



# The Joshua Tree

March 26, 2024

## EMBRACE THE COMPLAINT IN VICTORVILLE

Things are looking up for the City of Victorville, thanks to Measure P. City Manager and Rotarian **Keith Metzler** was on hand this week to share some exciting updates about the measure. Going into using the additional finances from the measure, his team developed a new focus, to embrace the complaint; listen and appropriately respond to the needs to the community.



Measure P is a general sales tax measure approved by the Victorville voters during the November 3, 2020, election. This one-cent sales tax took effect on April 1, 2021, increasing Victorville's sales tax rate from 7.75 percent to 8.75 percent. Revenue generated by this general tax measure enables the City to increase safety for Victorville's growing population and expand essential services like police, fire, code compliance, animal care and control, library, and homelessness and housing.

Now in its third year, here is a breakdown of the additional services and benefits it has brought.

**POLICE:** The local Police Department has been given 15.5 million dollars which has assisted them in hiring 12

new patrol officers and doubled traffic tickets from 2,400 in 2019 to 4,200 citations in 2023. Response times have vastly improved, and enhanced attention has been given to investigative matters.

**FIRE:** The Victorville Fire Department has been allocated almost 15 million from Measure P, and with those funds have been able to hire 30 additional

personnel, purchase five new Type 1 Fire Engines and a Tiller Truck.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT AND ANIMAL CONTROL:** Allocated with 7.6 million, they began a proactive campaign to listen to complaints with the intent to fix things that the community sees as issues. They have also adopted new pet adoption practices and are now operating 7 days a week.

**COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS:** With 4.8 million going to community improvements, the City has taken some old tennis courts and converted them to pickleball courts, resurfacing the Hook Community Gym and other improvements to West Winds Sports Center, Doris Davie's Pool, and more.

With additional money going to community services, the Victorville Library and the General Fund, a total of \$70,382,882 has gone back into the community, thanks to Measure P. The City is looking forward to new services for the community in 2024 and beyond.

### This Week's Functionaries

**Invocation:** Chris Ackerman

**Flag Salute:** Bill Scott

**4-Way Test:** Dr. Ron Boyd

**Fine Master:** Ryan McEachron

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## MURRAY'S MINUTE



Thank you to Keith Metzler for taking time this week to give the Club an update on Measure P. It was

exciting to hear how the one cent sales tax as already helped the residents of Victorville, but more is coming to the City because of it!



Bill Edwards and Arsalee Morales are still looking for 3 Rotarians who are not on the Board to help with a Fundraising Committee. We are looking for some fresh and unique ideas to raise money for the Club's many programs we support. Please see Bill if you can serve.

The Rotary Raffle Basket continues to grow with over \$2,000 worth of prizes! Please buy and sell tickets throughout the community. All the money raised will go into our treasury so our 24/25 President Bryan Gillespie will have a great start! We sold an additional 250 raffle tickets online due to promoting it on Facebook and Instagram, so please find the post and share it on your personal social media page and lets get more tickets sold!

Please make sure to join us for the Regional Music and Speech Contests next week and support our local students!

Steve

## Keith Metzler

*Continued from page 1*

Some of the new benefits include a new police station campus which is currently in the conceptual design phase. Construction of the new Victorville Library will begin this summer with over 17,000 square feet of services. The City of Victorville has secured a lease with the Victor Valley Union High School District for a new animal shelter at the former Goodwill High School. Finally, the City will purchase three transport capable squad vehicles to expand EMS services and are expected to be delivered by the end of the year.

Find out more at [www.victorvilleca.gov](http://www.victorvilleca.gov).

## A New Rotarian



The Rotary Club inducted a new Rotarian into the fold this week, the first for the year. Past District Governor, Past President, and co-sponsor **Stew Anderson** led the proceedings, inducting **Angel Espino** from Edward Jones. Filling in for absent co-sponsor **Mike Page**, was President **Steve Murray**.

Angel has made the High Desert his home for the past decade and has served the community with Edward Jones Financial near Victor Valley College for the past six years. He studies Jujitsu and will be married this September.

Welcome to the Club Angel!



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD



# CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

## Big Blue Poker Chip



*Ryan McEachron had the chance to pick the Blue Poker Chip, but picked green and saved the chance for another next week. The pot will continue next week with 8 chips and \$350 for the lucky Rotarian who has their ticket drawn.*

## Raffle

Our President **Steve Murray** was a big winner this week, taking home a portable fan from **Chris Ackerman** at Victor Valley Transit, a goodie bag from **Bill Edwards** and a Sound Spa from **Dana Hernandez** from Rock'n Our Disabilities Foundation.

**Brad Poiriez** also won a fan and Ryan also went home with a goodie bag from Bill. Ryan will also enjoy the cocktail smoker kit he received from Dana and **Bill Edwards** also walked away with a snap on bottle opener from **Steve Murray** and a Red Rock RV backpack from **Russ Stringham**.



## The Polio Pig

**Collected this week: \$15.00**

*Polio Pig: \$10 + Dice (Ryan McEachron) \$5 = \$15.00*

**Collected to Date: \$20,371.33**

**Total equals: 101,721 Doses!**

**One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!  
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!**

## Giving Back



The Victorville Rotary Foundation presented a check in the amount of \$500 to the "Friends of the Victorville Library". The check was presented to librarian **Arnold Castro**, who has been part of the Library for six years.

They will be breaking ground on a new Library at the Green Tree Golf Course, and building an extra 5000 sq. ft. to the building, and next month, residents visiting Sunset Ridge Park will find a new Library Kiosk with 235 books available.

## Rotary Guests

Our guests this week included Victorville Librarian **Arnold Castro**, who attended as a guest of President **Steve Murray**. **Keith Metzler** had a pair of guests in attendance, **Jed Soriano** from the City of Victorville and Victorville Council Member **Leslie Irving**.

## Fine Session



**Ryan McEachron** was our Fine Master this week and began by fining speaker **Keith Metzler** \$10 for his phone going off in the middle of his presentation! While assisting in inducting **Angel Espino**, President

**Steve Murray** wasn't wearing his Rotary Badge and paid \$5 for the error. After an absence, it was good to see **Brad Poiriez** at the meeting, which resulted in a \$10 penalty.

It was then time to raffle the Spoon for the month of April, and President **Steve Murray** took it for \$100. Although **Mike Johnson** had the Spoon last month, he only was able to attend one meeting, so Steve shared he will be giving it back to Mike in April.



**VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS**

**Board of Directors**

- President 2023-2024 .....Steve Murray
- President 2024-2025 .....Bryan Gillespie
- President 2025-2027 ..... Bill Edwards
- President 2027 - 2028 ..... **Please be Interviewed**
- Immediate Past President/Special Projects..... Arsalee Morales
- Treasurer/Scholarships ..... David North
- Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants ..... Margaret Cooker
- Club Service/Membership .....Bryan Gillespie
- Community Service/Speech Contests ..... Mike Johnson
- International Service..... Ben Tafoya
- Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC/Ethics Essay..... Ron Boyd
- Vocational Service ..... Bill Edwards

**Members-at-Large:** Rob Kilpatrick & Bob Basen

**Positions & Committee Chairs**

- BOD Secretary ..... Pam Murray
- Billing Officer .....Esther Mears
- Dan Stover Music Contest..... Bill Edwards
- Flowers and Gifts ..... Linda Hove
- Foundation & Grants ..... Margaret Cooker
- Fundraising..... Arsalee Morales
- Joshua Tree Editor ..... Chris Ackerman
- Membership..... Bryan Gillespie
- Programs ..... Mike Page
- Publicity/Public Relations ..... Rob Kilpatrick
- Public Safety..... Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley,  
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:** San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon,  
Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St,  
Barstow, CA
- THURSDAY:** Apple Valley, Thursday various meeting locations  
and times. 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**

- April 8:** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:00pm Fellowship  
5:30 pm Board Meeting  
Location: Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA

**Rotary**  
Club of Victorville, CA



**Upcoming Programs**

- April 2:** **Rotary Area Combined Music and Speech Contests** (Johnson/Edwards)
- April 9:** **Victor Valley College - Professor Wilkerson**
- April 16:** Rob Kilpatrick, **TOPIC "Hwy 18 Corridor Update"** (Page)
- April 23:** **Victor Valley Union High School District**

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