach house in Imperial Beach, CA where their front yard and playground was the Pacific Ocean. Naturally, the two brothers developed a strong passion for surfing, skateboarding





**Long-time Employee Patty McGriff**

and later on discovered snowboarding when it was first introduced in the 1980s. Just south of their home, the Tijuana “Sloughs” lured these young surfers into its unique swell, challenging conditions and raw beauty. With these waves so powerful and quick the two boys became avid surfers. The TJ Sloughs challenged them with its erratic conditions, teaching the brothers to adapt and to adjust. As teenagers, Kelly and Larry relocated north to Coronado where they mastered the intricacies of Outlet, our heavy break at North Beach. After high school, the brothers broadened their knowledge and experience by traveling the

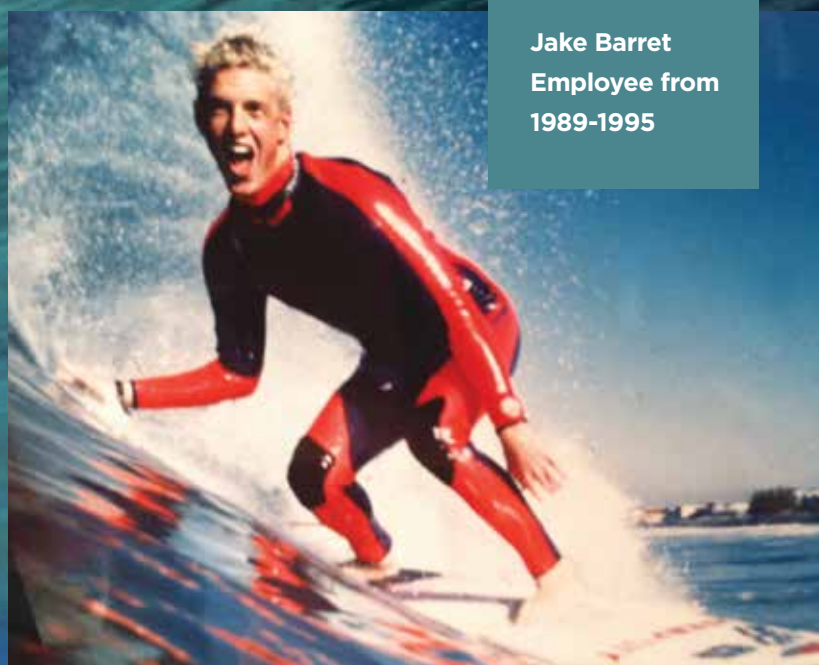
world, surfing and meeting great people along the way.

Back in the 1980s, only one surf shop operated in Coronado. Bob Duryea, commonly known as “Du-Ray,” opened the town’s first shop in 1972. For years, it was the only place to go for surfing gear or to get dings repaired. At the time, some of the bigger shops in Southern California were sponsoring surfers to enter contests. Larry envisioned a store in Coronado that would sponsor locals. The Kraus brothers, with their competitive spirit, saw this as an opportunity. They located an empty commercial space on Isabella, and in the summertime of 1988, they began planning for a new modern surf shop in town. This plan marked the start of their dream and ultimately the start of their new lives.

They reached out to friends and family, and everybody quickly agreed on what to name the store; it was simply too perfect. One of the main rules of localism back in the day was that photographers were to conceal the location of surf spots presented in their work. By hiding beautiful spots locals cherished, they were able to subdue the crowds and keep these spots a secret from non-locals. Inspired by the stunning green hue these photographers had captured, the name “Emerald City” was decided upon. It has a whimsical and mysterious feel, and it alludes to Coronado’s ties to the Wizard of Oz.

At last, determination turned their dream into a reality. Emerald City Surf Shop opened on Coronado Island during the sunny days of 1988. The store was just 800 square feet, but they used every square inch of space to stack skateboards, surfboards, bikinis, boardshorts and wax. In these early days, walls were stacked with skateboards by Powell Peralta, Santa Cruz and Vision. A narrow isle of surfboards featured shapers like Craig, Skip Smith, and G&S. They sold clothes by Gotcha, Quiksilver, Maui and Sons, OP and Stüssy.

It quickly became a place where



**Jake Barret  
Employee from  
1989-1995**



Coronado youth would congregate. A few early pictures were placed under the counter glass, below the tubes of colored Zinka, Shark watches and Croakies. They featured Larry, Kelly, or others either in neon wet-suits getting barreled at Outlet or at the shop being goofy. Anyone who's ever been to Emerald City can remember the good times the images under the glass display. These guys are running a successful business and having fun doing it. Over time, more pictures were added to form a dynamic collage, and to this day it is a special spot in the store where shop memories are captured and shared.

The Emerald City family started small, but as the years went on that family grew. "That first year in 1988, we walked with our surf team down Orange in the Christmas parade," Kelly said. Emerald City sponsor's the Coronado Surfing Association, and plays an active role in encouraging an active lifestyle. It is not just a store, this small town surf shop has become a part of our Island and it greatly contributes to the active community with the goal of encouraging and supporting surfers, skaters and snowboarders.

Every 4th of July, as part of what has become a tradition, the shop releases a limited number of inaugural T-shirts for the town's favorite holiday. They are incredibly popular, each one featuring a combi-



**Danny Aguilar, Jason Ronis, Matt Flint, Austin Herlihy in the Christmas parade with Emerald City in 1988**



nation of surf inspired art and the stars-and-stripes. Over the years, the shirts have become a must-have for locals celebrating the holiday on the Island. "We usually sell out of our 4th [of July] shirts," Kelly says. Some of the early versions actually don't feature the year, but as time went on "People wanted to keep the T-shirts as mementos, so we started adding the current year along with unique designs for each 4th," Kelly said.

To this day, even with the advent of online shopping, Emerald City takes pride in catering to locals and having fair prices. The store maintains a price

matching policy on all items whether they turn a profit or not. "It's not easy to do sometimes but we want all our customers to know we will always do our best to be competitive and for that we appreciate all our local support and actually need it to survive." Larry said.

In the end, the brothers reflect that they have never made it this far without faithful customers, dedicated managers and their enthusiastic staff. Many former employees still work in the industry, building new brands and opening stores of their own. "We understand and appreciate that working at Emerald city can be a stepping stone to many of our employees future success." Larry says.

Congratulations Emerald City! We honor your dedication to Coronado and the long-time support of our local action sports community. Here's to another 30 years!



## MARCO PEREZ

“...This is going to drive me crazy...But ultimately, the best thing about Emerald City, and my favorite memory was being able to feel that full circle of being that shop grom that would hang out ALL day and ask questions, be annoying, maybe hear a funny story or two that I was not supposed to hear. To being the shop employee, the actual boss of Emerald City, and giving that same experience to other kids that were in my shoes. Every town needs a place for the youth to congregate, and in Coronado, Emerald City was, is and always will be that place.

Emerald City to me, was a home away from home. A place I knew always had an open door. Whether it was 4th grade me or 24-year-old me, I always felt welcome there, and now being 37 years of age, and having worked there for 13 years of my young adult life (19-32), I still feel that way.

Like any kid with a curious passion for surfing or skating, you just sort of end up there, hanging out, most likely bothering the older cool kids that work there. As a kid, I remember cleaning the shop, doing odd jobs for the entertainment of the employees, and when allowed, even helping some customers if they were really busy, receiving payment via bearings, a sticker, or even sometimes a free UGLY tee shirt.

As time went on, as it always does, I became older, and I was working at Café 1134, after months of pouring coffee for the manager Mark Dewitt at the time, he mentioned that one of his employees Peter Falletta (one of my best friends) nominated me for employment, and I was offered a job on the spot.

I finally had made it! I worked at EC. These were to this day, my favorite times. I don't think anyone had as much fun as “my crew” working at Emerald City. The number of paragraphs it would take to discuss my memories at Emerald City would be infinite, and to just pick one would be impossible. Emerald City was a part of me, like a vital organ, much like it is to our little community. If I had to speak on one thing, I guess it would be working for Kelly and Adrienne, and how they made me feel, always welcome, always at home. The fact that I was able to give that “I finally made it” feeling to so many kids, whom are now adults, and that I am still friends with is my best memory. I still to this day hear “You're the Emerald City guy” .... and I am 100% ok with that.”

## COREY BERTA

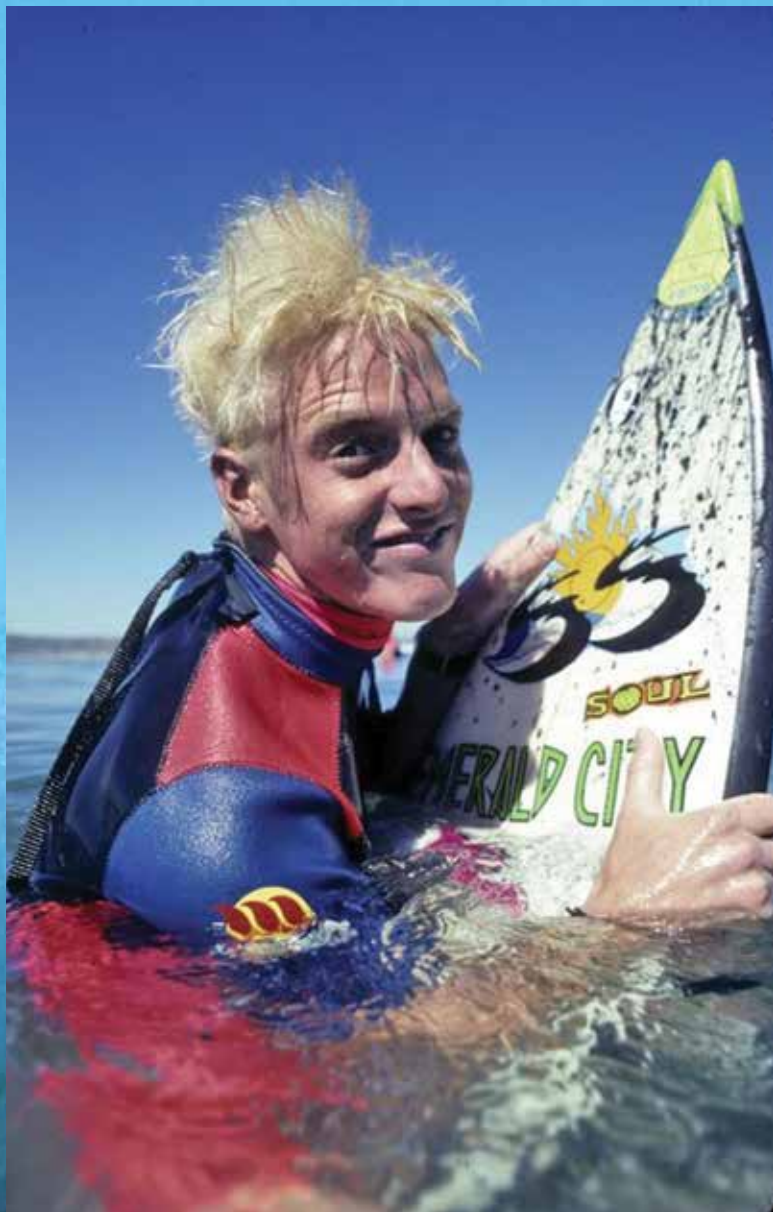
“To me, Emerald City represents a place where I was able to work with some of my best friends and have a great time doing it. Work was always a party!”



Corey Berta,  
Marco Perez







## JAKE BARRET

“I worked at Emerald City from 1989-1995. I was just out of high school, I lived & breathed surfing & skateboarding, so to me it was a dream job. I made lifelong friends. It also gave me an inside connection into the surf industry which was to shape my career as well as my life.

It makes me a bit nostalgic to think about.....no one had a cell phone yet, there was no internet....so the shop was more than just a shop. It was a unique social hub (for lack of a better term) for Coronado's surfers & skateboarders, as well as the local kids & their families. We were a fun & cool part of the community. I was proud to work there and wanted our shop to always be considered one of the best in San Diego.

My favorite memories of my Emerald City Shop days are that I really loved the lifestyle. I loved surfing before work with all my friends. I loved skateboarding all over town and especially at Kelly's half-pipe (Kelly Kraus had a beautiful wooden ramp at his house). I absolutely loved snowboarding and Kelly & I would get up to Big Bear ALOT. To be able to talk to people about it all day long was the best job ever.”

## PARKER DAVENPORT & JASON MARACLE

“Two local Islanders in the CHS Class of 2016, Jason Maracle and Parker Davenport both share the early memory of getting free used skate decks for fifty brutal pushups. This is one of many cherished memories our community shares with the Emerald City Family.”







Kelly and  
Adrienne

## PETER CUFFARO

“Growing up in Coronado Emerald City was like a second home for the kids who were into surfing and skateboarding. We couldn't look up video on YouTube you actually had to go down to the surf shop and buy it. But even better they always played the new videos in the shop. I was only 14 when they hired me to help clean up the shop. Just a little job to help me get the equipment I needed. Back in the early 90s the employees were some of the best surfers in Coronado. So naturally all the grounds looked up to them. Guys like Jake Wonders put together the Emerald City surf and skate teams which was compiled of the best surfers in Coronado and even IB. Being part of that surf team was like having an extended family. I started riding for Emerald City in high school and still proudly represent them 20+ years later.

My favorite memory at Emerald City would probably be one of the many Fourth of Julys hanging out in front of the shop during the parade. So many different people from different eras stopping by to say hi and reminisce about years past.”



In Loving  
Memory of  
Peter Falletta  
(center),  
1979 - 2016.  
Forever a part  
of the Emerald  
City Family.



# *It's Beach Time!*

By LESLIE CRAWFORD

Coronado was again rated one of the country's top ten beaches this year by Dr Beach and it's no wonder. Beaches that stretch for miles, golden sand and beautiful views attract people from around the world.

Coronado's beaches run the length of North Island, Coronado and the Silver Strand. Not all the beach is accessible since it crosses through Navy property, but there's plenty for everyone. Walking on the beach from one navy base to the other is just under two miles.

Coronado's gold sand is actually mica that has washed down rivers from the mountains to the ocean and back up on shore. It's beautiful and soft to walk on!

Every day on the beach is different. Some days there is no seaweed but as the water warms up it will wash up everywhere. Migratory seabirds pass through all year long and different shells appear on the shoreline depending on currents and tides.

Sand dollars are a common sight but if they are purple and fuzzy they are still alive so leave them alone. The tidepools in front of the Hotel del Coronado have lots of creatures living among the rocks. Please take all the pictures you want, but don't take anything else.



There's something for everyone whether you're a surfer, swimmer or just like to hang out. Volleyball is popular at Center Beach. The grunion runs bring out hoards of people walking on the shoreline

in the late evening, waiting for the elusive moment when the beach will be covered in little silver fish.

A few pointers to stay safe and enjoy the beach:

## **LIFE GUARDS**

- Coronado Beach Lifeguards Office  
Main Tower (619) 522-7346
- **EMERGENCY - 911**

Lifeguards are on duty from the North Beach next to North Island to the south end of the Shores beach by the NAB perimeter, and at the Silver Strand State Beach.

Our lifeguards are the best, but with thousands a lot of people on a big beach, the lifeguards are definitely outnumbered so please use common sense.







For beach safety conditions pay attention to the flags at the lifeguard tower:

Red – Hazardous, rough conditions, please use extreme caution

Yellow – Light Hazard, surf and currents

Purple – Marine pests, jellyfish, stingrays and dangerous fish

Green – Calm Conditions

Everyone should have access to the beach. Beach wheelchairs for the disabled are available at the main lifeguard tower at Center Beach. Call for more info.

There is no swimming around the rocks at the Hotel del Coronado and surfing is allowed only in designated surf areas. Watch for signage and flags or consult with lifeguards if you aren't sure.

Dogs are only allowed at the designated Dog Beach where they can run free. Hopefully, like the kids, they'll nap the rest of the day!

Rip Currents are a regular occurrence on our beaches. Check out warning flags and err on the side of caution. Usually they are easy to spot, but not always, so if you find yourself caught up in a current, stay calm and swim parallel to the beach to get out of the current's seaward flow.

Do the Stingray Shuffle – this should be your mantra every time you go in the water. Stingrays don't attack but sit on the ocean floor and will sting when stepped on, or even



Photo Courtesy @Coronadobeachcomber

next to, so always shuffle those feet when you are walking into the surf zone. If you do get stung, it hurts – a lot! Head for the lifeguard tower to get your foot dunked in a bucket of very hot water. Conclusion: Just

do the Stingray Shuffle!

Sunscreen – some of the worst sunburns happen on hazy days. Don't become a human lobster.

Now go have a great day at the beach!



# FYI: LIFE GUARDS

Coronado lifeguards are on duty from the North Beach next to North Island to the south end of the Shores beach by the NAB perimeter, and at the Silver Strand State Beach.

- Coronado Beach Lifeguards Office Main Tower (619) 522-7346
- EMERGENCY - 911



619.435.6060 | [root75.com](http://root75.com) | 845 Orange Ave | *flowers. presents. parties.*



# Celebrating Independence Day in Coronado

*Please be patient on July 4 as the crowds around town will be large, especially for the parade. Traffic will be heavy, so we strongly encourage you to walk, bike or use public transportation. And a tip for those of you coming from over the bridge, you can take the ferry from downtown San Diego to Coronado.*

**5 AM:** No setting up earlier than 5 am. Once the magic hour hits, you can grab your spot along Orange Avenue from First Street down to the Hotel del Coronado for great parade viewing.

**7 AM:** Crown City Classic (12K, 5K, and Kids ½-Mile Fun Run). Starts and finishes at Tidelands Park. Benefits the Islander Sports Foundation.

**9 AM TO 4 PM:** Art in the Park  
Spreckels Park (6th & Orange Avenue)

**9 AM:** Annual Rough Water Swim  
Central Beach (Check-in starts at 7:30 am)  
[www.july4roughwater.org/](http://www.july4roughwater.org/)

**9:30AM:** New in 2018! The Crown City Mile. After runners complete their 12K or 5K runs, join the crowds to dash 1-Mile on Orange Avenue before the parade takes off. Looking to break your personal mile record? Why not go for it on the most patriotic mile on the 4th of July? Space is limited; event will sell out! [www.crowncityrun.com](http://www.crowncityrun.com)

**10 AM:** Annual Independence Day Parade – America's Heritage. Down Orange Avenue from First Street to Churchill Place. *The parade will be televised live on Spectrum Channel 19, a City of Coronado live production.*

**2:30 PM TO 4 PM:** Adrian Empire Demo in Spreckels Park. Recreation of Western European culture between the years 1066-1603. Plus, San Diego Star Wars Society in Spreckels Park; will be available for photos.

**4 PM:** Concert in the Park at Spreckels Park. Patriotic music by Coronado Community Band

**9 PM:** Fireworks over Glorietta Bay and San Diego Bay. *Glorietta Bay Fireworks music by KXYX 96.5 FM Big Bay Boom over San Diego Bay music on THE MIGHTY 1090 AM and MAX FM 105.7 Watch San Diego Bay fireworks live on TV Fox 5 (San Diego) 8-9:30 pm*



*For a printable pdf, please visit [CoronadoCalendar.com](http://CoronadoCalendar.com)*





**SOLD!** | 1030 Glorietta Blvd



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*"May She Wave Forever"*

*Celebrating Independence Day in Coronado  
Happy 4th of July!*