



# The Joshua Tree

October 24, 2023

## THE FUTURE OF MOVING THE HIGH DESERT

It has been three decades since Victor Valley Transit Authority (VFTA) commenced its services in the Victor Valley area. Starting with the provision of Meals on Wheels in Victorville and evolving into the extensive



public transportation system we have today, boasting over 30 routes, including the 11th largest vanpool in the nation, known as iVanpool. Their array of services also includes direct access ADA service, a commuter route catering to employees and military personnel commuting to Ft. Irwin, which starts at the early hour of 4:00 each morning, and their latest addition, Micro-Link, their micro-transit service.

To commemorate their 30th anniversary, Victor Valley Transit held a kickoff event on October 20th, which featured various notable guests, including Assemblyman **Juan Carrillo**, the Mayors of Adelanto, Barstow, and Victorville, along with representatives from other elected and city officials. The highlight of the event was the official proclamation from the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, declaring that every October 20th for the next five years will be officially recognized as



“Victor Valley Transit Day” in the County.

While recounting the agency’s historical journey, **Chris Ackerman**, Victor Valley Transit PIO and Senior Marketing Manager, emphasized the importance of

looking towards the future. He invited **Stuart Geltman** from Transportation Management & Design, Inc. (TMD) to the stage. Stuart and his team are currently conducting a Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) in the community, seeking thoughts, comments, and ideas from Rotarians about the next decade of public transportation in the Victor Valley.

Their COA initiative began a few weeks ago with a survey involving over 400 passengers to determine the most frequently used routes and the reasons for choosing public transportation. This data will influence service adjustments; routes with low passenger numbers, like Route 42, may see reduced frequency, while popular routes could see increased service times.

**Bill Edwards** raised concerns about the need to improve transportation access for seniors aged 60 and above. In response, Chris discussed upcoming enhancements to the Micro-Link service, which will extend its reach to senior occupied mobile home parks in north Apple Valley.

Rotarians also proposed other suggestions, such as the need for more frequent service in Spring Valley Lake and the creation of direct access lines to accommodate Brightline and the new Victor Valley College Stadium.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, you can contact Chris Ackerman at [cackerman@vta.org](mailto:cackerman@vta.org).

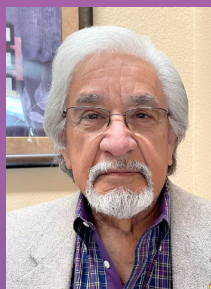
### This Week’s Functionaries

**Invocation:** **Bill Edwards**

**Flag Salute:** **Arsalee Morales**

**4-Way Test:** **Dan Dever**

**Fine Master:** **David North**



## TAFOYA TALKS

Thanks to Chris Ackerman and Stuart Geltman on the future of Public Transportation



at VVTA. It was great to allow Rotarians in the room and share what they would like to see on how to improve the system. Happy 30th Anniversary VVTA!

Our Teacher Mini-Grant Program is coming up on November 7th and we still have a way to go to reach our 15k goal for this year. Please purchase a few mini grants to help our area teachers. We have 57 applications this year and we want to reward them all with \$300 Mini-Grants.

Our Rotary Christmas Party will take place on Monday, December 4th at 5:30pm at Chateau Chang in Victorville. See page 4.

Our gift basket continues to grow, and we have begun a silent auction, that will grow as our Rotary year continues. The bidding begins at \$100 and features cash, gift cards, booze, and even a Home Security System from Apple Valley Communications.

We have a Rotary Enseñada, Mexico Trip coming up from December 15th - 17th, where we will fellowship with the Enseñada Club and visit the orphanage. Please contact Ben Tafoya for more information

See you next week!

*Ben Tafoya*

## November Birthdays

Maureen Mills	November 1
Rob Kilpatrick	November 1
Terry Caldwell	November 8
Mary Teran	November 15
Kevin Porter	November 16
Bill Edwards	November 25
Kyle Vizzo	November 28
Margaret Cooker	November 28

## November Anniversaries

Bill Edwards	7 Years
Arsalee Morales	6 Years
Bryan Gillespie	4 Years

## Partner Birthdays

Denny Wells	November 11
Linda Scott	November 22

## Wedding Anniversaries

Jim & Lesley Murray	61 Years
Bill & Marianne Edwards	35 Years
Mike & Sarah Johnson	20 Years
Matthew & Rosa Farias	9 Years



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**





# CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

## Big Blue Poker Chip



Chris Ackerman had the chance to draw the Blue Poker Chip, but picked green and saved the chance for another next week. The pot will continue next week with 9 dice and \$325 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Poker Chip.

## Fine Session



David North was our Fine Master this week and began by fining **Teresa DeAtley** \$20 for making a rare appearance to the Club! Also netting \$20 penalties were **Arsalee Morales** for taking a photo of David while he was eating and to **Stew Anderson** for volunteering to

be the Fine Master and trying to take his job, since David was late to the meeting. **Bill Scott** also paid \$20 for his phone going off and **Rob Kilpatrick** had the same amount fined to him for giving our speakers such a hard time this week.

Finally, **Bill Edwards** paid \$13 for his 13 week old granddaughter **Olive Anne Kier**, that he met last week in Washington.



## Rotary Guests

Chris Ackerman invited along with co-speaker **Stuart Geltman**, **Daniel Peña** from TMD and **Will Calves** from AECOM.

## Raffle



It was the **Ben Tafoya** show at this week's Raffle. Donated by **Bill Edwards**, Ben left the meeting with ceramic planters and hummingbird wildflower seed mixture. Then Ben won a VVTA 30th Anniversary goodie bag from **Chris Ackerman**, and it went event further as **Rob Kilpatrick** received a bottle of wine from **David North...**

and gave it to Ben!!

**Stew Anderson** also left the meeting with a 30th Anniversary bag from VVTA and **Arsalee Morales** will enjoy her cookie baking pan from Bill.

## Spoon of Exemption

**Kirsten Acosta** had another week with the Spoon and shared that last week's High Desert Educational Summit raised \$70,000 for students and campus improvements. She also suggested another way to help is to become part of the College's President's Circle. The President's Circle is a combination of community and college leadership with quarterly luncheons with gourmet meals by their Restaurant Management Team, where you will get news on college information and exclusive updates. Please reach out to Kirsten for more information at 760-245-4271, ext. 2523.



## The Polio Pig

**Collected this week: \$9.00**

Polio Pig: \$4 • Chip (Chris Ackerman) \$5 = \$9.00

**Collected to Date: \$20,040.33**

**Total equals: 101,065 Doses!**

**One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!**

**\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!**



**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/Ryla & 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..... Dawn Quigg
- 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:** High Desert/Hesperia Club meets 7:00 a.m.,  
Mile High Cafe, 8832 Orange St., Hesperia  
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**

- Oct 30:** **Past President's Meeting**  
5:30 pm at Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- Nov 13:** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:00pm -Fellowship  
5:30 pm Board Meeting  
Location: Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- Dec 4:** **Rotary Christmas Party**  
5:30pm • Chateau Chang  
15425 Anacapa Rd, Victorville, CA

**Upcoming Programs**

- Oct 31:** Curt Emick, Pharmacist **TOPIC:**  
**Fentanyl and the Drug Crisis - The Killing of America (Part 1)** (Page)
- Nov 7:** **Teacher Mini Grants** (Edwards)
- Nov 14:** Jason Anderson, San Bernardino  
County District Attorney **TOPIC: TBA**  
(Page)
- Nov 21:** Curt Emick, Pharmacist **TOPIC:**  
**Fentanyl and the Drug Crisis - The Killing of America (Part 2)** (Page)
- Nov 28:** Curt Emick, Pharmacist **TOPIC: Q&A with the Pharmacist** (Page)

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