



The Joshua Tree

December 5, 2023

HOW WASTEWATER WORKS

Wastewater is much more than what comes from the toilet, as was shared by Rotarian and VVWRA General Manger, **Darron Poulsen** this week. Wastewater includes water from our sink, showers, dishwashers and washing machines. Basically anything that goes down the sewer pipe. The wastewater comes from homes and businesses in Victorville,



Apple Valley, Hesperia and parts of San Bernardino County including Spring Valley Lake and Oro Grande. The wastewater that comes to the VVWRA plant goes through an extensive cleaning and disinfection process before being returned to the Mojave River as recycled water. It's also used in the cooling tower at a nearby power plant. The solids treated in large anaerobic digesters, where the resulting methane gas is collected and scrubbed before becoming renewable natural gas (RNG). The finished RNG is injected into a Southwest Gas pipeline. Most of the RNG is being used by Toyota where it is converted into hydrogen for new vehicles being imported at their Port of Long Beach facility.

The Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority began treating wastewater in 1981 and was originally part of the Mojave Water Agency. Today their plants treat 12 million gallons of wastewater per day and 100,000 gallons of waste sludge and food waste are digested daily which produces that renewable natural gas.

The first part of the process is to get rid of the big things like toys, sticks, flushable wipes, and other objects that do not decompose. The next step to rid the water of "heavies" such as dirt, sand and grit. From there the treatment starts, slowing the water flow and adding chemicals to create bacteria to cause the biologicals and heavies to sink to the bottom and be scraped away. From there the water is treated and used for a variety of reasons such as vegetation, golf courses or to the Mojave River to assist other communities.

VVWRA is proud to serve the residents and businesses of the Victor Valley by providing wastewater treatment, water recycling, renewable green energy, and nutrient-rich soil amendments. They have been providing those services for more than 40 years. As part of their mission, VVWRA is committed to protecting public health and the environment. They do that with a dedicated spirit of integrity and collaboration with the community and other member agencies.

Find out more at www.vvwraca.gov.

This Week's Functionaries

- Invocation:** Chris Ackerman
- Flag Salute:** Ben Tafoya
- 4-Way Test:** Terry Saenz
- Fine Master:** Ryan McEachron



MURRAY'S MINUTE

Thanks to Darron Poulsen for taking time to share not only the history of the Victor Valley Wastewater

Reclamation Authority, but the processes and future plans for the organization.

Thank you to everyone who came out for our annual Christmas Party at Chateau Chang! The food and fellowship were wonderful and everyone appeared to have a great time. The bingo was fun and we had some very happy winners! Please see our upcoming year end issue for photos!

Congratulations to Terry Saenz for



being named my Rotarian of the Month for November. Even though Terry serves as a stand-in for Robert

Lovinggood, she has a heart of a Rotarian, as she is always willing to step up and help whenever she is needed with a wonderful attitude.

Our team will be heading to Enseñada this weekend to spend \$1,300 on toys for the children at the orphanage. Thank you all who selflessly donated to the cause!

See you next week!

Steve



December Birthdays

David North	December 5
John Kroencke	December 6
Robert Lovingood	December 31

December Anniversaries

Paul Earle	12 Years
Dr. Ron Boyd	12 Years
Michael Krause	3 Years

Partner Birthdays

Nicole Vizzo	December 1
Dennis Yule	December 10
Rene Riding	December 22
Donna Poulsen	December 29
Charmaine Earle	December 31

Wedding Anniversaries

Donna & Denny Wells	56 Years
Terry & Patricia Caldwell	53 Years
Kirk & Renee Riding	41 Years
Brad & Yvonne Poiriez	30 Years



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Linda Hove 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 chips and \$325 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Poker Chip.

Raffle

Linda Hove was a big winner at this week's raffle. Linda went home with a Victor Valley Transit cell phone holder from Chris Ackerman, an I.C.R. goodie bag with gift card from Terry Saenz, and a bag of hummingbird and butterfly grow seeds from Bill Edwards. Jim Murray also won an I.C.R. goodie bag.

Russ Stringham won a book from Bill and Ben Tafoya will enjoy a bottle of wine he received from David North. Ben as well as Bill Scott will use their VVTA Bus USB Drive they received from Ackerman.

Finally, Arsalee Morales continued her winning streak this week by leaving the meeting with an animated musical Santa from Jim Murray!

Fine Session



Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master this week and began by fining himself \$30 for asking the difficult "30 Year" question poised to Darron Poulsen during this presentation. David North was penalized \$53 in honor of his 53rd birthday and Robert

Lovingood paid \$10 just for making a rare appearance at a Rotary meeting.

Spoon of Exemption

Russ Stringham had his first week with the Spoon and took his time to promote Southern Utah and his company, Red Rock RV Rentals. At Red Rock, they provide rentals for camping at Zion National Park. The company will deliver and set up the trailer for your stay...all you have to do is show up and start camping!



If camping is not your thing, there are over 1,000 nightly rentals and 19 golf courses in the area. Plan a visit in 2024!

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed Tisha Lopez, the new Administrative Aide with Victor Valley Transit, who was brought to the meeting by Chris Ackerman. Terry Saenz was in attendance as a guest of Robert Lovingood, and Stefanie Montoya was in attendance with Bryan Gillespie.

Our only Stand-In this week was Chris Nunez, who attended for Kirsten Acosta.

PLEASE NOTE
There will be NO Newsletter
During the Week of December 12

Please RSVP for VVC Singers Rotary meeting on December 19th with Steve Murray or Margaret Cooker so we know what size room we need to book!

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$16.00

Polio Pig: \$11 • Dice (Linda Hove) \$5 = \$16.00

Collected to Date: \$20,149.33

Total equals: 101,277 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:	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

Dec 11: 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

- Dec 12: Assemblyman Tom Lackey** (Page)
- Dec 19: Christmas Program with the Victor Valley College Singers** (Acosta)
- Dec 26: DARK**
- Jan 2: DARK**
- Jan 9:** Leslie Thornburg, Cadiz Vice President of Operations, **TOPIC: Cadiz: 1990 - Present** (Page)
- Jan 16: OPEN**
- Jan 23: High School 4-Way Speech Contest** (Johnson)
- Jan 16: 5th Tuesday Evening Meeting**

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