

The Joshua Tree

January 24, 2023

CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO VICTORVILLE'S FUTURE

The Rotary Club received a visit this week from City of Victorville Public Information Officer **Sue Jones**, who gave us an update from the City and what to expect in 2023. Sue has served as the PIO for Victorville for seven years but moved to the High Desert in 2002 and fell in love with the area.

In the new year, Victorville's strategic priorities will continue to improve financial stability, a strong focus on public safety, reduce homelessness and community & economic development. They will continue to invest in infrastructure, improved communication & outreach, plus continued organizational effectiveness.



reduce congestion on Bear Valley Road and Highway 18. The bridge is completed, as is the roadway at Green Tree and Hesperia Road. The rest of the work will be on the east side of the Bridge, connecting it to Ridgecrest Blvd/Yucca Loma.

Also due by summer will be the conclusion of the Bear Valley Bridge Widening Project. The completed work will provide better sight distance, plus

two left hand turn lanes from eastbound Bear Valley Road onto Ridgecrest.

To help reduce homelessness, a Wellness Center is currently under construction which will not only house those in need, but also offer medical and mental health assistance. It will be a modular design, which means it will have 110 units and 170 beds, so each resident will have their own room. It is currently being built on city owned land on First Street. The Wellness Center will be a 56% increase in homeless shelter beds once opened.

In the area of public safety, Victorville has recently hired eleven new personnel, five compliance officers, and opened new Fire Station 315. Next on the agenda is a new police station which will be built on Civic Drive, across from the Courthouse.

Businesses in the city of Victorville will continue to grow. Last year they approved 200 commercial business licenses and 69 retail business licenses. This year residents will see CarMax, Superior Grocery, Dollar Tree and two hotels open up.

Stay in touch with these updates and much more by signing up for their digital newsletter, "Victorville Connect" by visiting victorvilleca.gov/stayconnected.



In the Summer of 2023, residents should see the completion of the 600ft Bridge that will connect Victorville to Apple Valley, and

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Bill Edwards
Flag Salute: James Rightmire
4-Way Test: David North
Fine Master: Ryan McEachron



ARSALEE'S AVENUE

Thank you for Sue Jones for taking time to speak to the Club on all of the new and exciting

things coming from the City of Victorville in

2023. With the Green Tree Bridge Extension, my commute from home to work will be much easier and quicker!



Next week we will have our 5th Tuesday evening meeting at BJ's Brewhouse on Restaurant Row in Victorville. Please join us for food, fun and fellowship at 5:00pm

Love will be in the air on Thursday, February 9th as we hold our annual Valentine's Dinner, once again at Chateau Chang's in Victorville. Fellowship begins at 6:00pm and dinner will be at 7:00pm. The cost for this event is \$50 per person or \$90 per couple. Please sign up today!

Finally, February 12th is Super Bowl Sunday and this year Steve & Pam Murray have opened their home for this year's event. The party starts at 2:30pm and is located at 15306 Pirinda Court in Apple Valley. This is a great opportunity to bring family and visitors to enjoy Rotary Fellowship. Don't forget to sign-up and this will be a catered event. You can RSVP by calling 760-946-1346 or 760-954-2893.

Finally. "Let us remember, one book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world".

Arsalee

STAR Students from Helendale



After a lengthy absence, our STAR Student awards were back this week. Hosted by **Bill Edwards**, Helendale Elementary Principal **Cindy Espinoza** was joined by Superintendent **Ross Swearingen** to recognize three students from the school for making big improvements in grades, performance and attitudes.

First to be recognized for his hard work and determination in checking his work for accuracy was **Cody Ross**, becoming one of the best students in class. Next **Reed Richards** was acknowledged for advancing in his attitude towards learning, by being involved with his class and improving on his studying skills. Finally, the Club met **Madison Grounds** who excels in reading! She has read over 571,000 words this year and is on pace to read over a million by the end of the school year.

All students received certificates from Congressman Obernolte Representative **Corrine More** and Supervisor Cook Representative **Kimberly Mesen**. From the Club, President **Arsalee Morales** handed out Rotary certificates and \$25 gift cards to all students.



IMAGINE
ROTARY

IMAGINE ROTARY

Big Blue Dice



Bo Goulet had the chance to grab the Blue Dice, but picked a white one and saved the chance for another Rotarian.

The pot continues to grow next week with 12 Dice and \$250 for the lucky Rotarian who can grab the Blue Dice.

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master this week and President **Arsalee Morales** paid \$25 because she has had since Thursday, the opportunity to pick up the Spoon from the office of **Oscar Garcia**, and has not done so. Sheriff Captain



John Wickum was also fined \$25 for not inviting Ryan to the Victorville Council Meetings and **Bo Goulet** was hit with a \$20 penalty for his long absence from Rotary meetings. **Bill Edwards** took a call in the middle of the fine session that netting him a \$20 fine.

Now onto **Jon Hove**. Not only was he “fashionably late” to the meeting, but twice during the presentation commented how good his concrete looked on the Green Tree Bridge extension and the Bear Valley Bridge widening, so he was fined \$40 for his outbursts.

Services for Cherie Range will take place on Saturday, January 28 at Sunset Hills Memorial Park in Apple Valley. Viewing will take place from 9:00am - 9:30am, funeral services will be held 9:30am - 11:00am and the graveside service will take place at 11:15am. Refreshments to follow.

Rotary Guests

Along with family members of our STAR Students, this week we welcomed Helendale School District Superintendent **Ross Swearingen**, Helendale Elementary School Principal **Cindy Espinoza** and teachers **Bryce Carlson** and **Jack Garza**.

On hand we had Congressman Jay Obernolte Representative **Kimberly Messen** and Supervisor Paul Cook Representative **Corrine Mora**.

Mike Page invited new Victor Valley Union High School Superintendent **Carl Coles** and Assistant Superintendent **Ratmony Yee**.

Our Stand-in this week was **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

Raffle

Bo Goulet was our big raffle winner this week, leaving the meeting with a Micro-Link thumb drive from **Chris Ackerman** and two plant grow kits from **Bill Edwards**. President **Arsalee Morales** also won



a plant grow kit, plus a bottle of wine, courtesy of **David North**. **James Rightmire** donated a solar hand crank radio that went home with **Bill Edwards** and a copy of the book, “How to Make a Name for Yourself in the HD”, that will be read by **Keith Metzler**. Finally, **Stew Anderson** won a Victor Valley Transit water bottle, that he described as a “sippy cup”.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$45.00

Collected to Date: \$19,542.52

Total equals: 100,173 Doses!

*One dollar equals 2 doses of vaccine!
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!*

Rotary

Club of Victorville, CA



The Joshua Tree is a Weekly Publication of the Rotary Club of Victorville
P.O. Box 734 • Victorville, CA 92393 • www.victorvillerotary.org

If you are not receiving your newsletter, please contact Editor Chris Ackerman at
chris@signifydesigns.com or 760-559-1686 to be added to the e-mail or mailing list.

VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2022-2023	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2024	Steve Murray
President 2024-2025	Need Candidates
President 2025-2026	Bill Edwards
Immediate Past President	Jon Hove
Treasurer	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary	Margaret Cooker
Club Service	Steve Murray
Community Service	Bryan Gillespie
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/Ryla & TLC	Ryan McEachron
Vocational Service	Bill Edwards

Members-at-Large: David North, Mike Johnson, Rob Kilpatrick & Ron Boyd

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Pam Murray
Billing Officer	Esther Mears
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Dawn Quigg
Flowers and Gifts	Linda Hove
Foundation & Grants	Margaret Cooker
4-Way Speech Competitions	Mike Johnson
Fundraising.....	Arsalee Morales
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest	Ron Boyd
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Membership.....	Steve Murray
Programs	Mike Page
Publicity/Public Relations	Need Volunteer
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, Jeff Armstrong and John Wickum
Sergeant At Arms.....	Steve Murray
Scholarships.....	David North
S.T.A.R. Students	Maureen Mills and Michal Krause

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Bear Valley Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, Victorville

Make-up Days and Locations

MONDAY:	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
TUESDAY:	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
WEDNESDAY:	High Desert/Hesperia Club meets 7:00 a.m., Mile High Cafe, 8832 Orange St., Hesperia San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Rositas, 540 Main St, 12:00 p.m.
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, <i>No Longer Meeting</i> Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

- Feb 9: Valentine's Dinner**
Chateau Chang
15425 Anacapa Rd, Victorville
6:00pm -Fellowship 7:00 pm Dinner
\$50/person • \$90/couple
- Feb 12: Super Bowl Party**
2:30pm at Home of Steve & Pam Murray
15306 Pirinda Ct., Apple Valley
- Feb 13: Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm -Fellowship
5:30 pm Board Meeting
ISU ARMAC Insurance Agency
17177 Yuma St., Victorville, CA

Upcoming Programs

- Jan 31: 5th Tuesday Rotary Meeting**
5:00pm
BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse
11600 Amargosa Road, Victorville
- Feb 7: Faith Maldonado, H&R Block Topic: "2023 Tax Updates" (Page)**
- Feb 14: Keith Metzler, City Manager, City of Victorville Topic: "Five Years as City Manager" (Page)**
- Feb 21: 4-Way Speech Contest (Johnson)**
- Feb 28: STAR Students - Adelanto Elementary School District (Johnson)**

Design & Layout By



Printed By



www.victorvillerotary.org