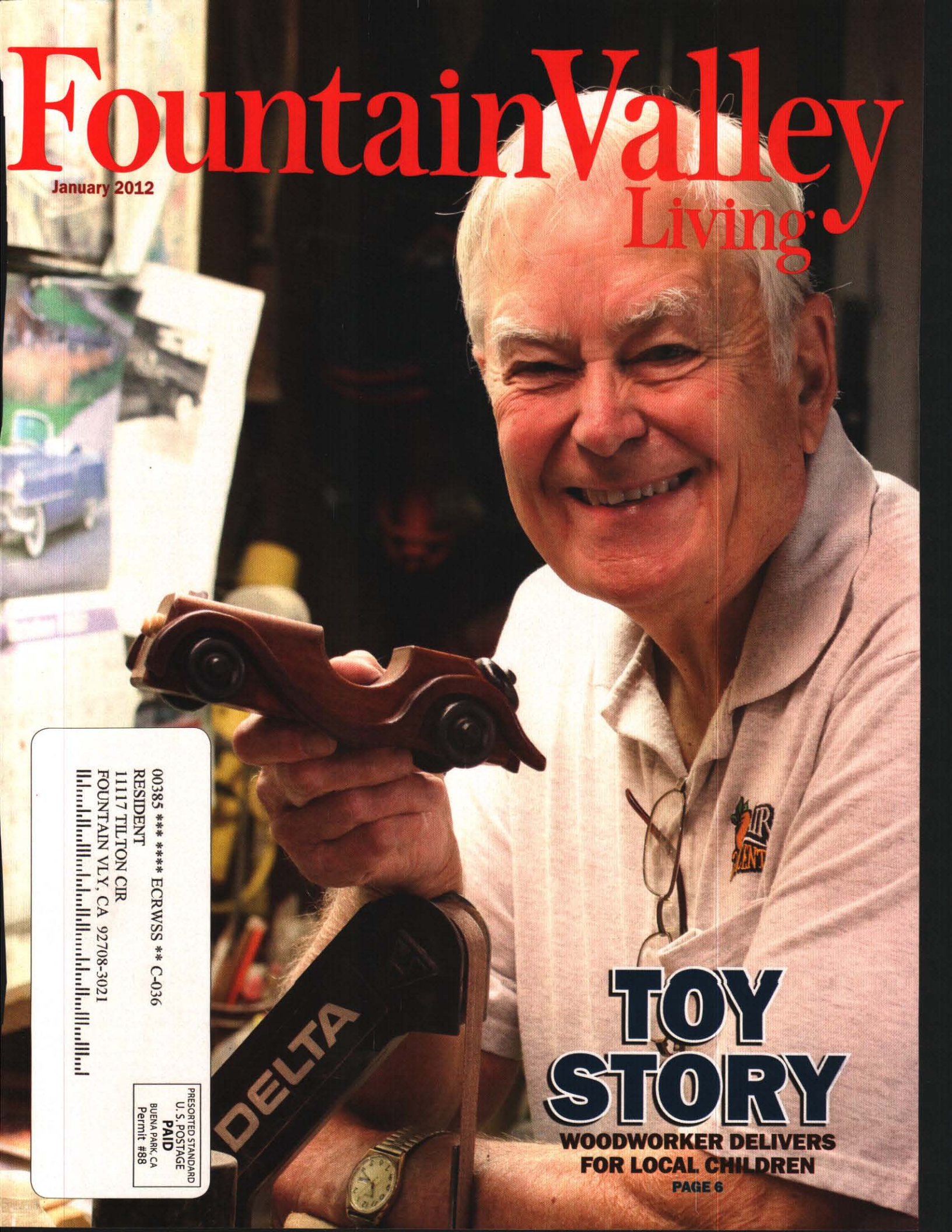


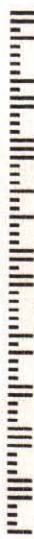
Fountain Valley

Living

January 2012



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TOY STORY

WOODWORKER DELIVERS
FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

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Toy story

Fountain Valley resident Don Borchardt chairs a project that brings toys and joy to local charities and non-profits.



REAL-LIFE SANTA, PERHAPS? Don Borchardt talks about the Orange County Scroll Saw Association's toymaking project in his Fountain Valley workshop. Photo by LYNN SEEDEN

By **CURT SEEDEN**
Fountain Valley Living Magazine

Thanks to Fountain Valley resident Don Borchardt and the Orange County Scroll Saw Association, a lot of kids received some unique hand-made gifts this Christmas season.

The Scroll Saw Association each year makes toys and then donates them to charities and schools around the county.

Don is chairman of this event, and on Dec. 9, he and his fellow toymakers delivered more than 3,300 toys. Among the recipients: Plavan School, the Boys & Girls Club of Huntington Valley, Holy Spirit Catholic Church and Living Waters Christian Fellowship.

"We delivered to one charity this

year and ours were the only toys they got," Borchardt told us. "The people that run these charities are very appreciative."

Borchardt, who started doing woodwork about 20 years ago, works out of a garage workshop designing wooden toys including cars, puzzles and hand-held basketball games.

He said it takes him on the average about 30 minutes to make one toy. More complicated toys take far longer to craft.

Don says the association's most important objective is to make and donate toys to sick, underprivileged or abused children.

The association has about 58 members. Jim Graham, also of Fountain Valley, is the current president of the

group. Many of the toys are made by the members in their shops at home. Workshops are also held to complete the unfinished items.

At Christmastime, the toys are boxed and delivered to various organizations including Orangewood Children's Home, UCI Medical Center, C.H.O.C. and Halcyon House.

In 2004, approximately 550 toys were donated to nine organizations, which also included a military base in Iraq, as well as to a shelter in San Bernardino that housed people who were evacuated from the major fires in the area.

In 2005, the association members made and shipped 302 toys to an evacuation location in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina.