

The Joshua Tree



August 3, 2021

MY TRIP TO ROTARY PARK

Traveling is a great passion of Victorville Fire Chief **Jeff Armstrong** and his wife of 11 years, **Christy Armstrong**. They have no children and don't buy anything, instead choose to spend their hard earned money to experience the world through traveling. That is what brought them to Fargo, North Dakota a couple months ago.



They went to see a favorite country artist of theirs at a small fair for an anniversary trip, and the next day chose to go exploring.



Their destination was Grand Forks, which is right on the line between North Dakota and Minnesota, only separated by the Red River and just south of the Canadian Border. One

of their stops was to see the Sorlie Bridge that connects the two states and it was there Jeff accidentally found Rotary Park!

While experiencing the Bridge they noticed a wonderful park.



Walking around, Jeff and Christy noticed a fountain that had a familiar symbol, the Rotary Logo. As they explored further they found more. One thing they did notice is that this park was set back over 700ft. from the Red River with elevation separations, and soon they found the reason why.



In 1997 there was a record Flood there. In fact there had been horrible floods also in 1950, 1850 and even as far back as 1797! Every time the community came together to rebuild, but in 1997, Rotarians did something different, they fixed it.



Following the devastating flood of 1997, Grand Forks Rotarians spearheaded the fundraising events necessary to create and maintain the Rotary Park located on the Greenway near the Sorlie Bridge in downtown Grand Forks. Contacting Rotary Clubs, checks were written and funds were raised to fix the problem once and for

all. With the help of Rotarians around the Globe, \$409 million was raised for a re-enforced levee system, and since the flood an additional \$1 Billion dollars has been spent along the Red River to protect it.

While not all the money was raised strictly from Rotary, the organization played a big part in getting the work done and funded. So much so, this park is in dedication to the great work done by many Rotarians.

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This Week's Functionaries

- Invocation:** Chris Ackerman
- Flag Salute:** Tina Escareño
- 4-Way Test:** Dwight Johnson
- Fine Master:** David North

ORR'S ROARS



Well, at least I got three week's off! Seriously, I was honored to fill-in for President Jon Hove to see Victorville Fire Chief Jeff Armstrong not only get inducted, but to hear him

share about his visit to a Rotary Park in Grand Forks, North Dakota and the inspiring story of Rotarians around the world.



On August 17th we will have Congressman Jay Obernolte speak to our Club, and we want to fill the large room here at the Spring Valley Lake Country Club. Please invite friends, family, and potential members for this special meeting. When inviting someone, please let them know they will pay \$20 for their meal and let Margaret Cooker know how many you will be bringing so we have a good number.

Speaking of that date in August, that will be the final day to bring an auction item for our Movie Night at the Hove's Fundraiser and get together.

Steve



www.victorvillerotary.org

ROTARY PARK

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The park is filled with wonderful tributes to those who were victims of the floods and those who helped repair it. Thank you Chief Armstrong for sharing this wonderful and inspirational place, found by accident in Grand Forks, North Dakota.



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Big Blue Dice



Rob Kilpatrick had the chance to grab the Blue Dice, but grabbed a white one and donated his \$5 back to the Polio Pig.

We will continue next week with 9 dice and \$325 for the Rotarian who can pick the Blue Dice out of the bag.

Fine Session

David North was once again our Fine Master and once again tried to give a fine to **Arslae Morales**, but she left early. This time, he gave it to her in absentia. She was given a \$25 penalty for going to San Francisco and not bringing the Club any Sourdough Bread.

Since **Keith Metzler** recited the Pledge of Allegiance at a speed like he was trying to win an Olympic Gold Medal, he earned a \$20 fine, while **Corey Beck** paid the same amount for not knowing how many Gold Medals the USA was won so far. Finally, **Mike Page** got hit with a \$12 fine since his middle daughter Catherine is now a High School Senior.

Rotary Induction



Past District Governor **Stew Anderson** was on hand this week to perform the induction of the newest Rotarian to our Club, Victorville Fire Chief **Jeff Armstrong**! Jeff was joined by his sponsor **Keith Metzler** and after being presented with his pin and Red Badge, The Club gave an ovation to the newest Rotarian in the world.

Spoon of Exemption



In her first week with the Spoon, Elementum Services staffer and Rotary Stand-in **Christina**, spoke to the Club that even though their main expertise is water damage restoration, even they are not immune! Last week when we had a big monsoon in the middle of the night, they arrived

the next morning, and had to be experts at their own company! She also reminded the Club that one of the biggest effects of water damage is mold and it can be quite dangerous. In fact a majority of their calls recently has been about getting rid of mold.

Find out more at elementumservices.com.

Raffle

The wine was flowing at this week's raffle with bottles going to **Keith Metzler, Tina Escareño, and Dwight Johnson**, courtesy of **Christina** from Elementum Services and Dwight (*he didn't win his own*). Victor Valley Transit water bottles with assorted goodies from **Kevin Kane**, will be used by **Mike Page** and **Donna Wells**, and **Rob Kilpatrick** will enjoy a cup of coffee with the Victorville Fire Department mug he got from Chief **Jeff Armstrong** while reading a copy of "Men of Integrity" he won from **Dwight Johnson**.

Rotary Guests

Our Stand-ins this week were **Christina Medina** for **Oscar Garcia**, **Linda Hove** for President **Jon Hove** and **Stefanie Montoya** who attended for **Bryan Gillespie**.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$7.00

Polio Pig: \$2.00 + Dice (Rob Kilpatrick): \$5.00 = \$7.00

Collected to Date: \$18,098.63

Total equals: 97,311 Doses!

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



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2021-2022	Jon Hove
President 2022-2023	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2025	Jessica Perez
President 2025-2026	Bill Edwards
Immediate Past President	Steve Orr
Treasurer	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary	Margaret Cooker
Foundation.....	Margaret Cooker
Publicity/Public Relations	Stephen Quintero
Club Service	Arsalee Morales
Community Service	Michael Krause
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC	Ryan McEachron
Vocational Service	Jessica Perez
Grants.....	Margaret Cooker
Speech Contests	Jessica Perez
Scholarships.....	Esther Mears and Arsalee Morales
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest	Ron Boyd
Membership.....	Dwight Johnson
Billing Officer	Esther Mears

Members-at-Large: David North, Esther Mears, Rob Kilpatrick & Ron Boyd

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Marilyn Buttelwerth
Programs	Mike Page
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, John Wickum & Jeff Armstrong
Sergeant At Arms.....	Arsalee Morales
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	TBA
S.T.A.R. Students	Jim Barnes
Fundraising	Arsalee Morales
Flowers and Gifts	KayMarie Gregory
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Spring Valley Lake 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., Cracker Barrel, 11612 Amargosa Rd, Victorville San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Rositas, 540 Main St, 12:00 p.m.
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, ZOOM Meetings, 1st, 2nd and 4th Thurs 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

- Aug 16:** **Board of Directors meeting**
Revised Date!
5:30 pm Meeting *In-Person or Zoom*
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor
Hesperia and Silica Roads
- Aug 21:** **Movie Night at the Hove's**
Home of Jon & Linda Hove
18970 Appaloosa Rd., Apple Valley, CA

Upcoming Programs

- Aug 10:** Robert Lovingood, ICR Staffing Services
Topic: End of Federal Stimulus: Will it Trend the Way the End of the Cares Act?" (Page)
- Aug 17:** **Congressman Jay Obernolte**
- Aug 24:** Jason Lamoreaux, Owner/Broker Coldwell Banker Commercial and Residential Real Estate
Topic: Update on the Real Estate Market - What's Going On" (Page)

We will have a Christmas Party on Thursday, December 9th at the Spring Valley Lake Country Club! If you'd like to be on the committee to make this our best ever, please contact Arsalee Morales.

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