

# PREZ LETTER

Greetings Coronado!

I hope you're all enjoying this fantastic weather that we've earned. Great to see so many neighbors out and about.

As we move into the new year, I look back on the amazing things we've done together in 2018. Our 30th Home Tour was again a great success and highlighted some of the best things about living in Coronado. The Oak Street Mural Festival injected new energy into our already robust art scene and provided an opportunity to neighbors to meet each other. Our annual Association Board election brought out more candidates than ever before! It was great to see so many neighbors interested in getting involved to affect positive change in the neighborhood. The yearly neighborhood art show at The Hive showcased the incredibly talented artists we have in Coronado. Our community garden received a much-needed redesign and will be producing a harvest soon that will benefit those in need. We hosted our first-ever music festival in Coronado Park, WayneFest, and laid the foundation for future large-scale community events.

2018 was also filled with tragedy as we lost one of Coronado's youngest and brightest, Harmony Mosier. Harmony's story and battle touched so many of us and bonded the neighborhood in a special way. As it has been in the past, when the need was great, the neighborhood responded. The outpouring of generosity and compassion exemplifies what makes Coronado such a special place.

As we start 2019, I encourage you to be an active participant in our community. The smallest effort has the potential for the biggest impact. Have a particular skill or interest and want to know how to get involved or contribute? Just ask. Let's do this Coronado!

Together we can do anything.

Michael Anderson  
President

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Photo by Al Alguinaga



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the CORONADO  
NEIGHBORHOOD

### STAY CONNECTED

**Neighborhood homepage**  
thecoronadoneighborhood.com

 **Email**  
info@thecoronadoneighborhood.com

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facebook.com/  
CoronadoNeighborhoodAssociation

 **Instagram**  
@coronadophx

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Original WayneFest watercolor courtesy of  
Karen Voyer-Caravona

### Inside cover photos

Courtesy of Al Alguinaga

### ADVERTISE IN THE DISPATCH

The Dispatch is distributed to the members of the Coronado Neighborhood Association. It is also available at local businesses and on-line at [www.thecoronadoneighborhood.com/dispatch](http://www.thecoronadoneighborhood.com/dispatch). The Coronado neighborhood includes over 4,500 households and businesses.



Photo by Leslie Easley Dominguez

# The Coronado Neighborhood Association

**Join the Coronado Neighborhood Association (CNA)**

**Contact**  
 membership@  
 thecoronadoneighborhood.com

**Membership Cost**  
 \$10.00 per year, per person

## OUR MISSION

### The Coronado Neighborhood Association

(CNA) is a group of residents and businesses organized to preserve and promote the unique character of Coronado. The volunteer membership works to build a united and informed neighborhood, increase resident safety, promote artistic and cultural appreciation, and hold events to bring neighbors together. This creates a deeper sense of community making Coronado an attractive and desirable place to live.

## OUR BOARD

**PRESIDENT**  
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# Contributors

**What's your story?**  
 Submit something amazing to  
 dispatch@thecoronadoneighborhood.com



**Al Alguinaga**  
 Al has lived in Coronado for six years with wife Jessica and son Asher. He is a novice photographer that loves capturing true moments of joy and beauty. He appreciates and loves living in Coronado and compares it to his childhood life in the small town of Morenci. He's always ready to host a party and give a helping hand.



**Kellie Kreiser**  
 Kellie does good for a living at Thunderbird School of Global Management. She edits the Dispatch and occasionally writes... she may also have a cage of gnomes in her front yard.



**Michael Anderson**  
 Michael is the current President of the CNA. He is the Founder of the Coronado Hoodlums, Coronado's only golf cart gang. He is no longer the only member.



**Kristina Proctor**  
 Kristina is the Director of Volunteer Resources at Banner University Medical Center. She'd love to see more Coronado residents volunteer at the hospital.



**Jessica Berg**  
 Jessica has been a Coronado resident since 2006 when she discovered the neighborhood and fell in love with the energy. You may know her as "Asher's Mom" or "Mr. Al's wife." Outside of the home, she serves as Chief Program Officer at St. Vincent de Paul, helping those who need it most.



**Chris Slauter**  
 Chris has lived in Coronado for 3 years. He works for DUFL, a tech/travel startup. Spends his time writing screenplays, song lyrics and he just started his first book. He loves Coronado because it's the definition of what a neighborhood should be.



**Phil Freedom**  
 When Phil Freedom isn't juggling the roles of dad, husband, art teacher, golf cart kite flyer, and backyard hanger-outer, he is conspiring against normalcy and practicing Empire Aikido with MacGyver Durden.



**Taylor Vos**  
 Taylor grew up in Phoenix but had no idea there were historic neighborhoods that were filled with great design. As an urban designer he appreciates the traditional charm of an old school neighborhood and loves the diverse community vibe that coronado has going on.



Photo by Michelle Bollom

# Community Calendar

Have an Event?  
Submit a request to  
dispatch@thecoronadoneighborhood.com

## FEBRUARY

### FEBRUARY 1

First Friday  
The World Beyond Group Show  
7:00 - 10:00 pm  
The Hive Gallery  
2222 N 16 Street

### FEBRUARY 7

Coronado Neighborhood  
Association Meeting  
7:00 - 8:00 pm  
Southwest Conference UCC  
917 E Sheridan Street

### FEBRUARY 9

The Narrative Nest  
<https://www.facebook.com/narrativenest/>  
1:00 - 3:00 pm  
The Hive Gallery  
2222 N 16 Street

### FEBRUARY 10

Helios Vocal Ensemble (free)  
4:00 pm  
Trinity Cathedral  
100 W. Roosevelt Street  
trinitymusicaz.org

## MARCH

### MARCH 1

First Friday  
Chandlee Begay Solo Show  
7:00 - 10:00 pm  
The Hive Gallery  
2222 N 16 Street

### MARCH 2

Bulk trash placement begins

### MARCH 7

Coronado Neighborhood  
Association Meeting  
7:00 - 8:00 pm  
Southwest Conference UCC  
917 E Sheridan Street

### MARCH 9

The Narrative Nest  
<https://www.facebook.com/narrativenest/>  
1:00 - 3:00 pm  
The Hive Gallery  
2222 N 16 Street

### MARCH 11

Bulk trash pickup starts

### MARCH 15

Third Friday Artists' Opening  
Aaron Kirchmaier (Coronado  
Resident!) Solo Show  
7:00 - 10:00 pm  
The Hive Gallery  
2222 N 16 Street

## APRIL

### APRIL 4

Coronado Neighborhood  
Association Meeting  
7:00 - 8:00 pm  
Southwest Conference UCC  
917 E Sheridan Street

### APRIL 5

First Friday  
Aaron Kirchmaier (Coronado  
Resident!) Solo Show  
7:00 - 10:00 pm  
The Hive Gallery  
2222 N 16 Street

### APRIL 13

The Narrative Nest  
<https://www.facebook.com/narrativenest/>  
1:00 - 3:00 pm  
The Hive Gallery  
2222 N 16 Street

### APRIL 19

Kelsie Coker Embroidery Show  
7:00 - 10:00 pm  
The Hive Gallery  
2222 N 16 Street

## REOCCURRING EVENTS

### Coronado Coloring Club

For details, visit the CCC Facebook page

### Tri-network/Fightback East monthly meeting

Fourth Tuesday of each month  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran  
Church - 2602 N 17th Street  
East Coronado Blockwatch meeting  
For more information, contact Grace  
Newton at trinetworkgcn@outlook.  
com or 602-743-7896

### Coronado Community Garden Workshops

For details, visit the Coronado  
Community Garden Facebook page

### Activities at the Guru Nanak Dwara

Open house the first Saturday of the  
month from 9:30-10:30 am starting  
with breakfast.  
Nightly Kirtan, 6:00 pm. Every first  
and third Saturday 7:00 -9:00 am  
Kirtan with meal after.  
Weekly services Friday nights 7pm  
and Sundays at 11:30am with free  
vegetarian meal afterwards.  
Weekly children's yoga, meditation  
and martial arts program Sunday  
10:30-11:30am.  
2302 N 9th Street  
For more information, call 602-810-  
9845 or visit [www.gurunakdwara.com](http://www.gurunakdwara.com)

### Guru's Gateway

Meditation/chant series 7:00 - 8:00  
pm January 2, 5, 9, 12, 19, 23, 26.  
(This program will skip February and  
continue in March)  
Daily yoga weekdays at 4:00 am,  
weekends at 5:00 am  
Weekly yoga Sundays 10:15-11:15,  
Mondays and Fridays 7:00 - 8:00 pm  
2308 N. Richland

# Get Your Steps in... and Do Good!

## An Invitation to Coronado Community Residents to Volunteer

By Kristina Proctor

Did you know that volunteering is good for you? Have you had difficulty getting in your 'steps'? Do you find that you are stuck in a routine and want to do something meaningful?

Banner - University Medical Center Phoenix (BUMCP) needs volunteers to help our guests find their way in this huge complex. We are looking for volunteers to become "Wayfinders." A Wayfinder helps visitors to BUMCP get the where they need to be. This is one of the most popular volunteering roles at the hospital. It will certainly help you get your 'steps' in and you will know you've made a difference every time you come to serve!

We ask our volunteers to meet a minimum requirement of 100 hours of service over the lifetime of their engagement, but we have volunteers who have given us thousands of hours of their time. Most volunteers serve a four hour shift each week, however we can be flexible and can generally alter the schedule to make it work for the volunteer.

To become an official volunteer, the following steps need to be completed:

- Application and Interview (Call us at 602.839.4380)
- Background Check
- Completion of an 'at home' online learning module and quiz
- Occupational Health Clearance and Flu Immunization (All at no cost to the volunteer!)
- Photo for Security Badge
- Attendance at a one-hour orientation
- Meeting to get started with assignment, schedule, uniform (\$20.00) and badge.

Note: The immunization, photo and orientation can be completed in a single day if timed right.

We would be happy to set up a tour for interested Coronado community residents to come tour the hospital to learn a little more about us. (No individual tours please and a maximum of 12-15 persons per tour. All those touring must be adults.)

Please call 602.839.4380 for more information, to start the volunteer process or to set up a tour date. We look forward to meeting our Coronado community neighbors!



Kristina Proctor, Director of Volunteer Resources  
Linda Hall, Volunteer Coordinator



CNA President Michael Anderson presenting the North High School music program with the funds raised from WayneFest



# WayneFest Rocks the Hood!

BY KELLIE KREISER

On October 27th, Coronado held WayneFest, a micro-music festival that celebrated local music in the Coronado Park. The lineup included Fairy Bones, Las Chollas Peligrosas, House of Stairs, Gus D. Wynns and the Breakers, and Black Market.

WayneFest was inspired by the successful “Porch Concert” series that brings music to the yards of neighbors, for the benefit of neighbors. But for this show, Coronado invited everyone to experience the special magic that happens during a Porch Concert.

A dedicated team of music-loving neighborhood volunteers brought this festival to life. The core team of Mike Logan, Lindsay Owen, Michael Anderson, Jon Schmidt, Brianna Bonnstetter, Ron Foligno, Marc Oxborrow, Braden McCall, Doug Robson, Dave Tapley, Katie Leake, and Rosalia Logan worked for months to organize the event. They tackled everything from securing the permits, to acquiring the food and beverage vendors, to designing the website and logo, to running the show.

Beyond the incredible music, the event included food by local restaurants (Gallo Blanco, Bri, Ollie Vaughn’s, Welcome Diner, and AZ Pops). The entrance fee for the event included hefty food samples from the vendors.

Four Peaks Brewing Company was the incredible beer sponsor for the event. In true Coronado form, the taps of their beer truck never stopped flowing, filling the commemorative WayneFest blue cups all evening.

Not only was this amazing event a showcase for our community and a joyous celebration of local talent, but it raised money for the Coronado Neighborhood Association and \$747.00 for the North High School music program.

Be sure to catch the next WayneFest coming in early November.

[www.waynefestphx.com](http://www.waynefestphx.com)

Photos courtesy of Al Alguinaga

The Coronado Dispatch | Winter 2019



# Scene Around the Hood



Coronado Neighborhood Association Pool Party



# Scene Around the Hood



Coronado Neighborhood Art Show at The Hive

Photos courtesy of Al Alguinaga



# Neighborhood Night Out at Avenue Q

BY JESSICA BERG

Avenue Q always makes me smile. Like big, bug-eyed, can't stop smiling. No matter how many times I've seen it. What a gift to be able to see it yet again with the incredible super heroes of Coronado. And for FREE?!?! Whaaa?

If you haven't seen it or don't know what I'm talking about ...

Avenue Q is a wildly creative, sweet, irreverent, relevant musical that's half puppets and half people. It's about a group of friends in their 20's and 30's trying to find their way and their purpose in life, navigating relationships, jobs, figuring out how to pay the rent, making good and bad decisions, getting angry, forgiving, falling in love. It makes you laugh, cry, and cringe with embarrassment.

On August 22, members of the Coronado Neighborhood Association got to see it together, for free! (Dues are only \$10 per year, the very small price of giving up 2 dirty chai lattes / year). Thanks to three of our generous neighbors, Michael Barnard, Artistic Director, Vincent Van Vleet, Managing Director, and Sara Jayne "SJ" White, Marketing Director, all our neighbors, got this fantastic oppourunity.

Avenue Q holds a very special place in my heart – I can't really remember how many times I've seen it, but my smile is just as big every time. You see, I really have one claim to fame. (ok maybe two – Grant Hill borrowed my car in college.)

But my best one is that I had the privilege of having Jeff Marx as a roommate in New York in the good old days of being young and crazy in NYC (which I highly recommend that all people should do for a few years, when they're young).

Jeff Marx and Bobby Lopez are the creators of Avenue Q. They're brilliant geniuses. Jeff and I used to have potluck Shabbat dinners at our apartment, and all his amazingly creative and talented friends would come and after dinner there would be such a range of performances in the living room. There were so many exciting evenings of hearing Jeff and Bobby write songs and practice and rewrite and practice on the piano in my very own living room. There was one hysterical song that actually got cut from the show – "Tear it up and throw it away" was

about what one might do when they get a jury duty summons.

It was such a fabulous experience to be able to see these ideas come to life, to see the puppets come to life, see the show when it opened in a small theatre, and then to get to see it on BROADWAY. We were all so overjoyed for Jeff – clearly, this was a dream come true.

Somehow, this very unusual production with puppets makes us feel all the feels. And how appropriate that the show is about a group of friends and neighbors who stick together and support each other and lift each other up. Sound familiar? That's really what life is all about ...

**Thank you Phoenix Theatre  
for your continued support of  
the Coronado Neighborhood**

THE  
**PHOENIX  
THEATRE**  
COMPANY



# Reality, Honesty and Control : An Interview with Maggie Keane

BY PHIL FREEDOM

## How have you been able to cultivate such a realistic style in your art?

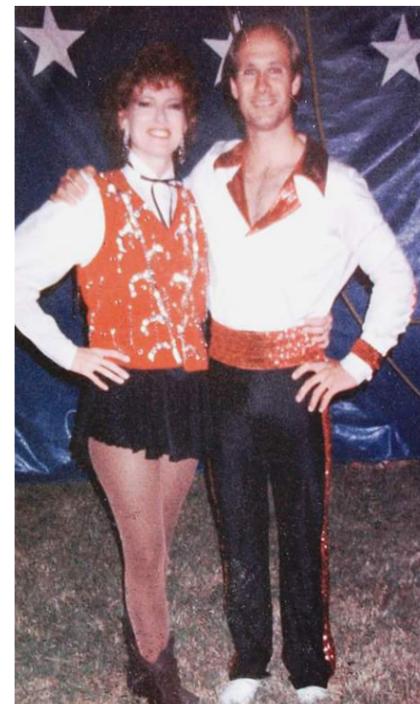
*I guess you could call it an obsession to be so faithful to the subject matter that, but for a couple of things such as medium or style, you can't tell them apart. It's like a challenge I give myself. When I do a portrait, I really need it to look exactly like the person both for myself and for the person who might be paying me for it. You want them to be happy. So as long as I was focusing on that, I carried that level of accuracy into their clothing, or what might be in the background. It's like a double-edged sword sometimes, though, because such single mindedness can work to close your eyes to the beauty that exists in the nebulousness of more loose, unplanned types of art. In the end, I do what makes me feel the best, which is reality, honesty and control.*

## I have been intrigued by you and your husband's diverse creative endeavors, what kind of work did you do with the circus?

*I was hired by a local circus to paint their trucks since I had experience in sign painting. My husband joined the show the following year when they needed some new trucks painted to match the ones I'd already done. Somewhere along the way, he invited me over for dinner. Later on, after it became clear that we had a common destiny, he asked me if I'd be interested in becoming his assistant in the three acts that he performed. I was not comfortable under that kind of spotlight, but I worked up a character, and channeled Lucille Ball and the fear disappeared. We traveled all over the place with lots of different shows, and always along the way, I'd be painting signs or doing portraits.*

## Your visual contributions to the Coronado neighborhood really helps raise the bar for local art, what else would you like to see happen in the neighborhood?

*More murals, of course. There are loads of great empty wall spaces just waiting.*



## What's next for you, and what are you working on?

*I'm applying for murals around town, working on some commissions, and looking for good spaces to do some more tribute murals on. I'm also trying to figure out how to put 40 years of Arizona courtroom sketching into a book.*

*Do what drives you and gives you the most satisfaction but keep an open mind to trying new things. Don't be afraid to ask someone whose work you admire for advice. Practice, practice, practice.*

## Where can people follow you, check out your art, and/or hire you for work?

*I have a Facebook page with a photo album of work, my Instagram is #maggiekeaneart and Twitter is @maggiekeaneart and email is maggie1one@gmail.com.*



# New to Coronado? Here's How to Find Your Community

BY KELLIE KREISER

My husband and I moved into Coronado in 2007. We loved the cool homes, the proximity to downtown, and the burgeoning restaurant scene. And we felt that this neighborhood might actually offer us a sense of community that we had been missing in Glendale. However, while we met a few people, we didn't really develop a lot of friends those first few years. We knew that there were all sorts of things happening in Coronado, but we felt left out.

It wasn't until my husband volunteered to help with the Coronado Home Tour one year that things started to change. He got to know other people who were volunteering and then I got to know them by association. We joined the Coronado Neighborhood Association and went to meetings. We met other neighbors at these meetings and events, and we started getting invited to social gatherings. Now, nearly 12 years later, he and I have a great circle of friends, we volunteer to help out with various CNA activities, and we both feel like Coronado is a home we never want to leave.

If you are new to the neighborhood or if you are like we were – longtime residents who never got involved, I'd like to give you a few tips for how you can find your place in Coronado.

## Join the CNA

The number one tip I can give you is to join the Coronado Neighborhood Association (CNA). Even if you don't think that you want to go to the evening monthly meetings, being a member will connect you to the community like nothing else will. The CNA provides a stream of information about critical things that impact our neighborhood. At only \$10 per year/per person, it is the best investment you can make towards finding your place.

## Volunteer

We have no shortage of great events happening in the hood. Put your hand up and volunteer to help with one of them! The biggest event of the year, the Coronado Home Tour, is coming up February 24th and they need help. (Contact Julie Mate at volunteer@thecoronadoneighborhood.com). Leading up to the tour will also be opportunities to help clean up litter in the alleys and parks. Other events include the Porch Concerts, the Oak Street Alley Mural Festival, and the Miracle Mile Cleanups.

Another great way to volunteer is to join the neighbors who help with Block Watch, the Community Garden, and the Community Tool Shed.



## Attend an Event

Even if you don't want to volunteer to help at an event, attend them! Porch Concerts, the Hive Annual Art Show and regular monthly events, the mural festival, community meals, beer runs... there are so many things happening in Coronado all the time. It may feel awkward at first if you don't know anyone, but I guarantee that if you get out and be social, you'll be welcomed with open arms.

## Find a Special Interest Group

Coronado is filled with small groups of people who are passionate about a whole range of things. There are kids' groups, dog lovers, people who help trap feral cats, early morning walkers, adult colorers, political advocates, crafters, traffic control champions, gardeners, art enthusiasts, writers, bicycle advocates, a golf cart club and so many more. All these groups are looking for people to join them!

## Go Online

Coronado is well represented online. These resources are often a great place to find out about events, volunteering, groups, and more. Here are a few to consider:

- CNA Website: [www.thecoronadoneighborhood.com](http://www.thecoronadoneighborhood.com) is great for community events, the calendar and back issues of the Dispatch. You can also join the CNA there!

- Facebook : the CNA page is at [www.facebook.com/CoronadoNeighborhoodAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/CoronadoNeighborhoodAssociation) and a separate Coronado Message Board is at [www.facebook.com/groups/coronadomessageboard](http://www.facebook.com/groups/coronadomessageboard)

- Nextdoor: go to [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) and search for "Greater Coronado" to join. The website and the app are especially helpful for real time issues such as lost pets and safety concerns.

- Instagram: coronadophx
- Twitter: @CoronadoPHX



## Walk your Dog, Go to the Parks, Go to the Sunshine Market, Have A Beer

Not everyone likes to go online. Thankfully, Coronado is filled with community gathering spots. Get out and explore! Walking your dog, visiting one of our many parks, drop into one of the local watering holes, and stop by the heart of Coronado, The Sunshine Market. Get out and strike up a conversation.

I hope you make 2019 the year to get involved in Coronado and find your community. This neighborhood is too special not to be a part of!



Photo courtesy of Jesse Pena

# Coronado Welcomes Thai Recipe Bistro

By CHRIS SLAUTER

Thai Recipe Bistro opened on 7th street between Oak and Monte Vista this fall, in the old TASC building. When you drive by and see the signage, it's easy to assume that this is a chain or franchise. However, this is just good design for the family owned, Thai restaurant in the Coronado neighborhood. It was opened by two sisters, Gigi and Noni Vo, who previously owned and operated the Thai Elephant restaurants downtown and in Tempe. They have since sold both locations and opened Thai Recipe Bistro in our neighborhood, an area they have been hoping to open a restaurant for years now. And we should all feel lucky that they did!

I met Gigi at the restaurant on a Saturday morning before they opened for business. She greeted me with a smile and a cappuccino (since she didn't know what I'd like), as if she were welcoming me into her home; and it may as well be, since she works open to close, seven days a week. As soon as you walk in, you notice the casually elegant, bistro style restaurant that is as welcoming as Gigi herself. Leather booths outline the space, with four top tables that can be moved together to support larger parties in the middle, and an L shaped bar in the back. The restaurant fits a capacity of about 100, and although the parking lot is small, don't be discouraged if it's full when you pull in. They have 30 extra parking spaces in the church parking lot to the north.

At first glance, the menu is intimidatingly large. They have so many options for curry, noodles, and everything in between. They also serve beer and wine and are working on bringing in cocktails and sake. I asked Gigi what her recommendations are for people trying Thai food for the first time. Without hesitation, she said the Panang or Green Curry, Pad Thai, Drunken Noodles or Basil Bless. Now, one thing that is synonymous with Thai food is spice. This can lead people to think that they won't like it or won't be able to handle it; but don't be scared. They have spice levels ranging from 1 (not spicy) to 5 (very spicy). Gigi says to pick the spice level you're comfortable with and ask for a side of their chili sauce to kick it up a notch if you feel so inclined.

When you're interviewing the owner of a restaurant, you can't help but ask what their favorite menu items are. Gigi's favorites are the Crying Tiger and the Salmon Pumpkin Curry. The Crying Tiger is char-broiled, marinated beef, served on a hot plate with house chili lime sauce. The Salmon Pumpkin Curry is red curry in coconut milk, salmon, pumpkin, bamboo shoot, bell pepper, carrot and basil. Her favorite

dessert on the menu is the Sticky Purple Rice with Coconut Ice Cream, which is exactly what it sounds like. When describing these dishes with such enthusiasm, I could tell Gigi is happy she decided not to chase a career in accounting but chose to join her sister in Arizona to pursue this dream.

When asked what she enjoyed most about our little slice of heaven we call Coronado, Gigi had to hold back tears talking about the people in our neighborhood. "The people are so nice and treat you like one of their own right when they meet you." She has more than reciprocated this sentiment, making me realize that Thai Recipe Bistro and the Coronado neighborhood are a perfect fit. This is another great example of how we are as humans, and how we treat newcomers.

As always, Coronado, I applaud you for your overwhelming sense of community and acceptance. This is as much of a tip of the hat to you as it is to Gigi, Noni, and their family at Thai Recipe Bistro. So, get on your bike, golf cart, or even one of those one-wheeled skateboard things, and help welcome these amazing people to our neighborhood, enjoy their incredible hospitality, and the food that is the absolute icing on the cake to the experience they provide.

**Thai Recipe Bistro is open Mon-Thurs from 11AM to 9PM, Friday 11am to 9:30PM, Saturday 12PM to 9:30PM and Sunday 12PM to 9PM**



# Yours in Partying...Will

BY KELLIE KREISER

Chances are that you have heard of the epic adventure of Coronado's own Will Novak. If you somehow missed the media deluge surrounding this incredible tale, here is the short story. Will received an email invitation to "Angelo's Bachelor Party," a party weekend of skiing in Vermont. But he didn't know Angelo. The invite came due to an error in an email address – the invitation meant for a different Will Novak from New York. Our Will sent off a funny reply, just thinking he'd give the sender a laugh. He wrote: "I do not know who Angelo is. I am a Will Novak who lives in Arizona. Vermont seems like a very far way for me to travel for the bachelor party of a guy I've never met. That being said: f@#king count me in!" Signing off, "Yours in partying, Will Novak, The one in Phoenix."

Two days later, the party organizers sent this reply: "William Novak the one in Phoenix, we all agree, we are all very excited to meet you as you sound tremendous as well! We agree that your timely response may have been one of (if not the best) responses to an e-mail that has ever been sent. And we insist on you coming, this would surely make Angelo's day." And "If you think we are kidding we are not. You better be coming, as we all are all dying to meet you. Not only will this be a weekend Angelo will not forget it will be one you surely will not forget as well."

Will wondered what to do. He and his wife Veronica just had a new baby and they recently remodeled their home. Should he spend the money to fly across the country to party with guys he never met? As any sane Coronadoian would do, he consulted the Facebook neighborhood message board for advice and was met with a resounding 'yes!'

Still having to figure out how to pay for the trip, a friend suggested starting a Go Fund Me page to try to raise the \$750 in travel costs. In two hours, he met the goal and was on his way. But what happened next, he couldn't have anticipated.

Will went viral.

At first, the local Phoenix news picked up the story. TV station Fox 10 and AZcentral.com were among the first. But then the story went national; USA Today, Good Morning America, the Today Show, NBC Nightly News, Vermont Public Radio, the Washington Post, the NY Post, Boston.com, even George Takei. Then international with the Sunrise Australia TV show, the BBC, UOL Brazil, and El Pais. Countless TV and radio stations and online news outlets picked up the story.



All,  
I do not know who Angelo is. I am a Will Novak who lives in Arizona. Vermont seems like a very far way for me to travel for the bachelor party of a guy I've never met.

That being said: fucking count me in! From the contents of this email, Angelo sounds tremendous and I want to help send him off in style. I hope his bride (or groom) to be, is awesome.

I should note that being a desert dweller, I've only been skiing once and I was real bad at it. I hope you all are patient with me on the slopes. In exchange for said patience, I can bring my sweet Nintendo Switch so we can play games in the cabin/chalet/whatever in the evenings. If Angelo isn't into video games I'm happy to bring sudoku puzzles or just Indian Leg Wrestle or whatever he likes.

I do find myself tripped up on what to wear. Clearly the direction of asking "what would Angelo wear?" is a good one. However, again, I do not know him. I once got a wrestling singlet worn by "Hacksaw" Jim Dugan after a WWF event I attended in 1989 (don't ask how- that's private), I can just wear that- though it may not be cold weather conducive.

I wear a size L shirt.

I am 35, so I'm not sure where that puts me in age priority in terms of beds. But I always travel with a foldable hammock, so I'm good no matter what.

If you can all advise me on the nearest airport to fly into, I'll make arrangements forthwith.

Yours in partying,

- Will Novak  
The one in Phoenix

PS if there's ANY way I can get a discount on the \$150 price, considering I don't know how to ski, have to fly across the country and have never met this person, that'd be super appreciated. If that's not amenable, I totally get it- I want to be there and support my man Angelo.



Social media went wild. Will's Twitter and Instagram accounts gained followers by the thousand. Nearly 12,000 people signed on to follow the story as it unfolded. U.S. Senator from Connecticut Chris Murphy shared the story. Will sat down with Mesa Mayor John Giles (for ski tips!) Even Phil Scott, the Governor of Vermont reached out for a call. Along the way, the Vermont tourism organization, the Vermont State Archives, Okemo Mountain (where he'd be skiing), and rocker Andrew WK joined the fun.

Strangers all over the world became delighted and invested in the journey. The idea that strangers could connect and celebrate together was a feel-good story that was welcome in the current unhappy news cycle. People not only wanted to see what happened, but they wanted to help. The Go Fund Me page total continued to rise far past the \$750 target. Offers of all kinds of help poured in, from offers of rides and places to stay to a variety of gifts for Will and Angelo. Free ski lessons and passes from the Okemo Mountain Resort. Yankee Tattoo in Burlington offered free matching tattoos for Will and Angelo. Rogers and Hollands Jewelers offered cufflinks for the whole bachelor party. American Airlines sent Will a box of swag and upgraded him to first class. And SO – MUCH – BEER. Budweiser offered up free beer early, but Night Shift Brewing from Massachusetts showed up at the airport with a dolly of beer to load into his rental car.

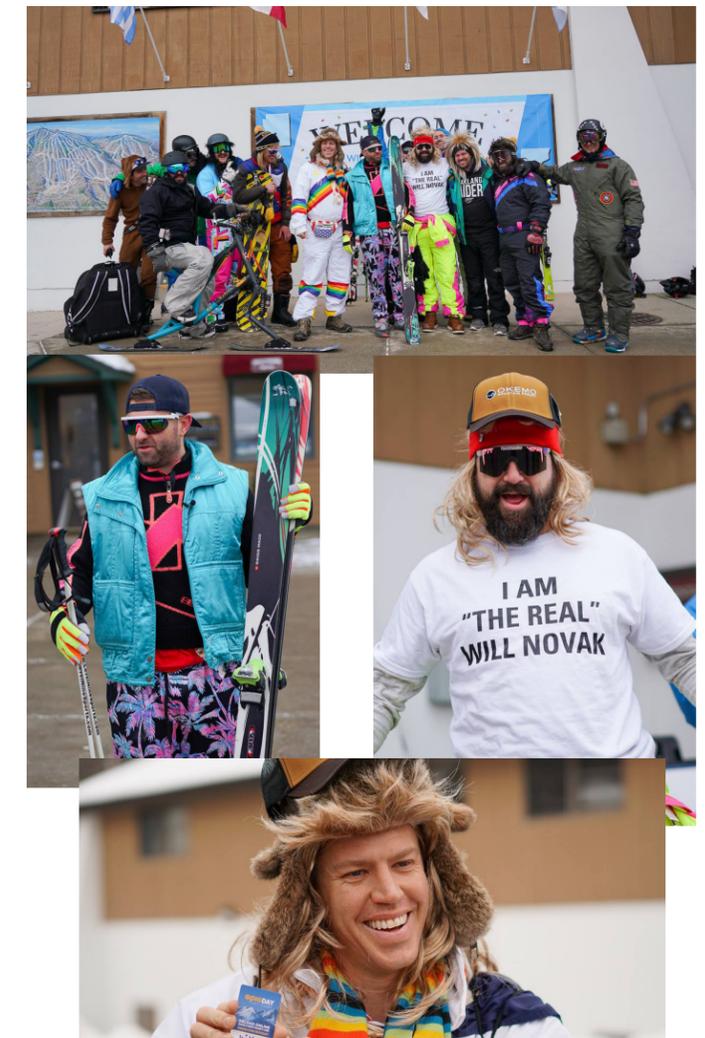
Coronado was not to be outdone. The neighborhood sent Angelo a gift box filled with neighborhood t-shirts and posters, a 602 hat, local Helio Brewing beer, stickers, a 1.6K medal, Coronado cookbook, a handmade blown glass witch ball, and a shirt and necklace for Angelo's wife.

On Friday January 18th, Will left Arizona for his big adventure east – right into a huge snow storm blanketing the coast. When he arrived in Boston, he realized that the minivan he'd rented might not make it through the snow on the drive to Vermont. He tried upgrade to something with 4 wheel drive with no luck. But the massive following on social media triggered an amazing turn of luck – Enterprise Rental Car jumped in and offered him an upgrade – to a Maserati.



From that point on, the world followed #angelosbachelorparty on Twitter and Instagram, waiting anxiously for each new post from Will. The result was something out of a movie. We watched Will drive to Vermont stopping at multiple places along the way to pick up donated beer. We listened to his impassioned plea for someone to Google how to turn off the heated seats in a Maserati and send him the instructions. Over the course of the weekend, we saw the guys partying with vigor – staying out late and enjoying the experience of being local celebrities at bars and the resort. Shooting fireworks off the balcony of the chalet. Getting an impromptu violin lesson from a bar band. Will getting ski lessons. The other Will (from New York) dislocating a shoulder while skiing. Late night sled riding with kids who had recognized Will from the TV. Digging the stuck Maserati out of the snow. And finally, driving south on his way home, by way of New York City.

Hopefully Angelo and his buddies had a weekend to remember. At last check, the Go Fund Me account was well over \$4000. The extra funds will go to Angelo, his bride Devon and their forthcoming baby. It will be a wonderful wedding gift, resulting from a typo, strangers open to adventure, and the goodwill of people who came along for the amazing ride.





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