

May 27, 2025

A JOURNEY THROUGH VICTORVILLE

The Rotary Club welcomed a very special guest speaker and Rotarian, **Terry Caldwell**, who served 36 years on the Victorville City Council, including an impressive eight terms as Mayor. With decades of firsthand experience, Caldwell provided a powerful and personal perspective on Victorville's evolution from a small town into a vibrant city.

Caldwell took Rotarians on a journey through time, reflecting on the individuals who laid the foundation for Victorville's incorporation and growth. Among those he praised were **Colonel Wright** of George Air Force Base, **Bill Porter**, **Ed Cadger**, and **Judge Campbell**—all instrumental in helping incorporate the city.

Two local legends in the room were also recognized for their lasting impact: **Jim Murray** of Bob's Tire Service and **Don Lager** of Midway Home Solutions.



Both played critical roles in supporting Victorville's growth while preserving its close-knit character.

But the person Caldwell called the most influential in shaping Victorville's business environment was **William Wade**. Wade, originally operating Contel in Bishop, California, made the pivotal decision to relocate the communications company to Victorville. His leadership, vision, and commitment to job creation established the business-friendly foundation that allowed the city

to thrive.

Caldwell shared that his own journey to the High Desert began in Barstow after moving from Colton, where his father worked at the first desert branch of Bank of America. At the time, tensions were high between the well-established economic hub of Barstow and the newly incorporated Victorville.

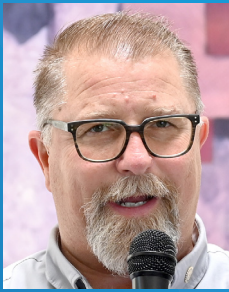
He recalled arriving in Victorville in the late 1940s or early 1950s, before the construction of the I-15 freeway. Back then, the Cajon Pass was just a narrow two-lane road—one lane in each direction—making travel a challenge.

Despite being trained as a first responder and firefighter in Southern California, Caldwell was denied a position

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Chris Ackerman
Flag Salute:	Brad Letner
4-Way Test:	Bill Edwards
Fine Master:	Ryan McEachron

Continued on page 2



BILL'S BANTER

It was great to be behind the podium this week, filling in for our President Bryan

Gillespie!
It was made even more special to host another of



our true Victorville icons, Terry Caldwell, who gave us an inside look on those who brought expansion to the City of Victorville.



Both Ryan McEachron and Jim Murray shared thoughts on the recent Past Presidents' Dinner. Both of these

gentlemen shared that it was a great event and stories were shared and reminisced about each other's time as a Rotary President.

On September 6th we will have our 75th Anniversary Gala and Fundraiser and there are many ways you can help! Please sign up to purchase tickets, consider a sponsorship or a donation of a raffle prize, auction item or a gift basket. You can also sign up to help sell our big \$10,000 raffle tickets or 50/50 tickets.

Until next week...

Bill Edwards

Terry Caldwell...

Continued from Page 1

with the Victorville Volunteer Fire Department—not due to qualifications, but because he hadn't lived in Victorville for the required ten years. Undeterred, he applied with the Apple Valley Fire District and was hired on the spot.

Victorville, he said, was a tightly woven community—often resistant to change. As a City Councilmember, Caldwell navigated the delicate balance between honoring the city's heritage and steering it toward necessary progress, often clashing with second- and third-generation residents who preferred the status quo.

He credited Wade, along with Murray and Lager, for being visionary leaders—those who wanted Victorville to grow but remain under local control.

Caldwell also gave special mention to Western icon **Roy Rogers**. Rogers and his wife **Dale Evans** were instrumental in getting the I-15 freeway built. Their goal was not just personal access to Los Angeles, but economic vitality: bringing travelers to the Roy Rogers Museum in Victorville and keeping them there to eat, shop, and contribute to the local economy.

Terry Caldwell's remarks were more than just a history lesson, they were a tribute to the people who fought for Victorville's future and the enduring spirit of those who call it home.

CLUB ASSEMBLY JUNE 17TH

REVIEW AND APPROVE:

Budgets for 2025-2026

Board of Directors for 2025-2026

President for 2027-2028



THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

Big Blue Poker Chip



Rob Kilpatrick started a new game and drew a green chip and saved the opportunity for another next week. We will continue next week with 13 chips and \$225 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Raffle

Brad Letner was the big winner this week by taking home a Victor Valley Transit bean bag phone holder from **Chris Ackerman**, plus a bag of hard candy and a box of chocolates, both from **Alicia Anderson**. Alicia also brought a Golf Putting Game for the bathroom that was won by **Rob Kilpatrick**. It appeared that Rob already has one, so he gave it to **Arsalee Morales**!

Alicia, as well as **Don Lager** will enjoy the bottles of wine they won from Brad, as will another bottle of Merlot that was taken home by **Ryan McEachron**.

Finally **James Murray** will use the VVTA Hi-lighter Pen Set he won, courtesy of Ackerman.

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed former member **Joe Zuccaro**, who was visiting from Goodyear, Arizona and our stand-in was **Alyy Martinez** for **Angel Espino**.

Spoon of Exception

Alicia Anderson had another week with the Spoon and shared that this year, Excelsior Charter School is celebrating their 30th Anniversary and are gearing up for their 24/25 graduation in a couple weeks.

June Birthdays

Angel Espino	June 6
Mike Page	June 12
Chris Ackerman	June 26
Keith Metzler	June 27

June Anniversaries

Bob Basen	41 Years
Mike Page	33 Years
Esther Mears	7 Years
Colleen Calderon	2 Years
Linda Hove	2 Years

Partner Birthdays

Stefanie Boyd	June 19
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Wedding Anniversaries

Caroll & Dennis Yule	56 Years
Alicia & Mark Anderson	40 Years
Kevin & Susan Porter	36 Years
Ben & Jan Tafoya	31 Years
Rob & Lynae Kilpatrick	28 Years
Ryan & Jodi McEachron	11 Years

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$40.00

Polio Pig: \$35 + Chip (Rob Kilpatrick) \$5 = \$40.00

Collected to Date: \$21,483.83

Total equals: 103,946 Doses!

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

****PLEASE NOTE****

**DUE TO TEACHING AT A TRANSIT
CONFERENCE, THERE WILL BE NO
NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK.**



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2024-2025	Bryan Gillespie
President 2025-2027	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028	Please be Interviewed
Immediate Past President	Steve Murray
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer/Scholarships	David North
Youth Services/Ethics Essay	Ron Boyd
Club Service & Membership	Bill Edwards
Community Service/Speech Contests	Please Volunteer
Vocational Service	Please Volunteer
International Service	Ben Tafoya
Member At Large, Young Leaders Contact	Arsalee Morales
Member At Large, Special Projects	Rob Kilpatrick

Members-at-Large: Bob Basen, Darron Poulsen, Angel Espino

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD/PP Secretary	Pam Murray
Special Billing	Esther Mears (TBD)
Public Service Awards	Please Volunteer
Teacher Mini-Grants	Angel Espino
Dan Stover Music Contest	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K	Please Volunteer
Foundation & Grants	Margaret Cooker
Food Baskets	Bill Edwards
Interact (Junior Rotary)	Please Volunteer
Programs	Mike Page
Fundraising	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students	Angel Espino
Club Learning Facilitator	Please Volunteer

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, Rusty Bull, 13685 John Glenn Rd, Apple Valley, Noon. 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

- June 9:** **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm Fellowship
5:30pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- Sept 6:** **75th Anniversary Gala/Fundraiser**
6:00pm Dinner • 7:00pm Drawings
Spring Valley Lake Community Center
12975 Rolling Ridge, Spring Valley Lake

Upcoming Programs

- June 3:** Dan Munsey, San Bernardino County Fire Chief and Bobby Clymer, Victorville Fire Chief **TOPIC "San Bernardino County Fire"** (Page)
- June 10:** Jim Cox, Former Victorville City Manager and Council Member **TOPIC "More Memories"** (Page)
- June 17:** Terry Caldwell, Former Victorville Mayor **TOPIC "History of Victorville"** (Page) **TENTATIVE**
- June 24:** Q&A with Jim Cox and Terry Caldwell (Page) **TENTATIVE**
- July 1:** Colonel Brad Letner (Retired) **TOPIC "Patriot Trends and Tendencies"** (Page)

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