

PEOPLE • ARTS • EVENTS • COMMERCE • DINING • CITY GUIDE • OCEAN

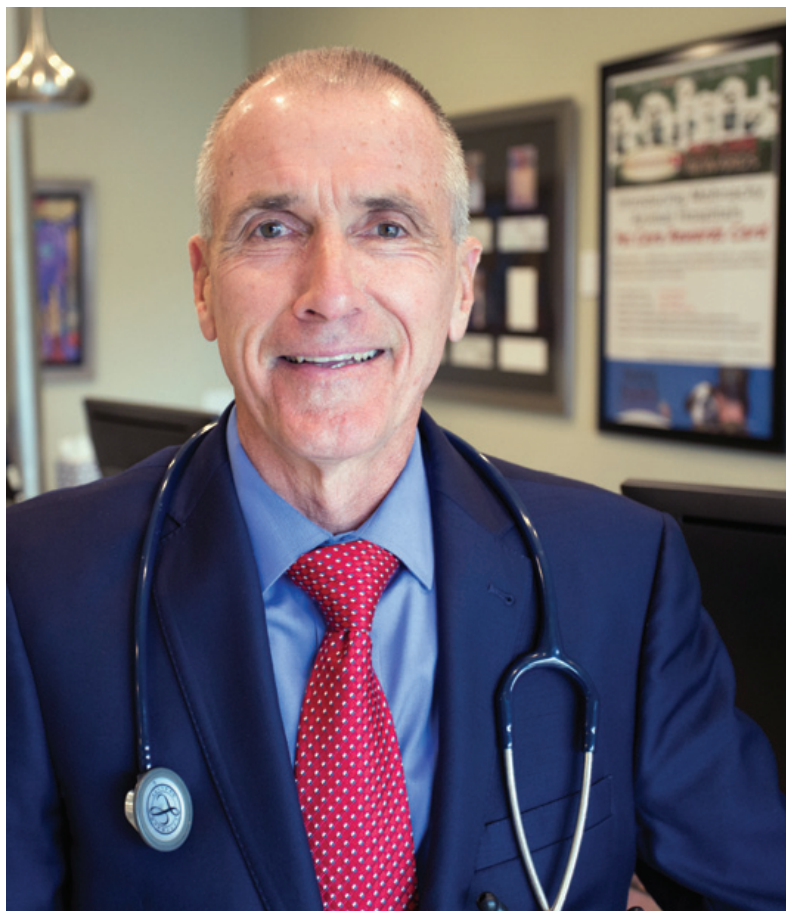
# carlsbad

## magazine



FIELDS OF DREAMS • CARLSBAD GOURMET • BOOK NOOKS • LAVER OF LOVE

March/April 2017



## Craig J. Mohnacky, A Pet's Best Friend

Photo by Jesse Wells

Many Carlsbad pet lovers are well acquainted with veterinarian Craig J. Mohnacky, whose Mohnacky Animal Hospital marks its 20th anniversary in the city this year. (There are other locations in Vista and Escondido.) Mohnacky says he became a veterinarian in part to give back to his community, and one of the ways he does that is through the Helping Paws program, which assists military families with the care and treatment of their pets. That includes spay/neuter services, microchipping and financial assistance for veterinary care; more than 2,000 surgeries have been performed through Helping Paws. "Because of our proximity to the military base at our Carlsbad hospital, we identified an unrecognized and underserved population in need of support for veterinary services. Our military population is unconditionally committed to securing our freedoms so we can enjoy the lifestyles that we sometimes take for granted, so Helping Paws has unconditionally committed to help the underserved and those in need—active and retired personnel and disabled veterans of war."

## Q&A

**Favorite spot in Carlsbad:** I have two—the lovely Carlsbad beaches and the baseball fields at Pine where I have so many great memories of family and friends. (Both my sons played in the Carlsbad Youth Baseball program; I also coached and served a term as president of the program.)

**Best Carlsbad beach:** Tamarack, because of its wall and easy access. My family has many wonderful memories of this beach; in fact, my granddaughter had her third birthday there. With a new grandson, I trust there will be many more great memories at these iconic spots.

**Favorite meal at a local restaurant:** I have always been fond of Dini's restaurant, with its outdoor dining and beautiful sunsets on the patio. It always has a great catch-of-the-day special.

**Advice for tourists:** Tourists should visit any time of the year. There's always something to do in Carlsbad—if not the beaches, then the downtown shops with a quaint atmosphere, amazing bars and restaurants, beautiful lagoons and flower fields.

**Ideal Carlsbad day:** Get up early and walk the beach at Tamarack, eat breakfast downtown, then visit the local shops with my wife. It doesn't get any better than that.

**The one thing he would change about the city:** Eliminate May gray and June gloom.

**One thing he would never change:** Our lovely downtown with its great eating establishments.

**Favorite weekend activity:** Getting in a round of golf at the Crossings and driving down the Coast Highway.

**Favorite charitable group:** San Diego Department of Animal Services on Palomar Airport Road.